

“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’s] guidance and counsel was second to none”. Client testimonial

“The communication from Lee Hughes throughout our involvement with him has been impeccable with clear and concise explanations throughout the whole process...he is highly recommended.” Client testimonial

Lee is recognised by Legal 500 as a “Rising Star” for his business and regulatory crime work. He specialises in regulatory compliance and criminal law, with a focus on health and safety, fire safety, trading standards, road traffic, inquests, and professional discipline. He regularly advises businesses and businesspeople in respect of criminal charges and how best to achieve legal compliance with a raft of legislation.

Lee also advises and represents clients in general crime, HMRC, environmental and licensing cases.

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

Lee also prosecutes. He has been instructed to prosecute for the Health and Safety Executive and has prosecuted serious organised crime for the CPS on several occasions.

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

Prior to joining the Bar Lee was a solicitor in some of the most highly regarded regulatory crime teams in the country. He was recommended by Legal 500 for his health and safety work. He also gained experience as a solicitor advising on cases involving fire safety, environmental compliance, inquests, trading standards (including food and consumer protection), money laundering and bribery.

Lee continues to support solicitors who require assistance with general workload in his areas of expertise, as well as offering assistance with litigation support, document review, witness familiarisation, internal investigations, and due diligence.

NOTABLE CASES

Health and Safety and Fire Safety

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:

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/cannock-quartz-fined-ryan-shenton-3736989>



CONTACT DETAILS

Email:

Lee.Hughes@lincolnhousechambers.com

Telephone:

0161 832 5701

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)

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:

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/crime/wakefield-grammar-school-foundation-fined-10-000-over-fire-safety-offences-1-10192909>

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.

Multinational Company – advised a multinational company regarding its responsibilities for vacant commercial and residential properties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

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 DB – represented a director in a prosecution following a fall from height.

HSE v COS – represented a company in a prosecution following a collision between plant and an employee on a construction site.

Instructed to represent a sole trader following an accident at a waste recycling facility that resulted in a contractor ultimately losing their leg.

Instructed by an enforcement authority in a prosecution of a roof cleaning company.

As a solicitor Lee represented acquitted individuals in **R v Sterecycle & Others R v Love & Joy Ministries & Others**.

Lee has a master's degree in health and safety and environmental law. He also achieved a first-class mark in a postgraduate fire safety law module at the University of Leeds.

Lee has significant experience of fire safety law having advised NHS Trusts and Special Purpose Vehicles on fire safety obligations in the context of PFI projects, as well as numerous companies and individuals on their obligations under fire safety legislation.

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.

Gosport Independent Panel – appointed by the Secretary of State for Health, as Junior Counsel to Kate Blackwell QC. 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.

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



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

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

Inquest touching the death of a diver – instructed by the HSE.

General Crime

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. 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. Made a successful application to dismiss the offence based on the Crown's misunderstanding of the technical evidence.

Led junior for the Crown in Operations Teleut, Quartz and Lithe:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-45681608>

<https://news.merseyside.police.uk/news/total-of-more-than-60-years-in-prison-for-amphetamine-lab-gang-following-nwrocu-and-nca-investigation-374873>

Fraud

R v C, R v M, R v M – advised a local authority regarding investigations into fraud offences committed by several individuals over a period of years.

Disciplinary

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

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

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.

TAX

BF v A – instructed to represent an importer of alcohol at the First Tier Tax Tribunal.

HMRC v R – advised an importer of vehicles regarding restoration of seized goods.



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HMRC v M – advised an importer of bicycles regarding restoration of seized goods

Road Traffic

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 in a special reasons hearing 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. Made a successful submission that there was no case to answer after cross examination of the injured person.

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

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 M – instructed to represent a driver charged with causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Traffic Commissioner

Represented a scaffolding business in a Public Inquiry. Successfully persuaded the Traffic Commissioner not to suspend or revoke the licence.

Represented a waste business in a Public Inquiry. Successfully persuaded the Traffic Commissioner not to suspend or revoke the licence.

Instructed to provide advice prior to a Public Inquiry in a case in which the operator had been convicted of corporate manslaughter.

Trading Standards

R v M & Q – represented a company and director in the Magistrates' Court for trade mark offences. <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/strangeways-trader-found-hundreds-fake-17581217>

R v Q – prepared a judicial review in respect of Production Orders made under the Proceeds of Crime Act by an Honorary Record of a Crown Court in an investigation by Trading Standards.

R v L – in a Consumer Credit and Financial Services Act case, prepared submissions on behalf of the defendant in respect of whether or not a Local Authority could legitimately take enforcement action.

Firearms

H v Police – advised an owner of firearms regarding the merits of appealing against a revocation of firearms certificates.



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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

Financial Conduct Authority

Advised a bicycle retailer regarding compliance with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (and associated legislation) and how amended business models could achieve compliance.

Advised a ticket re-seller regarding compliance with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (and associated legislation) and how amended business models could achieve compliance.

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 licence.

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.



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