

CRIMINAL LAW UPDATE



18 JUNE 2026

SENTENCING AND LEGISLATION - EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE

The past 18 months have been very busy in the law, there have been major reviews of sentencing and the structure of the Criminal courts. The government has introduced a 'democratic lock' on the Sentencing Council and plans for a 'swift and fair' criminal justice system with the 'Courts Modernisation Bill' announced in the King's speech. The appellate courts are equally busy with important decisions dealing with the right to protest, conspiracy, joint participation, the criteria for allowing an extension of time and the role of juries amongst others.

You are invited to attend the sessions on Thursday 18th June at Manchester Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester from 2.00pm.

In his presentation Richard English KC will review key developments in the following areas:

Session 1 2.00pm – 3.15pm

Sentencing & Legislation

A review of key sentencing decisions from the past 18 months, consideration of new and amended Guidelines from the Sentencing Council, ancillary orders and the ever changing release provisions.

Looking at new and anticipated legislation: Mental Health Act 2025, Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, Sentencing Act 2026 and the Crime and Policing Act as well as considering the Law Commissions report on Evidence in Sexual Offences and Leveson Parts 1 and 2.

There will be a handout which will contain links to the cases and legislation discussed.

Session 2 3.30pm – 4.45pm

Evidence and Procedure

A survey of important decisions from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Kings Bench looking at a range of topics which will include: character, honesty and the jury's role, conspiracy, joint participation and the liability of secondary parties, consent to harm, fitness to plead and mental health disposals, processions, the right to protest offences and defences, AI and Mazur.

Richard English KC

Richard is a former solicitor who was called to the bar in 2003; he was appointed King's Counsel in 2025; the only silk from the North West that year and one of very few in the country whose practice is predominately publicly funded defence.

He is instructed to advise and represent in serious RASSO cases, homicide and violence against children. Recent instructions include the successful defence of a man charged with the double murder of the rider and passenger of an electric bike and, a 14 year old boy tried, as a joint participant, in the fatal stabbing of another 14 year old in Manchester.

Many of his cases involve a defendant or complainant who experiences mental ill-health or is neuro-diverse. He has studied at post graduate level, written about and lectured on this topic and is writing a book for practitioners aiming to demystify the intersection of mental health and crime so that whether in acute crisis or not, defendants who are mentally unwell are in a position to get the best possible outcome, whatever that may be.

He has appeared consistently in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) since his first appearance, before the Lord Chief Justice in the successful appeal of Alkazraji [2004] 2 Cr App R (S) 55 after less than six months in practice. Since then a number of cases have been reported: Blackshaw, the Manchester riots appeal [2012] 1 Cr App R (S) 114 Lynch (Manslaughter [2015] 2 Cr App R (S) 73) and Brennan [2024] 1 Cr App R 14. In JH [2024] 1 Cr App R 5 the Court noted his "*precise, measured and well-directed submissions*".

He is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and an associate member of the American Bar Association.

Richard is recommended year after year in the leading legal directories:

"Richard English KC is a wonderful KC" – Crime – Chambers and Partners 2026

"Richard is a strong advocate who has a keen eye for detail and is meticulous in his preparation." – Legal 500, 2026 – Crime (General and Fraud)

"He provides full advice and has a wonderful courtroom manner." – Crime – Chambers and Partners 2025

"He is an excellent junior barrister, he is extremely knowledgeable and able to explain the most difficult points to clients." – Crime – Chambers and Partners 2025

"Richard English is a notable practitioner with a significant reputation for his work in cases involving mentally disordered defendants. He primarily practises on the defence side, but he is also called upon to prosecute in complex multi-handed cases." – Crime – Chambers and Partners 2024

"Richard is personable and his attention to detail is great." – Crime – Chambers and Partners 2024

The sessions will be followed by drinks at a venue to be confirmed from 5pm, to which all are invited. To obtain full details and reserve a place please email;
events@lincolnhousechambers.com

Please RSVP and indicate which room you would prefer to attend for each session



Tower 12, The Avenue North, Spinningfields, 18 - 22 Bridge Street, Manchester M3 3BZ

T: 0161 832 5701 E: clerks@lincolnhousechambers.com

www.lincolnhousechambers.com

