

"He is very impressive advocate - thorough, forceful and clear. A strategic thinker."

"He has a beautiful manner and is commanding in court." - Chambers and Partners, 2021

"Intelligent, articulate and with a jury presence - when instructed he is able to advise the client in terms they understand." - Legal 500, 2021

"Recent work includes multi-defendant drugs conspiracies." - Legal 500, 2018

"A rising talent who is instructed in serious criminal matters such as murder, fraud and organised crime".

"He has a court presence that few can match." "He is very sharp-witted and an exceptional advocate." - Chambers and Partners, 2018

"Recommended for a broad range of criminal matters" Legal 500, 2017

"The next generation of stars" - Legal 500, 2010

Alex is one of the leading criminal practitioners in the North, engaged to defend and prosecute in some of the most high-profile criminal cases of recent years. At Crown Court level, Alex is a specialist in three principle areas:

1. Murder and Serious Organised Crime;
2. Fraud;
3. Rape and Sexual Abuse cases.

Alex is described by those who instruct him as a creative and intelligent strategist capable of influencing the outcome of a case from its very outset. He provides training to leading criminal solicitors on the value of pre-charge engagement and encourages a proactive and assertive approach from the moment an investigation begins.

In preparation for trial, Alex has a meticulous approach to detail and a tireless work ethic, often identifying weaknesses in a case that only emerge from close analysis of the evidence. Alex always places his client at the centre of the trial preparation process and has a real ability to create a successful working partnership in even the most challenging circumstances.

In Court, Alex deploys an expert approach to legal argument that often leads to the exclusion of pivotal sections of a prosecution case. He commands the respect of the Judiciary for his knowledgeable, focused and well-judged approach.

Above all, Alex is instructed as a trial advocate, sought after for his energetic and forceful approach to the most difficult of cases. Juries naturally warm to his reasoned and intelligent manner and he is capable of adjusting his style of cross-examination from the type of sensitive approach needed with more vulnerable witnesses to the more robust approach often required when dealing with the most serious organised crime.

Many of Alex's most impressive results have arisen in circumstances where he has been retained privately and at an early stage in proceedings and he is highly sought after by private clients for that reason.



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business Crime & Financial Regulation

Criminal Law

Professional Discipline

Regulatory

EDUCATION

Inns of Court School of Law, London

University of Manchester - Law

DIRECT ACCESS QUALIFIED

Prior to taking silk, Alex sat on the level 4 CPS panels for Serious Crime, Fraud, Confiscation, Rape and Sexual Abuse and Counter Terrorism. Alex also conducts an appellate practice, dealing recently with conviction appeals relating to historic convictions.

Alex also sits as a Recorder (Criminal) and is authorised to try serious sexual offences.

Murder and Serious, Organised Crime

R v A,B,C & D – Alex is instructed in the leading *Operation Venetic* case, in which evidence acquired by international law enforcement, from the encrypted EncroChat network is relied upon. The investigation was described by the Home Secretary as “a game changing moment in our fight to tackle serious and organised crime”. Legal argument concerning the application of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) led to a ruling by the Lord Chief Justice that broke new ground when considering the scope of IPA. The case is ongoing.

R v G – Alex is instructed as Queen's Counsel in this case, which arises out of an NCA investigation into an alleged hitman, engaged by those involved in serious organised crime to conduct acid attacks and firearms offences in Merseyside. The case relies upon data recovered from the EncroChat network and is ongoing.

R v Molnar – Alex represented (together with Alistair Webster QC) a 17-year-old boy, prosecuted for the murder of Manchester Grammar School pupil, Yousef Makki. The case commanded enormous national attention owing to the sensitivities connected to the prevalence of youth knife crime and the privileged background of the defendants.

R v Sayers and others – Alex was instructed in a conspiracy to murder before the Central Criminal Court, involving the shooting of a doorman at the *Tup Tup Palace* nightclub in Newcastle. The case was transferred to London, from Newcastle, where the principle defendant had, for decades, been the subject of substantial media attention, for his alleged connections to organised crime.

R v Tuan Anh Do and others – Alex was instructed as leading counsel in a series of NCA prosecutions for people trafficking, modern slavery and cannabis farming allegations. The case involved the deployment of an undercover officer and relied upon the combined efforts of international law enforcement.

R v D and others – Alex was instructed as leading counsel to represent a principle defendant in a large-scale firearms and drug trafficking conspiracy, involving the alleged supply of firearms and cocaine from the North-West, to the East Midlands. The case relies upon evidence acquired through covert monitoring techniques and is ongoing.

R v McGivern – Alex represented (together with Simon Csoka QC) a young man prosecuted for the murder of a local rival in Salford. The case engaged complex issues of hearsay and character.

R v Berryman – Alex represented a defendant charged with firearms offences in a prosecution brought by North West Regional Organised Crime Unit and based in alleged gang activity in South Manchester. The case turned upon a challenge to the complex, mixed DNA profile evidence relied upon by the prosecution.

Fraud

R v B,B,F and others – Alex is instructed as Queen's Counsel in a 10 handed HMRC and Insolvency Service prosecution. The case involves allegations that defendants constructed a complex network of businesses, with the sole intention of conducting a wholesale exploitation of the VAT regime.



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R v Bone and others – Alex was instructed as leading counsel to represent a defendant charged with orchestrating a multi-investor property portfolio fraud. Alex led a team comprised of junior counsel, specialist fraud solicitors and a forensic accountant in their detailed examination of the enormous volume of material relied upon by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

R v Hassan Butt – Alex was instructed as leading counsel in an eBay and international gold bullion prosecution, brought by the Counter Terrorism Division of the Metropolitan Police. The case involved a complex series of interconnected fraud allegations, centered around a trading entity operating through the eBay platform

R v L and J – Alex was instructed to deal with this mortgage fraud and money laundering case in which two defendants had fraudulently obtained mortgages enabling the purchase and resale of a network of properties

Rape & Family Abuse Cases

R v O – Alex was instructed as leading counsel in a child sexual exploitation prosecution involving 11 complainants in Rochdale. The case turned on the review of a substantial volume of social media material and involved the sensitive handling of child complainants with complex backgrounds.

R v CH – Alex was instructed to defend a man who had, unknowingly, engaged in sexual activity with a child, whom

R v N – Alex was instructed in this case which involved allegations of child rape, assault and sexual abuse of three different children spread across two different families. The case involved a great deal of material from social networking sources.

R v P – Alex was instructed in this case which involved two complainants and allegations of child rape, sexual assault, abduction, grooming and enforced prostitution over a period of more than a decade.

R v N – Alex was counsel in this case involving allegations of child abduction and sexual activity with a child. The complainant suffered from extreme learning difficulties and her evidence had to be given with the assistance of an intermediary.

R v M – Alex was instructed in this case involving allegations of sexual abuse by one child of another within a family setting.



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