

Daniel Travers

Call 1999



Clerks' Details

-  Kate Masher
 0151 242 8841
-  Suzanne Dutch
 0151 242 8873
-  Denise Sheen
 0151 242 8874
-  Graeme Hipkiss
 0151 242 8868

Appointments

- Category 4 Prosecutor

Education

- First Class Honours LLB Law
- 1999 Called to the Bar
- 2000 Member of Exchange Chambers

Criminal CV

Overview

Daniel is an experienced junior advocate who specialises in conducting trials in the most serious criminal matters involving murder, drugs conspiracies, firearms, fraud, money laundering, sexual offences and serious motoring offences.

Known for his expert scrutiny and strategic approach, he is routinely instructed in cases which involve detailed analysis of phone data, and examining leading expert witnesses involving cell site analysis, accounting, DNA, firearms and gunshot residue.

Daniel advises at an early stage in robust terms as to the strength or merits of a case, and whether an application to dismiss should be made. Once a decision has been made to proceed to trial, he advises as to the necessary preparation, in particular involving the instructing of expert witnesses. He meticulously prepares the case so that it can be presented in its most digestible form by a jury. Noted for his tenacity, he ensures that all proper legal arguments are pursued.

Being instructed by both the defence and prosecution allows the advantage of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of a case from both sides, and anticipating how the other side might approach a case.

Cases

MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER

R v Sadler (2018) – Defendant killed his wife. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was acquitted of murder. The defence provided detailed analysis of the CCTV and extracted additional data from the phone downloads. (Defending)

R v Fairclough (2017) – Defendant pleaded guilty to manslaughter by gross negligence of her grandmother. The 91 year old victim was left to die in her bed. Expert evidence in relation to medical causation, capacity and care. (Prosecuting)

R v Baines (2017) – Defendant ran a ‘County lines’ drug phone in North Wales and was charged with murder following the fatal stabbing of a rival his gang had confronted. Detailed analysis of CCTV and managing a conflict with another defendant. Defendant acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. (Defending)

R v X (2016) – A 15 year old drug dealer charged with murder of customer. The defendant was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. (Defending)

R v Bate (2016) – Defendant charged with murder. His phone was found in the abandoned vehicle that had been involved in the fatal shooting. Detailed analysis of phone downloads and call data, and legal arguments in relation to hearsay evidence. (Defending)

R v Durkin (2014) - Murder trial where the defendant admitted killing her mother. Advised at an early stage whether the defendant should plead guilty to (loss of control) manslaughter before the certificate was amended to QC only. At trial the defendant was found Not Guilty of murder. (Defending)

R v Walsh (2013) – Attempted murder trial (junior alone) where a shotgun was discharged at point blank range at the driver of a car. The complainant identified the defendant due to an ongoing feud and the prosecution relied on different forensic techniques to link the defendant’s vehicle to the scene (similar to facial mapping, paint and dent comparison, and ANPR). The complainant and expert witnesses were cross examined at length and the defendant was acquitted. (Defending)

R v McDonough (2012) – Attempted murder (junior alone) on Christmas Day when a firearm was discharged at an opposing group outside a public house. Prosecution alleged attempted murder of 6 people as 6 shots were fired at 6 different people. Drafted an application to dismiss which resulted in the prosecution accepting a plea to s.16 Firearm Act (possession with intent to endanger life). (Defending)

R v Rogan (2012) – Murder trial where defendant had been inside his home when the deceased smashed his way into the home and the prosecution alleged that defendant stabbed him inside and then outside the property. Detailed examination of eye witnesses meant that at close of prosecution case the prosecution accepted a plea to (loss of control) manslaughter. (Defending)

R v Smith (2010) – Murder trial where defendant was denying being part of any joint enterprise to kill or cause really serious harm. The evidence involved detailed analysis of CCTV footage and forensic evidence. (Defending)

DRUGS CONSPIRACIES

Daniel is regularly instructed for the Defence in the largest drugs operations in Liverpool and the North West, involving the important and wholesale distribution of Class A and B drugs (recent Operations include Manhattan, Chiffon, Broadus, Orlando and Limited). He is experienced in the preparation of these cases which typically involves detailed consideration of a Sequence of Events chart including mobile phone and other media communications, as well as surveillance evidence and forensic evidence. Bad character evidence of previous involvement can be significant and Daniel provides realistic advice as to whether it is likely to be admitted.

EXPLOSIONS, FIREARMS and ARSON

Operation Sydney (2017) – Defendants all convicted of their involvement in the conspiracy to cause explosion which involved blowing up ATMs in England and Scotland. (Prosecuting)

R v Taylor (2017) - Defendant charged with arson of a Grade II listed building. DNA and CCTV evidence linked him to the scene.

R v Evans [Operation Firmister] (2016) – Defendant was a taxi driver charged with firearm conspiracy offences relating to a firearm in his passenger's bag. Acquitted after trial. (Defending)

Operation Camaro 2 (2015) – 11 defendants stood trial. Led by QC, presented part of the case, in particular involving 2 defendants who carried a loaded prohibited weapon, when they were confronted by an opposing group and shots were discharged. Both defendants gave evidence which involved detailed analysis of phone calls and text messages in a sequence of events charts; and forensic evidence involving firearms experts, DNA, and Gun Shot Residue left on a balaclava. (Prosecuting)

Operation Camaro 1 (2014) – Leading Junior at trial. The conspiracy alleged that 11 persons were connected to a single firearms transaction and almost the entire case was based on patterns of phone calls and text messages between conspirators,

overlaid with some observation evidence. (Prosecuting)

Operation Smolan (2012) – Led by QC. The defendants had conspired with a U.S. citizen who had imported Glocks that were being sold in Merseyside and were traced when the serial numbers or packaging had been recovered. The trial involved calling witnesses from the U.S. and detailed consideration of mobile and Skype communication and cell site evidence. (Prosecuting)

Operation Newhaven (2011) – Junior alone. The armourer denied responsibility for reactivating sub-machine guns which were sold to undercover officers. The Royal Armouries recommended a gun maker and firearms dealer who had the expertise to identify precisely which recovered items from the factory would be used as component parts or as tools in the conversion process. Other expert evidence involved DNA and cell site analysis as well as phone communication. (Prosecuting)

FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING

R v Blundell & Euro Car Mats Ltd (2017) – Trading standards prosecution against the directors and the company which sold trademark infringing car mats on eBay. At trial following legal argument, trading standards agreed to accept a plea from the company only (financial penalty only) and settled costs and no confiscation proceedings. (Defending)

Operation Acacia (2016) – Money laundering trial where the prosecution alleged that the defendant was knowingly involved in concealing his half-brother's assets (including proceeds from mortgage frauds) in Cyprus from the Official Receiver. Acquitted after trial. (Defending)

Operation Incuse (2015) – Conspiracy to evade excise duty on goods trial. A surveillance operation by HMCE which involved different groups of importers and the defendant being involved in the wholesale distribution. The prosecution were persuaded to amend the indictment to 3 different sub-conspiracies. The judge refused the application and on conviction an application was made in the Court of Appeal for permission to appeal. The court were sympathetic to the submissions but ultimately were unable to consider that the conviction was unsafe. (Defending)

Operation Wickerball (2013) – Conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation. The defendant was from Romania and had organised a large number of fraudulent claims for benefits (over £750,000), often by persons who were resident outside the UK. (Defending)

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Daniel is regularly instructed by the Defence in cases involving multiple complaints, often of a historic nature. It is essential that all the relevant third party material is requested and meticulously considered. Frequently there is relevant material found in social media communication between the parties and Daniel is particularly adept at distilling such material. Ultimately it is the cross-examination of the complainant that may determine the outcome. This must be done sympathetically and courteously, but fundamentally will involve challenging the veracity of the complaint in a robust manner.