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Specialisation

Principal area of practice is crime including prosecution and defence work at all levels in Crown Court. Particular experience prosecuting drugs importation cases and Confiscation proceedings for HM Customs & Excise, defending and prosecuting cases concerning environmental health and in the field of health and safety.

Defence:

Kevin maintains a substantial defence practice, including (in the last two years) involvement in trials involving fraud, murder, gangland drugs and firearms offences.

Prosecution:

As a Category IV CPS prosecutor and on the Attorney-General's Combined List of Preferred Advocates as a Grade A prosecutor, Kevin prosecutes serious crime and regulatory offences at the highest level. Kevin has a history of instruction from the CPS Special Casework Directorate in York, he has appeared in a complex medical negligence manslaughter case as well as series of trials involving the prosecution of corrupt police officers in Greater Manchester and Humberside, involving focus on issues of covert intelligence gathering, disclosure and public interest immunity. In the last two years he has also prosecuted (with leading counsel) multi-handed gangland kidnap and conspiracy to murder trials and he is presently instructed to prosecute a major local government fraud due to be tried over a 3 month period in the summer of 2009.

Health & Safety & Regulatory:

With a background in serious general crime, in recent years Kevin has focussed on developing a growing practice in the regulatory sector. He is briefed by Revenue and Customs, the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Trading Standards but has built a particular reputation and specialty prosecuting for the Health and Safety Executive. He advises local authority environmental health departments and HSE solicitor agents and is now regularly instructed directly by the HSE's central Legal Advisors' Office (now based in Bootle, Merseyside). He has acted for the HSE in proceedings before Magistrates Courts, Crown Courts, the Court of Appeal, Employment Tribunals and Coroners' Courts. In recent years he has successfully prosecuted a number of cases arising from fatal accidents in areas as diverse as the public transport sector (roadside recovery agent crushed to death under a public bus) , the National Health Service (psychiatric patients falling to their death from 3rd story NHS mental health unit) and the waste management industry (waste company employee crushed to death in a transfer station). He has advised on racetrack safety in motor sport and ongoing work involves areas such as the regulation of professional diving and charitable mental health services.

NOTABLE CASES

R v Preston Crown Court ex p Marlow Campbell - Divisional Court 2000 (criteria and procedure for extension of custody time limits)

R v Both and others Liverpool Crown Court 1994 (early first instance case on use by Police of covert listening devices)

Peter Johnson v North Area College - Industrial Tribunal - 1996 (redundancy caused by strategic timetabling in educational institution capable of being constructive dismissal)

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

St Colman's Boys Grammar School, County Down
Trinity College, Cambridge.

Member of the Criminal Bar Association

PERSONAL

Married with two children

LEISURE

Modern literature; cinema; contemporary music; skiing.