

'An outstanding advocate, with technical ability to match. His proactive approach makes him a pleasure to work with.' 'He is careful in his preparation, thoughtful in his advocacy and very effective in front of a jury.' 'Very astute and bright.' -

Chambers & Partners, 2021

'One of the few advocates who can literally turn a hopeless case into a winner purely by court room performance.' – The Legal 500, 2021

'A very determined barrister.' – The Legal 500, 2018

Mark joined Lincoln House Chambers in 2010. He specialises in all types of criminal law both prosecuting and defending including murder, serious fraud, regulatory offences and cases of a serious sexual nature.

For many years, Mark has undertaken criminal work at the highest level. He has extensive experience in successfully representing clients charged in the most serious offences, these include murder and manslaughter (including corporate manslaughter), conspiracy to commit armed robbery, high level drug importation and distribution and serious sexual offences, multi-million pound frauds, money laundering, political corruption, regulatory offences (health & safety, trade descriptions & environmental).

A number of the cases in which Mark has appeared have been of national significance.

Mark sits as a Recorder of the Crown Court, his principle areas of practice are:

- Fraud
- Money Laundering
- Murder/Manslaughter
- Organised Crime/Large Scale Conspiracies
- Serious Sexual Offences
- Abuse of Process
- Serious Motoring Offences
- Regulatory Inquests

NOTABLE TRIALS

Fraud & Money Laundering

Mark has appeared in many high profile fraud cases, including as a leading junior. Notable cases include the following:

R v Nicholson – Client charged with money laundering on behalf of an OCG alleged to be engaged in a major conspiracy to supply class A drugs from Liverpool to Scotland. Acquitted on the direction of the judge following legal submission after 6-weeks of evidence. The trial is continuing against the other defendants.



CONTACT DETAILS

Email:

mark.ford@lincolnhousechambers.com

Telephone:

0161 832 5701

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Crime & Financial Regulation

Criminal Law

Inquests

Regulatory

PROFESSIONAL

Crown Court Recorder

Former Solicitor, Admitted 1986

EDUCATION

University of Birmingham



Mark Ford QC

Call to the Bar: 1991

R v Nicholson and others [leading junior] (Manchester Crown Court) – An SFO prosecution concerning a conspiracy to defraud a government agency of more than £100 million.

R v Luqman and others (Manchester Crown Court) – An SFO prosecution involving a conspiracy to defraud a banking syndicate of funds in excess of £220 million. Highly complex trial lasting more than 6 months.

R v Rashid and others [leading junior] (Manchester Crown Court) – A conspiracy to launder more than £120 million through money transfer facilities.

R v Jardine (Preston Crown Court) – Multi-million pound fraud against Rochdale Metropolitan Council.

R v Omordia and others (Central Criminal Court, London) – Fraud and money laundering involving inside knowledge of client's insurance details and sophisticated creation and operation of false companies and identities. Presentation of case commended by trial judge.

R v Bone and others (Sheffield Crown Court) – Fraud involving political corruption.

R v Chenia (Nottingham Crown Court) – Multi-million pound long firm fraud.

R v Ajebon and another (Manchester Crown Court) – International banking fraud.

Professional Clients

Instructions are received regularly to represent fellow professionals, often, though not exclusively, in connection with white collar crime:

R v Cheema (Southwark Crown Court) – Solicitor charged with mortgage fraud.

R v Tidd and others (Burnley Crown Court) – Solicitor charged with mortgage fraud and breach of money laundering regulations.

R v Whelpton (Manchester Crown Court) – Senior magistrate charged with fraud arising from expense claims against government agency.

R v Brookes (Manchester Crown Court) – Senior bank manager charged with theft of assets from high worth clients in breach of trust. Judicial sentences.

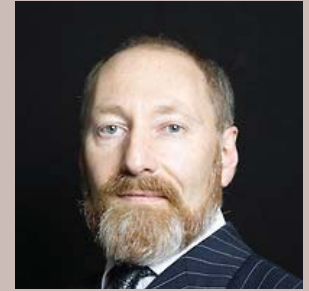
Murder and Manslaughter

Mark has appeared in many cases of alleged homicide, as a led junior, junior acting alone, and as a leading junior. The following cases are representative of his practice rather than comprehensive:

R v Hanrahan (Manchester Crown Court) – Appeared as a leading junior. Crown accepted a plea to Manslaughter on day of trial.

R v McIlreavy (Stafford Crown Court) – Manslaughter charge dismissed by judge following cross examination of prosecution expert witness. The trial judge remarked to the client **“you have been very fortunate in your choice of counsel.”**

R v Jones and others (Manchester and Liverpool Crown Court) – Allegation of contract killing. Client acquitted after second trial lasting 3 months.



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R v Murray and another (Birmingham Crown Court) – Attempted murder. Client acquitted. Co-defendant convicted.

R v O'Connor and others (Manchester Crown Court) – Double murder and attempted murder following arson attack.

R v Isherwood (Manchester Crown Court) – Guilty plea.

R v Pattison (Manchester Crown Court) – Client charged with attempted murder following shooting in public house. Although there were several eye-witnesses who claimed to have identified the defendant as the gunman, supported by CCTV evidence, he was acquitted. Having examined the locus and seized an exhibit in the public house, Mark utilized evidence from a ballistics expert in order to establish the client's innocence.

R v Cosgrove (Preston Crown Court) – Client acquitted of Conspiracy to Murder following submissions prior to trial.

R v Mahmud and others (Manchester Crown Court) – Conspiracy to Murder – 'drive by shooting'; client acquitted

R v Ali (Manchester Crown Court) – Client acquitted of murder and attempted murder said to have been carried out in a revenge attack.

R v Henry and another (Liverpool Crown Court) Attempted murder. Alleged gangland shooting. Client acquitted.

R v Martin and others (Leeds Crown Court) – Multi-handed Conspiracy to murder in which the deceased was said to have been tortured. Client one of 3 defendants not convicted by the jury (Not involved in re-trial in which defendant convicted).

R v Sutherland [2011] 1 Cr. App. R. (S) 90 (Manchester Crown Court and CA Criminal Division) Case involved death of an infant. Plea accepted to child cruelty.

R v Wild (Preston Crown Court) – Unprovoked attack by gang with knives victim who sustained life-threatening injuries. The client, a serving soldier, was acquitted.

Organised Crime

R v Clegg and others (Teeside Crown Court) – Conspiracy to supply Class A drugs with value in millions. Client only one of 32 defendants to be acquitted. Sentences ranged from three-and-a-half years to twenty-two years.

R v Zavrou (Manchester Crown Court) – Armed robbery in the home featuring a firearm. Client acquitted.

R v Blake and another (Manchester Crown Court) – Conspiracy to import large quantities of cannabis through use of haulage contractors engaged by limited companies. Client acquitted.

R v Anwar [leading junior] (Bolton Crown Court) – Extensive Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs. Client acquitted following legal submissions.



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R v Hayes and others (Manchester Crown Court) – At the time, the largest cash seizure in an armed robbery. Case stayed as an abuse of process after legal argument lasting 3 months.

R v Wray and others (Manchester Crown Court) – Conspiracy to commit armed robberies of targeted individuals in their homes by gang posing as police officers. Client only defendant acquitted.

R v Paraskevas (Manchester Crown Court) – Allegation of an elaborate arrangement to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking. Client acquitted.

R v Alij and others (Liverpool Crown Court) – Conspiracy to supply class A drugs through network of East European nationals. Client acquitted.

Sexual Offences

Mark has appeared in many cases of rape and serious sexual abuse. Of the 15 cases cited by The Times in their investigation into the grooming and abuse of vulnerable children, Mark prosecuted or defended in 7 of them. The following cases are provided as representative examples of his practice:

R v S – An 84-year old pensioner charged with the sexual assault of a 7-year old. He was acquitted after a trial at Minshull St, in a case that featured complex forensic evidence.

R v Agnew (Chester Crown Court) – Allegation of historic rape of a minor. Thorough investigation of disclosure issues exposed inaccuracies at heart of prosecution case and led in part to finding of not guilty.

R v Bennett (Manchester Crown Court) – Successful defence of defendant charged with historic allegation of buggery of a minor.

R v Talbot (Bolton Crown Court) – Successful prosecution of defendant charged with attempted rape of daughter. Complex medical evidence concerned with defence of automatism.

R v O'Brien (Manchester Crown Court) – Successful prosecution of defendant charged with historic rape and indecent assaults on multiple victims.

Motoring Offences

Mark receives regular instructions to represent clients charged with causing Death by Dangerous Driving and by Careless Driving. He is preferred counsel for DWF Solicitors and appears throughout the country on behalf of private clients and in insurance funded cases.

Regulatory

Mark is on the approved list for the presentation of cases on behalf of the General Medical Council. He has also appeared for defendants and companies in connection with breaches of regulations relating to Trading Standards, Housing, Fire Safety and the provision of Financial Services.



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