


David Toal

Call 1990



Clerks

 Nick Buckley
 0161 817 2757

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 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

Motoring & Vehicle Crime

David has developed and maintains a heavyweight criminal practice which is made up of predominantly defence work, although he has significant experience of both prosecuting and defending a whole range of cases involving motoring and vehicle crime including fatal and non-fatal accidents, frauds, car-ringing, as well as the more regular road traffic offences.

Many cases require specialist knowledge and very often a sensitive approach. David has the required mix of an up-to-date awareness of the relevant legislation together with an ability to deal (both outside and inside court) with technical expert evidence.

He is often requested by clients to act on a private basis due to his reputation for successfully dealing with road traffic matters both in the Magistrate's and Crown Courts.

Motoring & Vehicle Crime Cases

R v Brown – represented the Defendant, a bus driver, who was charged with causing death by careless driving after an 88-year-old passenger fell and suffered a blunt head injury and inoperable brain bleed after he drove away from the bus stop before she sat down. Defendant acquitted.

R v Evans – prosecuted defendant charged with causing death by dangerous driving where 21 year old female killed whilst passenger in vehicle travelling at excessive speed by the driver over the alcohol limit.

R v Wynne – represented defendant charged with causing death by dangerous driving in both the Crown Court and the Court of Appeal. The case is now leading sentencing authority and is reported in the Current Sentencing Practice.

R v Bates (& Others) – ‘Operation Lambeth’. Prosecuted multi-handed conspiracy involving large scale and long term dealings in stolen cars and parts. Very complex and sensitive issues regarding the complicity of Police Officers from the Stolen Vehicle Squad. Case monitored throughout by disciplinary department of Greater Manchester Police to ascertain whether any criminal charges or disciplinary measures were appropriate for individual officers.

R v Williams & Darbyshire – prosecuted the defendants, one of whom was a serving Police Officer, charged with Conspiracy to Pervert the Course of Justice relating to falsifying driving documents and police records to avoid prosecution for driving offences. Case dealt with and monitored by senior Police Officers from the internal disciplinary department.

R v Torkington – represented defendant charged with Causing Death by Dangerous Driving. Case attracted national publicity.

R v Casales (& Others) – represented one of the directors of UK North and GM Buses Enterprises 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.

Recommendations

“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