



AREAS OF PRACTICE

HOMICIDE, FIREARMS AND SERIOUS CRIME

Neil has been briefed in many of the city's gang related cases over the past 9 years. He was briefed to defend in R v Danson and Others, a 3 month Conspiracy to Murder case in which the Crown allege his client was a member of a Salford gang intent on a revenge killing. Neil was also briefed in both of the "Pit Bull Crew" trials - representing different members of the same family in each trial. Pit Bull 1 was subsequently reported as the Attorney General appealed sentences passed as being unduly lenient. The importance of the case was such that the Attorney General himself acted for the Crown in the Court of Appeal - a most unusual step. In Pit Bull 2, he acted for the lead defendant who was accused of murder and firearms offences. In 2003 Neil represented one of the main defendants in a 4 month gangland execution trial - R v Arden and Others.

Neil also acted for Richard Solomon in another Manchester gangland murder trial. His client was said by the Crown to be a leading figure in one of the city's major gangs.

He was briefed in a 4 week firearms case heard in 2008 in which the Crown alleged his client was an active member of a south Manchester gang.

In September 2008 he ensured the acquittal of a restaurant customer accused of the manslaughter of a fellow customer by pushing him - causation being one of the issues in the case, involving the consideration of three neuro-surgeons' reports.

In October 2008 he is briefed to represent one of the defendants in a trial surrounding the murder of Tyrone Gilbert, following an alleged gang member's funeral - a case which attracted national publicity at the time of the shooting.

More recently, Neil has been briefed to represent a Defendant in a fire with conspiracy to rob trial transferred from Chester Crown Court. He represents one of the Defendant's in a 15 handed conspiracy to import firearms and Class A drugs from the continent.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Neil's practice is not confined to gang related crime. He has also an extensive practice dealing with sexual offences. In 1999 he acted for one of a number of care workers charged with historic sexual offences in a Sussex children's home dating back to the early 1970s. The 3 week trial was heard at Lewes Crown Court. He is regularly briefed by the defence and the CPS on serious sexual offences such as historic rape allegations and has successfully argued on numerous occasions that historic prosecutions should be stayed as an abuse of process.

In March 2009 he successfully prosecuted a historic rare case with the Defendant being represented by a leading QC.

In addition, Neil has for the past 6 years regularly trained doctors based at the St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Manchester in all aspects of legal and evidential matters arising as of sexual offence trials.

FRAUD

Neil has also developed a busy fraud practice. Notable cases include R v Grindley and Others, a case listed for 3 months, involving allegations of large scale conspiracy to defraud the Department of the Environment and the Land Registry. As a result of defence submissions, the Prosecution's case was thrown out by the trial Judge after several weeks of the trial.

Neil represented one of the defendants in a £7 million factoring fraud - R v Ray Nevitt and Others; a case which the Prosecution alleged involved the defendants duping a number of major financial institutions, including leading high street banks. He has extensive contested POCA cases involving millions of pounds worth of missing assets.

In R v Edwards-Sayer and Others in 2007 in Nottingham, Neil acted for one of a number of defendants who were alleged by HMRC to have been responsible for a £30 million plus VAT fraud. The case attracted national media coverage when defence arguments in respect of disclosure led to the trial Judge ruling that there had been an abuse of process, with the result in collapse of the case against his client. The case is now reported in Criminal Law Week (Crim Law Week 02/08).

Aside from fraud, Neil has acted in a number of recent high profile cases including R v Dooley (qualified solicitor passing Class A drugs into prison); R v Saxena (1999) 1 Crim App R 170 (Strangeways doctor accused of perverting the course of justice).

TRIBUNALS

In addition to his busy criminal practice, Neil has also frequently represented police officers at Police Disciplinary Tribunals, and represents GMC at General Medical Council Tribunal Hearings. He has also represented applicants at the Mental Health Review Tribunals.

LECTURING

In recent years Neil has been one of Lincoln House's most active members lecturing on developments in Criminal Law. Recent talks include:

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

The Serious Crime Act 2007

The Criminal Evidence (Anonymous Witnesses) Act 2008

The Sexual Offences Act 2003

Dangerousness under the Criminal Justice Act 2003

NOTABLE CASES

R v Logan & Others (2-month Children's Home sexual abuse)

R v Danson and Others (3-month Conspiracy to Murder - Salford gangs)

R v G Day and Others - (3-month Conspiracy to Supply Drugs and Possession of firearms, Manchester Gang - "Pitt-Bull Trial")

R v P Day and Others ("Pitt-Bull 2") (3 months Murder and Conspiracy)

R v Baines & Others (2-months Conspiracy to Import £6 million worth of Ecstasy tablets)

R v Soloman & Others (2-month gangland Murder)

R v Reid & Others (6-week Conspiracy to Murder)

R v Ardern & Others (4-month Conspiracy to Murder)

FRAUD CASES OF INTEREST

R v Boardman & others (£7 million factoring fraud)

R v Grindley (3-month Conspiracy to Defraud Department of Environment and Land Registry)

R v Roden & others (£50 million VAT fraud; 4 month trial in Nottingham)

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

Derby Grammar School, Bury;
Hull University (B.A. (Hons))
City University (CPE)
Member of the Criminal Bar Association
Justice

PERSONAL

Married, with two children.

LEISURE

Following the fortunes of West Ham United; reading fiction and cycling.