

“Lee has a keen eye for detail and is both approachable and professional with clients. He is up front and open when delivering his advice and represents his clients with great tenacity. Lee does not blind clients with complicated legal language; his advice is always succinct and easy to understand.”

Ranked: Legal 500 2023, Northern Circuit, Business and Regulatory Crime (including health and safety), rising star

“As a former solicitor, Lee really does know what a solicitor is looking for and needs from counsel. His preparation is meticulous and thorough. He is incredibly accessible and a very good advocate. Clients really warm to him due to his down to earth nature and the fact he is very good at expressing sometimes difficult points succinctly and clearly.”

Ranked: Legal 500 2023, Northern Circuit, Crime (General and Fraud), tier 3

“Lee is insightful and analytical and gives straightforward, practical advice to clients. He is extremely approachable, always happy to be contacted and willing to go the extra mile.”

Ranked: Legal 500 2023, Northern Circuit, Professional Disciplinary, tier 3

“Lee is exceptionally adept at analysing the law and explaining it in a comprehensible way to clients, and at combining that analysis with good practical advice. Lee is extremely approachable and always willing to act as a sounding board, a trusted advisor.” Legal 500, 2022

“An excellent and calming manner with clients paired with meticulous preparation and a real practical understanding of the law. Able to articulate complex matters in a way that both lay clients and the Court can really grasp.” Legal 500, 2021

Lee is considered a “rising star” in business and regulatory crime by Legal 500. He specialises in regulatory law, with a focus on professional discipline, health and safety (including fire), inquests, road traffic (including work in front of the traffic commissioners), seizures by HMRC and Border Force, Ofsted enforcement, environmental law and trading standards.

Background

Prior to joining chambers Lee worked as a solicitor for some of the country’s leading regulatory practices. In doing so he gained experience in advising and representing international corporate clients, developed excellent client handling skills and amassed significant technical knowledge in his specialist areas. He also developed a keen insight into what instructing solicitors require from their instructed counsel.



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Regulatory Law

Criminal Law

Business Crime

Inquests & Inquiries

Professional Discipline

Public Law

EDUCATION

LLM (with Distinction)

MSc module in Fire Safety Law (First)

Qualified Lawyer's Transfer Test

Police Station Accreditation

Bar Vocational Course

LLB (Hons)

Work at the Bar

Due to Lee's significant experience as a solicitor coupled with his thorough preparation and eye for detail, Lee has quickly established himself as a successful, sought-after junior in regulatory law matters.

Since moving to the Bar Lee has been in high demand. In much of his work, Lee is instructed by insurance practices and national law firms to represent corporate clients and individuals. Lee also prosecutes on the Specialist Regulatory Advocates list for Health and Safety and Environmental Law and prosecuted the Insolvency Service's first Covid Bounce Back Loan prosecution.

Lee has been instructed in matters of national significance, including the Manchester Arena Inquiry, the Gosport Independent Panel Review and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

In addition to advocacy, Lee provides training and assistance to instructing solicitors and regulatory bodies on a range of subjects and is always happy to get involved in a case pre-charge, when he can influence the direction of investigations.

Lee develops strong working relationships with instructing solicitors and clients alike, using his experience supervising teams of lawyers to ensure successful outcomes.

Appointments and other relevant information

Due to his professional disciplinary experience and long-standing interest in martial arts Lee is an independent investigator for the United Kingdom Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Association (UKBJJA) in disciplinary matters and also a legal expert assisting the Disciplinary and Arbitration Committees of the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF). Lee has also been appointed as a member of Sport Resolutions' Pro Bono Legal Advice Panel.

Lee has been successful in achieving panel status for several specialist prosecution agencies, including the CPS general Crime list, the CPS Serious Crime Specialist Panel, the SFO Panel and the Specialist Regulator (AG) Panel.

He is authorised to represent members of the public under the 'Public Access' scheme.

CASES OF INTEREST

Professional Disciplinary

GMC v DR – represented a doctor at a fitness to practise panel before the Medical Practitioner Tribunal Service following allegations of dishonesty. The tribunal gave weight to the "good mitigation" in the case and suspended the doctor for just one month.



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GMC v DR – represented a doctor at a fitness to practise panel before the Medical Practitioner Tribunal Service following allegations of dishonesty. The tribunal gave weight to the “good mitigation” in the case and suspended the doctor for just one month.

GMC v DR – advised a doctor in respect of restoration following findings of dishonesty. Doctor restored to the register.

NMC v N – Represented a nurse in an interim orders hearing before the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Avoided suspension, despite serious allegations.

GMC v DR – represented a doctor at a Review Hearing following impairment through misconduct and adverse physical or mental health.

GMC v DR – advised a doctor in respect of restoration following findings of dishonesty.

Teaching Regulation Agency – represented a teacher accused of sexual impropriety with a student.

GMC v DR – represented a doctor in respect of fitness to practise proceedings following serious allegations of dishonesty. The doctor was suspended.

GMC v DR – instructed to represent a psychiatrist in fitness to practise proceedings following the death of a patient. The GMC chose not to pursue the case to the MPTS.

Health and Safety and Fire Safety

HSE v B – represented a farmer prosecuted for health and safety failings following the death of his young relative.

HSE v MS and CS – secured the acquittal of a director prosecuted by the HSE for breaches of the general duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act and contravention of a Prohibition Notice.

LA v Q and others – represented a company and a director prosecuted in the Crown Court following a fatal fall from height.

Fire Service v G – represented a former health and safety officer in the Crown Court prosecuted for risk assessment offences spanning a period of 10 years.

LA v G – represented a children’s nursery in the Magistrates’ Court for sentence after a child’s fingertip. was severed. Secured an exceptionally low fine for the company.

LA v D – successfully represented a Local Authority in an appeal against a Prohibition Notice.

HSE v G – defended a roofer in the Crown Court following a fall from height in which a worker was seriously injured.

Multinational Company – advised a multinational company regarding its fire safety management responsibilities for vacant commercial and residential properties.

HSE v H&S consultancy – advised a health and safety consultancy disputing a Fee for Intervention invoice and prepared submissions on behalf of the company.

HSE v I – advised a company in liquidation regarding prosecution for health and safety offences.



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HSE v EJ – instructed to advise a company in respect of a police investigation into the death of an employee whilst repairing a forklift truck and subsequently an investigation by the HSE into breaches under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

HSE v S – prosecuted a secondary school following a field trip during which children were lost in snowy conditions and one child was injured when they slid down a hill.

HSE v A – represented a company following a fall of height from 6 metres. The court reduced the starting point due to Lee's "powerful mitigation".

Lee is regularly instructed by the Health and Safety Executive to prosecute cases in the Magistrates' Court and Crown Court, as well as to appear in the Coroners' Court.

Inquest and Inquiry work

Manchester Arena Inquiry – instructed by the Solicitor to the Inquiry as part of the junior counsel team, assisting with preparation for the Inquiry, with particular focus on the criminal aspect of the inquiry. Sat as a noting brief in the criminal trial of Hashem Abedi.

Gosport Independent Panel – appointed by the Secretary of State for Health, as Junior Counsel to Kate Blackwell KC. The panel was constituted by the Minister to examine and report on historical events relating to the care, treatment and deaths of patients of the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Portsmouth. Assisted generally in preparation of the final report, but also specifically in respect of health and safety matters.

Grenfell Public Inquiry – instructed by Government Legal Department to assist the Home Office with the disclosure exercise following the fire that occurred in 2017.

Inquest touching the death of a prison inmate – represented the director of a private prison in an Article 2 inquest following the stabbing of an inmate by another inmate.

Inquest touching the death of a diver – represented an enforcement body.

Inquest touching the death of a mechanic – represented a company following a workplace accident involving a forklift truck.

Inquest touching the death of an elderly resident of local authority accommodation – represented the local authority in an Inquest that explored the Council's obligations towards an elderly resident.

Inquest touching the death of a motorcyclist – represented the driver of a vehicle involved in a collision with the deceased.

Inquest touching the death of a student – represented a university following the death of a student in student accommodation.

Inquest touching the death of a former employee – instructed to represent a company following the death of a former employee.

General Crime

Led junior for the Crown in Operation Chronicle – two defendants convicted of murder and sentenced to 19 and 17 years respectively. Led by Craig Hassall KC.



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Prosecuted the Insolvency Service's first Covid Bounce Back Loan prosecution.

Led junior for the Crown in Operation Telet, which concerned an international conspiracy to smuggle crystal meth. The defendants were convicted after trial.

***Led junior for the Crown in Operation Quartz** which concerned the manufacture of amphetamine at one laboratory and a linked conspiracy to produce amphetamine at another laboratory, which was under construction when police raided it. The case involved two trials and complex POCA proceedings.*

***Led junior for the Crown in Operation Lithe.** Operation Lithe concerned 29-armed robberies of convenience stores across the North West. A gang armed themselves with weapons including machetes and meat cleavers, and attacked shops, usually at night. All of the alleged robbers were convicted, and lengthy prison sentences handed down. The case involved POCA and Serious Crime Prevention Orders.*

***Led junior for the Crown in Operation Woodvill,** which concerned a police investigation into unrest in Oldham after a speech was given by Tommy Robinson. A trial is listed in October 2022*

***Led junior for the defence in a murder prosecution,** in which the juvenile defendant pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Led by Simon Csoka KC.*

***Led junior for the defence in the country's largest ever drugs conspiracy.** Led by Peter Wright KC.*

***R v B** – represented a defendant charged with a s20 wounding after striking a partner with a hammer. The defendant was given a suspended sentence of imprisonment.*

***R v V** – prosecuted a prisoner for escaping from lawful custody after jumping from a moving prison van whilst on a dual carriageway. The defendant was convicted.*

***R v G** – The defendant was accused of robbery. Lee made a successful application to dismiss based on identification evidence.*

***R v W** – The defendant was accused of breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order by having history-deleting software on his phone. Lee made a successful application to dismiss the offence based on the Crown's misunderstanding of the technical evidence.*

POCA

***R v M&S** – represented two interested parties from whom over £30,000 had been seized during investigations into a relative's criminal offending. The interested parties recovered £27,000.*

***Op Lithe** – led prosecution junior involved in the resolution of POCA applications for multiple defendants.*

***Op Quartz** - led prosecution junior involved in the resolution of POCA applications for multiple defendants.*

***HMRC v Ahmadi** – successfully represented HMRC in cash forfeiture proceedings.*

Seizures by HMRC and Border Force

***BF v A** – successfully represented an importer of alcohol at the First Tier Tax Tribunal following seizure of wine by Border Force. Goods restored.*



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HMRC v R – achieved restoration of a seized vehicle days before a hearing in the First Tier Tribunal, persuading HMRC that they had no prospects of success.

Advised many companies and individuals in respect of condemnation and restoration proceedings. Have secured restoration either in the first instance or after review in numerous cases, recovering goods worth tens of thousands of pounds. Regularly instructed in these matters.

Road Traffic

R v M – successfully represented a driver in a trial in the Crown Court in a prosecution for causing death by careless driving.

R v S – represented a driver accused of driving without due care and attention following a collision with a pedestrian. The case was dismissed at the close of the prosecution case.

R v M – represented a driver whose mum forgot to insure his car. Special reasons were found.

R v M – represented a driver in the Magistrates' Court, charged with driving without due care and attention. After cross examination of the injured person made a successful submission that there was no case to answer.

R v A – successfully defended a driver who failed to respond to two requests for information (section 172 Notice) on the basis that it was not reasonably practicable to respond to a request that was not received.

R v CC – achieved an acquittal in the Crown Court for a driver charged with causing death by careless driving.

R v LC – represented a defendant who caused serious injury by driving dangerously. 14-month sentence.

R v G – represented a "totter" in the Magistrates' Court, convicted of his third speeding offence in three weeks and having amassed 15 points. Successfully argued exceptional hardship.

Traffic Commissioner

PS – successfully represented a company in a Public Inquiry before the Traffic Commissioner. Licence retained, despite dishonesty at a previous Public Inquiry.

JS – successfully represented a company in a PI before the Traffic Commissioner. Licence retained, despite non-compliance with an undertaking and various requirements of the licence.

L – successfully represented a company before the Traffic Commissioner. Licence retained, despite multiple failings in respect of the licence.

W – represented a company at a Public Inquiry before the Traffic Commissioner, where there was alleged to be breach of a restricted licence.

P – represented a skip company at a Public Inquiry before the Traffic Commissioner.

E – represented a company at a Public Inquiry before the Traffic Commissioner – no regulatory action taken.



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Licensing

LA v HF – represented a Local Authority in an appeal by a taxi driver against a refusal to grant him a licence. Successfully applied to have the case dismissed after the taxi driver's evidence.

LA v TD – successfully represented a Local Authority in PII proceedings relating to evidence to be used in an appeal against a withdrawal of a taxi licence.

LA v M – represented a Local Authority in an appeal against a Review of a premises Licence. Case dismissed and full costs awarded. Later successfully resisted an application to reopen the case and achieved a further award of full costs.

CRL – advised a scrap metal dealer in respect of an application for a licence.

R v M – represented a director in a prosecution for operating without a scrap metal dealer's licence.

OFSTED / Education

Advised a children's home regarding an appeal following receipt of Notice restricting accommodation.

Advised a children's home regarding a suspension of registration, cancellation and an interview with a Responsible Individual.

Advised a children's nursery regarding an appeal against a suspension notice.
Advised a Training Academy regarding an investigation by The Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Advised a childminder regarding suspension notices and cancellation.

Advised a childminder regarding suspension.

Prosecuted for a local authority in a case involving repeated non-attendance at school.

Trading Standards

R v M & Q – represented a company and director in the Magistrates' Court for trademark offences.

R v Y – represented a company prosecuted for food safety offences.

Environmental

L v Housing Authority – represented a Housing Authority in the Magistrates' Court in a private prosecution brought by a tenant under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

LA v Q – represented a local authority in a prosecution of a couple who had breached enforcement notices served under planning legislation.

EA v L – advised a director in relation to an application to dismiss in the Crown Court.

LA v PL – represented a care home and its owner in a prosecution for a breach of a Tree Preservation Order.



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Data Protection

ICO v A & Ors – instructed as junior counsel to Paul Greaney QC. Successfully defended a multinational organisation against a prosecution under data protection legislation

Other matters

Successfully represented a professional regulator as a defendant in judicial review proceedings in the High Court.



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