

“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’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 considered a *“rising star”* in business crime and regulatory matters by Legal 500. Lee has covered the full spectrum of representational roles in criminal law practice.

Background

Lee commenced work in 2005 in one of Manchester’s most successful criminal defence practices. He represented suspects in the police station from 2006 onwards, giving him ‘coal-face’ experience of dealing with suspects at the earliest stages of a criminal investigation.

After learning his trade in leading legal aid firms Lee’s career progressed to representing high net-worth individuals, for a range of criminal offences, whilst working as a solicitor in some of the country’s biggest commercial firms.

Work at the Bar

Lee’s reputation of being a top-quality criminal practitioner with an excellent success rate has continued to grow. Since moving to the Bar Lee has been in high demand for representing privately funded defendants in the Magistrates’ Court and Crown Court for a range of criminal offences. He has also appeared in numerous cases involving POCA, where substantial sums have been sought.

In addition to a busy defence practice, 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.

Lee enjoys a high success rate and repeat instructions due to his approachable manner, client-handling skills honed through years of working in the full range of representational roles in the criminal justice system, and his meticulous preparation.

Lee has a particular interest in crimes alleged against businesses and business-people, such as fraud in a work-setting, as well as computer-related offences.



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)

CASES OF NOTE

General Crime

Lee is instructed for the defence, led by Peter Wright QC, in one of the country's biggest ever drugs trials. Lee has been instructed to defend one of 25 alleged conspirators, responsible, the Crown say, for the importation of drugs with a potential street valuation of £2 – £7 billion. Over 100,000 pages of evidence has been served and the trial will run for 5 months.

Lee was instructed for the defence, led by Simon Csoka QC, in a prosecution for murder. A youth was charged with murder following the death of a takeaway driver, killed by his own car. Lee was instructed at an early stage. Following a plea to manslaughter the youth was sentenced to 4 years and 9 months' imprisonment.

Lee was instructed junior for the prosecution, led by Craig Hassall QC, in a murder trial following the stabbing of a vulnerable adult whose address had been used for drug dealing by an organised crime gang.

Lee has been instructed as led junior for the Crown, led by Henry Blackshaw, in Operations Teleut, Quartz, Lithe and Woodville.

Operation Teleut concerned an international conspiracy to smuggle crystal meth. The defendants were convicted after trial.

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

Operation Quartz 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.

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

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.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-57671263>

Operation Woodville concerns a police investigation into unrest in Oldham after a speech was given by Tommy Robinson. Two trials will take place later in 2021.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-48323573>

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.



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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.



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