

Described by Chambers UK as *“a great jury advocate who continues to fight the fight in the North”* and *“praised for his wisdom and authority”*, and by Legal 500 as *“a superb advocate who takes serious fraud instructions nationally and who has a good name for commercial crime”*, Paul is a criminal specialist who appears for the prosecution and the defence in all types of serious crime.

He has wide experience of all types of serious crime, including murder, manslaughter, fraud, money laundering, drugs importation etc, both at first instance and in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). With a reputation as a formidable cross-examiner and jury advocate he is as much at home in a gangland murder case as he is in dealing with experts in a shaken baby case or in the intricacies of investment fraud.

He has appeared in many murder cases involving issues of joint enterprise, causation, diminished responsibility, provocation, shaken baby syndrome and battered wife syndrome. In the Jules Lowe case he conducted the successful defence of sleepwalking (automatism) in what is now the leading case in medico/legal literature. He has experience of several so-called “honour killings” in the Asian community. He has dealt with cases of gross negligence manslaughter involving firearms, drugs and motor vehicles.

His fraud practice includes investment and bank trading fraud, carousel fraud and electoral fraud.

He has been involved in many high profile cases including his defence of the Stone Roses (with quotations from his mitigation in “Q” magazine February 2016), his defence of “Doctor” Gene Morrison (featured in the Sunday Times and BBC programme “Crime Scene Conman”), and his prosecution of Rahan Arshad, the taxi driver who murdered his wife and three children before fleeing to Thailand (featured in the BBC programme “Honour Kills”). The murder of Sophie Lancaster was the subject of a 2015 BBC2 programme “Black Roses – The Killing of Sophie Lancaster”.

He is recognised for the heavyweight work he attracts.

NOTABLE CASES

R v Benson, Acton & others (2016) Manchester Crown Court. Murder and perverting justice. Brutal murder and setting fire to body of homeless person by other members of the homeless community (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Czyz (2016) Stafford Crown Court. Multi-handed murder arising from drug or money fall out (defence – Potter Derby)

R v Choudhary (2016) Leeds Crown Court. Historic rape allegations against half sisters (defence – Ashmans).

R v Clarke (2015) Manchester Crown Court. C charged with murder of father. Defences of loss of control or diminished responsibility arising from C’s reaction to previous abuse by father and subsequent abandonment by him. Convicted of manslaughter (defence – RH Law).



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal Law

Inquests

Regulatory

PROFESSIONAL

Member of the Criminal Bar Association.

Junior of the Northern Circuit (1976).

Recorder (1993)

Assistant Recorder (1989)

EDUCATION

Merchant Taylors School, Crosby.

Christ’s College, Cambridge 1968-1972
M.A. Engineering

R v King (K) (2015 & 2016) Preston Crown Court. Haulage company owner accused of conspiring with two others to murder former partner's new boyfriend. Covert recordings from K's lorry. Co-accused convicted at first trial, jury failed to agree on K. K acquitted on re-trial (defence – Farleys).

R v Hall (S) (2015) Preston Crown Court. Police inspector accused of misuse of force computer systems (defence – Slater & Gordon).

R v Taylor (2015) Preston Crown Court. Murder of "love rival" in own home (defence – John Whittle Robinson).

R v Tootle (2015) Preston Crown Court. Murder of "trespasser" to house. Self defence by "householder" and loss of control raised (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Mitchenson (2014) Manchester Crown Court. Murder by arson in hostel for the homeless. Cut throat defences. Issue of admissibility of contents of M's psychiatric records as evidence of bad character (defence – instructed by Connor Ross Brown).

R v King (M) (2014) Preston Crown Court. Gross negligence manslaughter of daughter by mother failing to prevent daughter getting access to methadone (defence – instructed by Pond Marsh).

R v Ellis & Wilhelm (2014) Manchester Crown Court. Re-trial ordered by C.C.A. in relation to Joint Enterprise in murder by stabbing (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v McSorley (2014) Preston Crown Court. Murder by stabbing in jealous attack (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Qureshi (2014) Southwark Crown Court. £20 million fraud on NatWest Bank and laundering of proceeds through international bank accounts (defence – instructed by Steele Ford Newton).

R v Cousins (2014) Leeds Crown Court. Murder committed by stabbing during a robbery. Issue of joint enterprise for non-stabber (defence – instructed by Tuckers).

R v Dialo Hall (2013) Central Criminal Court. Historic drug-related shooting. Identity of gunman the central issue. Unusual issues relating to the authenticity and admissibility of Jamaican criminal records as evidence of bad character (defence – instructed by Imran Khan & Partners).

R v Carroll (2013) Preston Crown Court. Company director accused of running massive cannabis farm in disused nursery premises (defence – instructed by Warings).

R v Livesey (2013) Preston Crown Court. The Dale Creagan murder trial. L a close associate of Creagan. Difficult evidential issues and belated attack on L by co-accused (defence – instructed by Howard Bernstein).

R v McLean (2012) Snaresbrook Crown Court. Four-handed murder in drug-related shooting. Re-trial. McLean the only defendant to be acquitted after re-trial (defence – instructed by Imran Khan & Partners).

R v Hurrell (2012) Preston Crown Court. Torture and ill treatment of deceased prior to murder, concealing his body in suitcase. Cut throat defence (defence – instructed by Tranters).



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R v Green & McKenzie (2011) Manchester Crown Court. Sequel to R v Francis & Francis. Men alleged to be behind the shooting (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Nelson-Goddard (2011) Manchester Crown Court. Company director accused of running a cannabis farm on business premises. Cut throat defence (defence – instructed by Mortons).

R v Davies (2011) Liverpool Crown Court. Murder by striking the deceased from moving vehicle. Mechanism of causation of head injuries/competing pathological opinions (defence – instructed by Paul Crowley & Co).

R v McGrail & McGrail (2011) Liverpool Crown Court. Murder/manslaughter by drowning. Issues of causation and joint enterprise (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Hanchard-Kerr (2011) Birmingham Crown Court. Gang related stabbing by identical twins (defence – instructed by Ledgisters).

R v Fitzgerald (2010) Manchester Crown Court. Murder/manslaughter arising from gang attack (defence – instructed by Tranters).

R v Maden (2010) Manchester Crown Court. Torture, rape, physical abuse and the murder of the defendant's niece (defence – instructed by Tuckers).

R v Dunn (2010) Manchester Crown Court. Violent torture, drowning and murder (defence – instructed by Henry & Co).

R v Caudwell (2010) Manchester Crown Court. Murder/manslaughter (diminished responsibility) of 3 year old daughter by mother (defence – instructed by Mortons).

R v Francis & Francis (2010) Manchester Crown Court. Drive by shooting by identical twins in gangland drug related murder (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Thompson, Hughes & Burke (2010) Preston Crown Court. Brutal drugs related murder (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Otway (2009) Manchester Crown Court. Execution of victim with a firearm. Anonymous witnesses; main prosecution witness hostile, trying to throw the trial; complex cell siting evidence (defence – instructed by Burton Copeland).

R v Shaughnessy (2008) Liverpool Crown Court. Substantial investment fraud. Over £23million invested in highly speculative scheme to process gold and other precious metals from waste fly ash obtained in the US from power stations. Prime bank instrument fraud raising issues of international finance, investment, securities, inter-bank trading etc together with advance fee fraud on those defrauding the original investors. Defendant a former police officer (defence – instructed by DLA Piper).

R v Murray [2008] EWCA Crim 1792 (CCA). Appellant had insisted on pleading guilty to murder of her daughter in the face of clear evidence of diminished responsibility. Approach to her appeal against conviction where her decision to plead guilty to murder was affected by her medical condition, which also substantially diminished her responsibility for the killing (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).



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R v Diamond [2008] EWCA Crim 923 [2008] MHLR 124 (CCA). Instructed by CCA to offer assistance on the relationship between diminished responsibility and fitness to plead where a different defence had been run at trial. Admission of fresh evidence of mental impairment (schizophrenia) 10 years after killing (defence – instructed by Registrar of Criminal Appeals).

R v Hulme (Joseph) [2009] 2 Cr.App.R.(S.) 9 Preston Crown Court and CCA. Murder and brutal beating up of “Goths” in Bacup Park. Approach to sentencing guidelines for young offenders convicted of grave offences of violence (defence – instructed by Steele Ford & Newton). The murder of Sophie Lancaster was the subject of a 2015 BBC2 programme “Black Roses – The Killing of Sophie Lancaster”.

R v Gore (Lisa Therese) (Deceased) [2007] EWCA Crim 2789, [2008] Crim LR 388 (CCA). CCRC reference. Leading case on mens rea required for Infanticide (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

Operation Tancred (2007 & 2008) Preston Crown Court. Prosecution of multi-million pound damp-proofing swindle. Featured in BBC programme “Rogue Traders: You’re Nicked”, an investigation into a damp-proofing company run by a criminal gang who had been conning millions of pounds out of the elderly. Following the trail from Britain to Portugal, “the investigators found a sinister scam hidden beneath the luxury lifestyle of a criminal mastermind” (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Collis (2007) Preston Crown Court. Killing of wife and disposal of body in Scottish highlands. Complex evidence concerning the recovery of information from mobile phone memories and ANPR evidence (defence – instructed by Tuckers).

R v Peniston (2007) Manchester Crown Court. Gross negligence manslaughter of defendant's 12 year old sister using hand gun hidden by his mother (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Rahan Arshad (2007) Manchester Crown Court. Planned murder by Cheadle Hulme taxi driver of his wife and three children in their home before fleeing to Thailand. Whole life minimum term. Featured in BBC programme “Honour Kills” (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Gene Morrison (2007) Manchester Crown Court (Minshull St). Bogus forensic scientist “Doctor” Gene Morrison who posed as an expert in handwriting, drugs, lie-detection, toxicology, facial mapping and finger prints. Featured in Sunday Times and BBC programme “Crime Scene Conman” (defence – instructed by Maidments).

R v Jones (2006 & 2007) Manchester & Liverpool Crown Courts. Gangland execution of rival drug dealer. Main witness a convicted co-accused giving detailed evidence of the defendants’ alleged involvement (defence – instructed by Cunninghams).

R v Stoker (2006) Manchester Crown Court. Death of baby with non-accidental head injuries. Complex medical evidence involving several disciplines (defence – instructed by Tuckers).

R v Mozaquir Ali (2006) Preston Crown Court. Election fraud by councillor in local election postal voting (defence – instructed by Farleys).

R v Brophy (2005) Southwark Crown Court. Millennium Dome fraud (defence – instructed by Burton Copeland).



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R v Jules Lowe (2005) Manchester Crown Court. Successful defence of sleepwalking (automatism) to murder of father. Now the leading case in medico/legal literature. See [2005] Crim L.R. 601 & 614 (defence – instructed by Platt Halpern).

R v Faqir Mohammed [2005] EWCA Crim 1880 Manchester Crown Court and CCA. First case in Court of Appeal (Crim Div) on provocation after Privy Council decision in Holley. Murder of daughter by father seeking to rely on religious/cultural beliefs as relevant to loss of self control in so-called “honour killing” (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Quillan & others [2005] 2 Cr.App.R.(S.) 64 Preston Crown Court and CCA. First case in Court of Appeal (Crim Div) after introduction of Sentencing Guidelines and their application to minimum terms to be served in cases of murder (defence – instructed by Blackburn & Co).

R v Greaves & others (2004) Manchester Crown Court and CCA. First case in Court of Appeal (Crim Div) in which Special Counsel was appointed to consider Public Interest Immunity before the CCA (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Greenwood [2004] EWCA Crim 1388, [2004] 6 Archbold News 4 Liverpool Crown Court and CCA. Approach to information or “evidence” that another person committed, or may have committed, the offence charged. “Body in the River Ribble” case – detailed confession by defendant three years after offence and subsequent retraction; psychology of false confessions (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Wilson (2004) Chester Crown Court. Drug related gangland torture and murder at Cheshire farm involving undercover BBC/Channel 4 journalist (defence – instructed by Ledgisters).

R v Rebecca Hodgson (2003) Manchester Crown Court. Manslaughter by gross negligence in “Galgate ecstasy” case in which a young child died (defence – instructed by Holden & Wilson).

R v Callaghan (2003) Manchester Crown Court. Conspiracy to murder - shootings by rival Moss Side gangs (defence – instructed by Miller Gardner).

R v Whiteley & Taylor (2002) Manchester Crown Court. “Bonnie and Clyde” New Year’s Eve murder of retired journalist (prosecution – instructed by C.P.S.).

R v Burns (2002) Chester Crown Court. Bank trading fraud (defence – instructed by Cooper Kenyon).

R v Skidmore (2002) Birmingham Crown Court. Computer parts VAT/duty carousel fraud (defence – instructed by Burton Copeland).

R v Garrity (2002) Preston Crown Court. Historic murder of Lancaster petrol pump attendant 25 years previously (defence – instructed by Jobling & Knape).

Stone Roses (1990) Wolverhampton Crown Court. Defending Ian Brown, Alan “Reni” Wren, John Squire & Gary Mountfield on criminal damage charge arising from dispute with former record label (see February 2016 “Q” magazine for quotations from the mitigation).



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