

Lewis Bocking

Call to Bar: 2021



Lewis is a driven, conscientious and persuasive advocate. He employs a meticulous approach to case preparation and represents his clients fearlessly.

Lewis is an established Crown Court practitioner and represents defendants accused of serious offences for trial. As a Grade 3 CPS advocate, he has an equally strong prosecution practice, representing the Crown from the PTPH through to trial and sentencing. Lewis is instructed by the CPS and defence solicitors as both junior alone and led junior.

He is adept at handling complex issues of fact, law and procedure. Lewis is able confidently to manage voluminous forms of information and evidence, including sequences of events charts and expert reports. Regularly instructed to represent vulnerable defendants with complicated mental health issues and diagnoses, he has a thorough knowledge about the disposal of such cases.

For those who instruct him, Lewis provides prompt, analytical written advice on prospects of success in appeals, instructing experts, and other trial-related issues. Lewis provides a consistent high-level of advocacy, with both his robust oral submissions and cogent written work.

Lewis has built a reputation for his intellectual ability, diligence and tactical acumen, which is deployed to the advantage of those he represents. At the University of Cambridge, Lewis ranked top of his MPhil cohort, receiving a distinction and recognition for his academic performance. For his LL.M, in which he obtained a Distinction, he analysed the practicalities of money laundering regulations. Lewis also holds a first-class law degree.

Lewis has a specialist interest in sentencing, and received the Sentencing Academy Thesis Prize (2022) for his original research undertaken at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, which critically assessed the approaches of Crown Court judges to offence-specific sentencing guidelines.

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Practice areas:

Crime

Recent and ongoing examples of his caseload include:

Trials:

Operation Coconut (Preston Crown Court) - defending, led by Paul Bogan KC - complex contested confiscation proceedings following conviction for cheating HMRC in the region of £5.5M.

Operation Sylleptic (Winchester Crown Court) - defending, led by Simon Gurney KC - complex confiscation proceedings following conviction for the importation of 90kg of Class A drugs from Holland. The principal source of evidence in the case was data from Encrochat telephones.

Operation Millbrook (Manchester Crown Court) - prosecuting, led by Bill Baker KC - the defendant stabbed his wife 40 times at their home following her wish for a divorce. Prior to the trial, the defendant pleaded guilty to manslaughter by diminished responsibility. He later pleaded guilty to murder after he was cross-examined by Mr Baker KC

Operation Elderon (Birmingham Crown Court) – led by Tim Storrie KC for the prosecution in respect of conspiracy to commit burglaries on an organised, national level.

Operation Madford (Minshull Street Crown Court) - led by Sarah Magill for the prosecution. Three defendants, forming part of an organised crime group, convicted of conspiracies to commit high value armed robberies, aggravated burglaries, and supply of drugs.

R v MH (Burnley Crown Court) – defending - multi-handed MOT and vehicle fraud.

R v IJ (Manchester Crown Court) – defending - allegation of strangulation against his ex-wife. The defendant was acquitted and maintains his good character.

R v JB (Preston Crown Court) – defending - the defendant was alleged to have strangled and caused grievous bodily harm on his mother. The defendant absconded prior to the trial, fleeing abroad. Lewis remained in the case, representing his client at trial, and the Defendant was acquitted of strangulation.

R v MH (Preston Crown Court) – prosecuting - supply of cannabis over an eight-month period. The defendant was convicted.

R v MAW (Preston Crown Court)– defending - the complainant made nine domestic violence related allegations against her ex-husband, the defendant. Following a five-day trial, the defendant was acquitted of all charges on the indictment and remains of good character.

R v KT (Bolton Crown Court) – prosecuting - a male threatened his ex-partner with a machete in her bedroom. The defendant was convicted.

R v RR (Preston Crown Court) – defending - the defendant was a of good character and he was alleged to have caused grievous bodily harm. This matter involved an extensive legal argument concerning the principles of joint enterprise. The defendant was acquitted.

Sentences:

Operation Chesterfield - defending - Lewis represented 5 defendants who pleaded guilty for their roles in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs across Lancashire.

R v MM – defending - a young, new driver caused multiple serious injuries by dangerous driving. Suspended sentence imposed.

R v HF – defending - causing grievous bodily harm. Suspended sentence imposed.

R v SC – prosecuting - the defendant strangled his ex-partner on four occasions and seriously assaulted her. Lengthy custodial sentence imposed.

R v GC – defending - a male had breached a contingent destruction order and then committed a further offence relating to a dangerous dog. Neither dog was destroyed.

R v MD – defending - county lines. A seventeen-year-old had gotten involved with dealing various Class A drugs. Community order imposed.

R v RD and JL – prosecuting - two males were significant players in a North West-based OCG, for supplying Class A and B drugs. Both defendants received sentences in excess of 10 years' imprisonment.

R v KB – defending - the defendant had been caught selling Class A drugs by an undercover police operation. Suspended sentence imposed.

R v GR – defending - a female found to have been selling Class A drugs in Manchester. Suspended sentence imposed.

R v NJ – defending - the defendant had perverted the course of justice. Suspended sentence imposed.

R v MQ and Others – prosecuting - seven men involved in a violent disorder. All defendants received lengthy custodial sentences.

R v HO - defending - a female strangled a nurse in a secure facility. Hospital order imposed.

R v TN - defending - environmental offences. Suspended sentence imposed.

Awards

[2022] Recipient of The Sentencing Academy Thesis Prize 2022

[2022] Proxime Accessit to the Manuel Lopez-Rey Prize, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge

Memberships

The Northern Circuit

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Education

[2020] LLB (Hons) at LJMU - First Class Honours (ranked in top 5 of cohort)

[2021] LLM Legal Practice (Bar) at BPP University - Distinction

[2022] MPhil in Criminology at Queens' College, University of Cambridge - Distinction (ranked top of cohort)