



RELEVANT SKILLS

a) Intellect. I have shown through my academic performance at university and the cases that I have been involved in, that I possess the relevant level of intellect to conduct major criminal cases. Some of the cases I have done have been extremely complex and voluminous as outlined above.

b) Sound judgement. Preparation of cases and their conduct through the Courts always requires the exercise of Counsel's judgement, for example in terms of strategic or tactical decisions. From observing very senior counsel in many cases I have come to learn the value of exercising sound judgement. I recognise that exercising good judgement, sometimes at very short notice, can be of crucial importance in a case.

c) Independence of mind. On occasions Counsel are put in difficult and trying situations and are required to make decisions which could potentially have a huge impact on a case. I believe I have the courage to make correct decisions based on professionalism and ethics in this sort of situation. This could involve standing my ground in front of a hostile judge, taking major decisions on my feet or expressing strong opinions.

d) Conscientiousness. To be successful Counsel are required to work extremely hard. The nature of my practice for the last few years has also required long hours and hard work. I firmly believe there is no alternative to hard work and thorough preparation of cases.

NOTABLE CASES

R v M A and others (2005/6)

Offence(s): Conspiracy to defraud.

Led By: James Pickup QC, Lincoln House Chambers

Acting for: Defence

Court: Preston Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Gilbart QC

Brief Synopsis: The defendant was charged with a catalogue of offences of dishonesty including fraud on insurance companies and money laundering. The prosecution had wanted to try him and his co-accused on an indictment which alleged 33 wide ranging offences. Whilst the offences were properly joined in law, severance was a live issue because of trial management problems and the risk of prejudice to the defendant. Following legal argument the Learned Judge ordered that the indictment be severed and ordered four separate trials. I had argued for severance and five trials.

R v J G and others (Trial 1) (2006)

Offence(s): Conspiracy to defraud.

Led By: James Pickup QC, Lincoln House Chambers

Acting for: Defence

Court: Manchester Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Steiger QC

Brief Synopsis: The defendants were charged with defrauding a Government and EU Development Fund (EMTA) by claiming funding for training and courses they claimed were genuinely being given. In fact the evidence showed that fictitious documents were being created to claim funds.

R v J G and 1 other (Trial 2) (2007)

Offence(s): Conspiracy to defraud.

Led By: James Pickup QC, Lincoln House Chambers

Acting for: Defence

Court: Manchester Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Steiger QC.

Brief Synopsis: Mr. G and his co-accused were tried for conspiracy to defraud factoring companies and creditors. Mr. G was a qualified chartered accountant and the Financial Director of the Ravelle group of companies which traded in computer hardware equipment. His co-accused was the Managing Director. The MD had been convicted in Trial 1. He was allowed bail pending Trial 2. He absconded before the trial commenced. The learned judge then determined to try that defendant in his absence. His legal team then also withdrew from the case and he was tried in his absence and unrepresented.

R v Z U and others (2007)

Offence(s): Money Laundering.

Led By: James Pickup QC, Lincoln House Chambers

Acting for: Defence

Court: Ipswich Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Thompson, Ipswich Crown Court.

Brief Synopsis: The Learned Judge described this defendant as a banker to the "underworld". He was involved in the laundering of £105m of criminal proceeds. He was mainly laundering the money by arranging the payment of debts owed to companies in the UK by companies in foreign jurisdictions. Reconciliation would then take place in the foreign jurisdiction between the UK criminal's associates and the foreign companies. In this way criminal proceeds were removed from the jurisdiction without being detected through the banking system.

Preparation of the case involved the marshalling of many thousands of international financial transactions. The prosecution and defence each commissioned extensive forensic accountancy reports. These were factually complicated and wide-ranging.

Furthermore the confiscation aspect of the case involved complex legal and factual matters, especially regarding hidden assets.

R v H S (2007)

Offence(s): Murder

Led By: Peter Wright QC, Lincoln House Chambers.

Acting for: Prosecution

Court: Manchester Crown Court

Judge: Saunders QC J

Brief Synopsis: This was a case involving "an impossible love triangle". The defendant and Sair Ali were lovers. Sair Ali married Sana Ali the victim but continued his relationship with the defendant. Sair Ali had entered into a "muta" or a temporary marriage with the defendant. This was a practice allowed in his Shia faith. The defendant was Sikh.

Sana Ali then became pregnant by her husband. The defendant discovered this fact. It was to her the final insult. She decided to travel from Birmingham to Manchester and kill Sana Ali.

The case was remarkable in that there was virtually no forensic evidence linking the defendant to the murder and no witnesses. She blamed the husband. He was deeply dishonest and had spent a number of years deceiving his family about his relationship with the defendant, a fact he had to admit to the jury.

Following her conviction the defendant changed her legal team and sought to appeal the conviction. The Single Judge gave her leave to appeal on a number of grounds. However her appeal was dismissed.

In the period pending the appeal, defence counsel served no less than six, extremely lengthy advices and arguments on appeal. Leading Counsel and I determined that we should respond to each one of these as quickly as possible in order to maintain the efficient progress of the case. This often meant keeping to short deadlines.

R v Y P and I P (2008)

Offence(s): Murder

Led By: Peter Wright QC, Lincoln House Chambers.

Acting for: Prosecution

Court: Manchester Crown Court

Judge: Clarke QC J

Brief Synopsis: The defendants were lovers. Before their relationship began Yasira Pervez had entered an arranged marriage with her cousin in Pakistan. She appeared initially to be very happy with the marriage. She then met her co-accused and they formed a relationship. They then travelled to Islamabad, Pakistan and lured her husband to a hotel room. There he was fatally stabbed by the defendants.

They then set about establishing a false alibi and then boarded a plane to the UK. Their presence in Pakistan was discovered shortly after the discovery of the victim's body and they were arrested in the UK.

By the time of the trial their relationship had soured. They were ran cut-throat defences.

The case presented very many logistical problems in that the majority of witnesses were from Pakistan, some were illiterate and none could speak English. The Crown arranged travel visas for some and some gave evidence via live TV link. With plenty of advance preparation, conferences and hard work by the officers the trial ran very smoothly. Both were convicted.

R v K K and others (2006)

Offence(s): Murder, perverting course of justice.

Led By: David Steer QC.

Acting for: Prosecution

Court: Manchester Crown Court

Judge: Anthony Gee QC, Manchester Crown Court, Crown Square, Manchester M3 3 FL

Brief Synopsis: The defendant was British but was living in Pakistan having got married there. His sisters lived in the UK. A male family member, the victim was alleged to have indecently assaulted the sisters. The defendant travelled to the UK from Pakistan, sourced a sawn off shotgun, tracked down the victim and shot him point blank. He was then assisted by his sisters and boarded a plane to Pakistan. He was eventually arrested in Canada and consented to his extradition to this country where he was tried and convicted of murder.

R v M A P others (2008)

Offence(s): Cheating the Inland Revenue

Led By: Alistair Webster QC, Lincoln House Chambers

Acting for: Defence

Court: Liverpool Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Smith, Liverpool Crown Court.

Brief Synopsis: This case was described by the Crown as the largest Inland Revenue investigation of its kind. The defendant was a director of "Aleef" a retail business with over 60 outlets. The case concerned the evasion of corporation tax by the directors of the business through various means including the selling of "franchises" and failing to declare this to the revenue and a massive under declaration of earnings.

Preparation of the case involved many months of analysing and studying many transactions and deciphering extensive and complex forensic accountancy reports.

R v S F and others. (2009)

Offence(s): Cheating the Inland Revenue

Acting for: Defence

Led By: James Gregory, Lincoln House Chambers

Court: Nottingham Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Hamilton

Brief Synopsis: The defendant and his father were major landlords in Nottingham. They together with their accountant were charged with conspiracy to cheat the Inland Revenue. They were alleged to have claimed deductions for repairs to their property portfolio that were not actually carried out. They were assisted in this by their accountant.

He however was charged with a number of other offences. He was carrying out a second manipulation of the already fraudulent accounts thereby further reducing the tax liability.

The Fs' would be shown the first set of accounts only. The Inland Revenue were provided with the second manipulations only. The Fields were charged tax on the first set of accounts. The accountant would pay the lower tax due on the second manipulation. He then found a unique and novel way of pocketing the difference.

R v K W and others (2008)

Offence(s): Armed robberies

Led By: NA

Acting for: Defence

Court: Minshull Street Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Mort, Minshull Street Crown Court

Brief Synopsis: The defendant was 18. He was charged with a number of robberies some involving the use of firearms. Had he been convicted of all the offences on the indictment he would have been at grave risk of being declared a dangerous offender, as was the case for some of his co-accused. The case involved legal arguments concerning bad character applications. The Crown had initially sought to adduce evidence of the defendant's suspected membership of a gang as evidence of bad character. This would have been extremely prejudicial and therefore was resisted.

R v S K and others (ongoing)

Offence(s): Money Laundering

Led By: Abdul Iqbal

Acting for: Defence

Court: Leeds Crown Court

Judge: HHJ Cahill QC, Leeds Crown Court, The Court House, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds West Yorkshire, LS1 3BG.

Brief Synopsis: The defendant, a conveyancing solicitor of impeccable good character is charged with laundering the proceeds of a major drug dealer's criminal conduct. The case has involved complex legal issues. The Crown have successfully argued that they be allowed to call the evidence of experts who effectively say that in the position of the defendant they would have made disclosure to the police. The defence had maintained that this was a step too far and touched upon the ultimate issue to be determined by the jury.

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

1988-1998	Pleckgate High School, Blackburn
1990-1993	St Mary's College, Blackburn
1990-1993	LLB 1 st Class Honours, Thames Valley, London
1994-1995	LLM, Queen's College, Cambridge

Member of the Criminal Bar Association

Member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln' Inn

PERSONAL

Worldwide travel, sport (football, badminton & running), literature (fiction and history).