David Toal

Call 1990

Clerks

Nick Buckley
0161 817 2757

Dave Haley
0161 817 7118

Andy Leech
0161 817 2770

Anthony Brown
0161 833 2722

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

Overview

David is a barrister of over 30 years' experience who provides expert advice and robust advocacy in cases of the utmost complexity and gravity. He has a consistently high rate of success on trials in the Crown Court as well as in other contested hearings so is therefore not surprisingly in great demand.

He has defended individuals (including notorious gang members) charged with murder and serious firearms/drugs offences in some of the most high-profile trials for many years. He has recently represented one of the principal defendants charged with importing massive amounts of drugs from mainland Europe in what is widely recognised to be the UK's largest ever drug conspiracy.

He is also often asked to defend private/professional clients charged with criminal offences. He represented the Manchester United footballer Mason Greenwood who was charged following serious allegations made by a female. That case eventually concluded with all charges being dropped. He also represented the individual charged with the blackmail of Coleen Rooney relating to a stolen phone containing very personal photographs of the Rooney family.

In addition, he has defended numerous professionals facing criminal allegations and/or breaches of regulations relating to their profession, organisation or business including directors of companies, police officers, military personnel, healthcare professionals, teachers, sportsmen/women etc.

He is ranked in both The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners directories. Just one of the very many recommendations he has received over the years states the following:- "a fantastic advocate – he's really excellent, always very well prepared and brilliant in a courtroom" (Chambers & Partners).

Recommendations

"David is one of the most outstanding practitioners in this space; he is so thoughtful and careful. He cares for clients."

"David goes over and above the extra mile in court. There are very few better jury advocates, and his closing speeches are a pleasure to listen to because they are so well constructed."
Chambers and Partners 2027

Ranked Band 1 – Crime Northern (Bar)
Chambers and Partners 2026

"David is extremely thorough in all aspects of case preparation and presentation. He is a formidable jury advocate."
The Legal 500, 2026

"David is very approachable and responds very quickly. He is an experienced and very well-prepared barrister, who is an excellent jury advocate."

"David is a go-to for any manner of case."
Chambers and Partners 2025

"David is a phenomenal barrister and an excellent and articulate advocate. He is well respected by all on the circuit, he is able to absorb a great deal of information in complex cases at short notice, and he is incredible with clients and able to put defendants at ease regardless of the case before them."
The Legal 500, 2025

"David is an excellent jury advocate."
Chambers and Partners 2024

"David is a dedicated barrister and a great advocate. He always masters his case, is extremely well regarded by the judiciary, and he commands the respect of his clients and solicitors through his measured and thorough approach."
The Legal 500, 2024

"David is extremely approachable, good with clients and fantastic before a jury."
"He is a top-class act."
Chambers and Partners 2023

'David is hard working and thorough, has excellent client care and is approachable and proactive in case preparation.'
The Legal 500, 2023

"He is very conscientious, and an extremely forceful and good advocate. He takes very strong legal arguments and goes the extra mile for his lay clients." "He is one of the best for closing speeches – he really hits the point and the jury takes notice of what he is saying."
Chambers and Partners 2022

"An extremely effective jury advocate. He is very approachable and provides excellent client care to both the professional client and lay client."
The Legal 500, 2022

"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

"A persuasive and very eloquent advocate."
The Legal 500, 2017

"He is hard-working, intelligent, measured and an extremely safe pair of hands."
Chambers and Partners 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

Beyond the Bar

- Interested in all sports but particularly football