

David Toal

Call 1990



Clerks' Details

 Nick Buckley
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 Dave Haley
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 Andy Leech
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Memberships

- Northern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- Gray's Inn

Education

- St Bede's College, Manchester and Urmston Grammar School for Boys
LLB (Hons) degree
- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law 1989

Beyond the Bar

Married with 2 children
Interested in all sports but particularly football

Criminal CV

Overview

David has developed and maintains a heavyweight criminal practice which is made up of predominantly defence work. Whilst he largely acts for defendants, his abilities have been recognised by the prosecuting authorities and he has been instructed to prosecute significant cases for both CPS and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

He is a Category 4 CPS Prosecutor and is also on the specialist list of approved counsel to be instructed to prosecute the most serious sexual offences. David always seeks to provide clear advice in the early stages of any case.

Whether dealing with professionals or lay clients, David's personable manner and style inspire trust and confidence. Once a case reaches trial, his meticulous preparation is clearly apparent and he provides courtroom advocacy of the highest order.

Recommendations

“He is a favourite of solicitors and is always very well prepared. He is unflappable in court.” “He is very experienced and realistic. He’s good on his feet and very hard-working.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“One of the circuit’s best jury advocates.”

The Legal 500 2021

“A fantastic advocate - he’s really excellent, always very well prepared and brilliant in a courtroom.” “An excellent jury advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“A great jury advocate.”

The Legal 500 2020

“He does very serious crime and is an excellent performer with an excellent client manner. Solicitors love him.” “He is a master tactician at trial.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“He can use his gentle approach to devastating effect in court.”

The Legal 500 2018/19

“He is a good advocate, who’s good with clients and on the law.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“He is hard-working, intelligent, measured and an extremely safe pair of hands.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“A persuasive and very eloquent advocate.”

The Legal 500 2017

“I can hardly convey in words my heart felt gratitude to you for your excellent professional representation of my case. Both you and Louise are a formidable and supportive team!”

Client testimonial

“Mr Toal is nothing short of brilliant.”

“Your help in ensuring PC R retained his livelihood is something I can never thank you enough for and I could never articulate just how grateful we all are that you were there for the Officer during this difficult time”.

Helen Collier (Branch Board Secretary) - Humberside Police Federation

Cases

Murder and Manslaughter

R v Harrison (& others) – ‘Operation Sun & Mera’. Conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to pervert court of justice. Represented 1 of 9 Category ‘A’ Defendants as a Led Junior. Case involved a series of shootings linked to gang violence, one victim being a 7 year-old boy. National publicity and extremely high profile.

R v Fitzgerald (& others) – Murder, Robbery, Pervert Court of Justice. Junior Prosecution Counsel. Significant work had been done prior to that as it was an extremely complex factual matrix to present. Received National publicity.

R v Pitt (& others) – represented a leading member of the Manchester gang, ‘The Pitt Bull Crew’ in the Crown Court trial then subsequently at Court of Appeal. Gang members charged with being involved in murder, firearms and drug dealing.

R v Briercliffe (& others) – represented Defendant charged with Manslaughter following a violent incident with an alleged local paedophile who jumped from the balcony of a block of flats. Complex issues of causation. Defendant acquitted.

R v Rajkuma – prosecuted the Defendant was charged with Soliciting to Murder his wife. The case revolved around his dealings with an undercover Police Officer masquerading as a hit-man. Defendant convicted.

R v Anderson & Others – the ‘Frank Buckley’ murder case. Represented one of the Defendants who were doormen from Yates’ Wine Lodge in Swinton. They were charged following a violent incident outside that led to the death of a customer, Frank Buckley. The case attracted national publicity.

R v Makin – represented Nurse charged with murder of her 4 year old daughter who then slashed her own wrists and drank anti-freeze in an unsuccessful attempt to take her own life leaving her permanently disabled. Convicted of Manslaughter.

R v Joy – represented Defendant charges with murder. A very complex case involving detailed neuropathological evidence to determine whether the brain injury that led to death was caused by violent trauma or ecstasy use.

R v Dempsey (& others) – represented the principal defendant who was charged with murder. The case involved the stabbing to death of the deceased by a gang of youths in Manchester and attracted national publicity.

R v Pilkington (& others) – represented a serving prisoner charged with manslaughter involving attack on a fellow prisoner which led to his death. Given circumstances and location of the incident there were significant issues relating to disclosure and bad

character of prison witnesses.

R v Ashurst – the ‘Louise Sellars case’. Prosecuted, defendant was charged with the murder of 15 year old Wigan schoolgirl Louise Sellars. The case attracted national publicity as the defendant was re-arrested 5 years after her death (and his original arrest) when advanced DNA techniques on a cigarette end found near to her body linked the defendant to the murder. Defendant convicted.

R v Khan (& others) – represented the principal defendant charged with murder. Involved a pre-planned execution over unpaid monies following an agreement not to give evidence in separate criminal proceedings.

R v Schofield – represented 17 year old defendant charged with murder of another 17 year old by stabbing. Numerous psychiatric issues given the mental health of the client. Case attracted national publicity from the outset.

R v Carroll (& others) – represented defendant charged with murder. Repeated assault, robbing and stripping of deceased before throwing him in a brook where he drowned. Complex issues of joint enterprise and causation.

R v Smith – represented 15 year old boy charged with murder of a male who ultimately died due to asthma attack following serious assault in the street. Complex medical issues re: causation. Nationally reported.

R v Davies – represented defendant charged with murder. Allegation involved a brutal stabbing of his partner before he fled the country. Arrested in Holland and extradited to face trial in the UK.

Drugs/Firearms

R v Witter (& others) – ‘Operation Trinket’. Conspiracy to supply heroin. Represented 1 of 6 Defendants as Junior alone. Case involved the seizure of the largest amount of heroin adulterant and bulking agent ever in the UK. Received National publicity.

R v Baillie – ‘Operation Mallard’. Conspiracy to supply heroin. Represented 1 of 13 defendants as Junior alone. Major ‘county-lines’ drug operation with national publicity.

R-v-Egerton (& others) – represented Defendant charged with offences of False Imprisonment and Possessing a Firearm. After a 5 week trial, the Defendant was 1 of only 2 Defendants that were found not guilty of all charges. The other 5 Defendants were all convicted.

R-v-RM & Kyle Rhoden - Represented the defendant, RM, who together with his Co-Defendant, Kyle Rhoden, was charged with Possessing a Firearm and Ammunition with intent to Endanger Life. After a week-long trial RM was found Not Guilty of all charges.

R v Heathcote (& others) – ‘Operation Incrusto’. Represented one of the defendants charged with a large scale conspiracy to import Class ‘A’ drugs on a massive scale from Holland. Defendant acquitted.

R v Spensley (& others) – represented defendant charged with half billion pound conspiracy to import Class ‘A’ drugs from the continent in one of the most sophisticated operations ever dealt with by customs authorities. Defendant acquitted.

R v Taylor (& others) – ‘Operation Greengage’. Represented one the principal defendants in the largest UK importations case to date. A complex conspiracy involving importation and supply/transfer of drugs, firearms and ammunition.

R v Bashir (& others) – ‘Operation Kestrel’. Represented one of the defendants charged with conspiracy to supply Class ‘A’ drugs in a national operation. Defendant acquitted of the most serious charge.

R v Bowden (& others) – ‘Operation Sabine’. Represented one of 24 defendants charged with conspiracy to supply drugs on a commercial scale. Defendant one of only two to be acquitted.

R v Kimmer – represented defendant charged with serious offences involving firearms, ammunition and drugs. Defendant acquitted.

Sexual Offences

R v M - represented Defendant charged with Rape & Assault. Allegations made by former partner that he repeatedly forced himself upon her sexually then physically attacked her. Following a trial the jury acquitted him in 20 minutes.

R-v-H - successfully defended client charged with rape and other sexual offences. Defendant had attended a music gig with his former partner and they stayed overnight in a hotel. After they got into bed, she alleged that he had made sexual advances which she tried to resist before he then forced himself upon her. He denied the allegations saying they were involved in consensual sexual activity. The jury found him not guilty of all charges. This was the first socially distanced jury trial in the North of England.

R v Doyle – Successfully defended a former vicar against historic sex allegations. After a five-day trial, the jury returned not guilty verdicts on all charges.

R v Haslock – represented teacher charged with downloading indecent images and voyeurism. Case reported nationally. <http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/llandudno-teacher-looking-software-help-12248465>

R v Vagheir – represented Rochdale male charged with sexual offences against 4 schoolchildren. Following a trial he was cleared of all charges.

R v Sutton – represented serving Police Officer charged with sexual offences on two female colleagues. Defendant acquitted.
<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/smutley-policeman-is-cleared-of-sex-attacks-861768>

R v Furnival – represented 15 year old defendant charged with repeatedly raping his sister when she was between 5 & 7 years old. Defendant acquitted of the most serious charge.

R v Owolabi (& others) – represented the principal defendant charged with conspiracy to rape. Allegations of the defendant arranging to meet a female via social networking site and arranging for her to be detained and repeatedly raped by him and his friends. Defendant acquitted.

R v D - represented Defendant charged with multiple offences of Rape, Indecent Assault & Child Cruelty. Allegations made by 2 adult females relating to when they were children. Defendant cleared of all charges and had a costs order made in his favour.

R v Howe – represented defendant charged with rape. Involved allegation the defendant had dragged the victim into bushes outside a nightclub and subjected her to a horrific attack. Defendant acquitted.

Fraud

R v DP (& others) - represented company Director charged with offences at Fraudulent Trading, Fraud by False Representation and Converting Criminal Property. The defendant was acquitted of all charges after a four week trial at Sheffield Crown Court.

R v Holland/Hunt (& others) – represented two defendants in the large ‘Eon employee’ fraud case and dealt with the pursuant confiscation proceedings.

R v Ali (& others) – represented defendant charged with election fraud. Involved an organised attempt to cast votes on behalf of other persons in order to secure the election of a councillor in a closely fought local election.

R v Booth (& others) – represented defendant charged with offences relating to the avoidance of excise liability following large-scale importation of cigarettes. Defendant acquitted of the more serious charge.

R v Casales (& others) – represented one of the directors of UK North and GM Buses Enterprise Ltd charged with conspiracy to defraud. Case involved the falsifying of documents used in proceedings before the Traffic Commissioner to cover up breaches of driving regulations. This case was reported nationally which included an investigative TV programme. Defendant acquitted.

R v Moore – prosecuted defendant charged with serious bankruptcy offences pursuant to

Insolvency Act 1986. Defendant convicted.

R v Flye – represented defendant charged with high value fraud relating to subsidies for staff training provided by the Welsh Assembly Government.

R v Kenny (& others) – represented Company Director charged with conspiracy to defraud which involved diverting payments from a company they used to work for to a new company they had set up.

Other

R v Platt – represented defendant charged with blackmail of Coleen Rooney relating to a stolen camera containing Rooney family photos.

R v Garner (& others) – represented defendant charged with conspiracy to steal. A large and complex case involving theft of rail track and fencing in one of the largest cases of its kind.

R v Orobiyi (& others) – represented the principal defendant involved in a well-organised conspiracy to arrange sham marriages between EU nationals and Nigerian males. The case attracted national publicity. Defendant acquitted.

R v Murdoch (& others) – represented defendant arrested as part of an operation against large-scale and organised football violence. Defendant acquitted.