Mark Kellet

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Education

Manchester Metropolitan University
Bar Vocational Course, Very Competent (Called 2000)
Postgraduate Diploma in Law, Commendation

University of Stirling
BA Honours (History) 1st Class

Criminal

Mark is an experienced criminal barrister, who prosecutes and defends in cases of the utmost gravity.

Having specialised in homicide cases for many years, he has developed particular expertise in mental health and defences, not just diminished responsibility but general defences, including psychosis and self-defence. He has prosecuted and defended numerous multi-handed frauds and conspiracies. Mark also has a high level of security clearance to deal with cases involving the security services.

Criminal Cases

R v Henderson, Pickerden, Pickerden and Burn (2017) – junior counsel. Fraudulent trading, fraud and transferring criminal property. The case involved an alleged fraudulent use of the directors' loan account and insolvency proceedings. Following requests for disclosure and applications to dismiss, the Crown offered no evidence on the primary count on the indictment.

R v Peter Lund (2017) – leading counsel. Having been released on life licence following 25 years in prison for murder, the Defendant met the complainant on a dating website and slit his throat. The defendant relied on psychiatric evidence that he was suffering from post-traumatic stress and dissociation at the time of the offence.

R v Adabanjo Adegboye (June 2017) – sole counsel. The Defendant was charged with the murder of his father. He was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and was unfit to plead. It was apparent that once fit the Defendant would plead to manslaughter, which was acceptable to the Crown on the advice of a consultant forensic psychiatrist.

R v Lorand Zdarcea (June 2017) – leading counsel. The Defendant was charged with murder following the sadistic killing (which he described as intentional torture). The Defendant was a relapsed paranoid schizophrenic and initially unfit to plead. Following approximately six months of treatment, he became fit and pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with hospital and restriction directions pursuant to s.45A of the Mental Health Act.

R v Jason Wadsworth (May 2017) –The Defendant was charged with murder having punched his friend during a drunken argument. Although this was a single punch, it was a punch with significant force, fracturing the first vertebrae and severing artery leading to the sub-arachnoid layer of the meninges.

R v Stephen Archer (February 2017) – leading counsel. The Defendant burnt his sister to death having attended at her house and poured petrol over her. He claimed to have acted in self-defence.

R v Imran Khan (September 2016) – leading counsel. The Defendant pleaded guilty on the morning of trial to the murder of his wife. The Defendant explained his actions in terms of a religious objection to his wife's work as a carer bringing her into one-to-one contact with men.

R v Oliver Faughey (July 2016) – leading counsel. The Defendant was charged with the murder of his neighbour and the attempted murder of her mother. There were issues relating to the Defendant's fitness to plead, as well as his mental state at the time of the killing. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the basis of diminished responsibility and was sentenced to life imprisonment with hospital and restriction directions pursuant to s.45A of the Mental Health Act.

R v Ross Ashcroft (June 2016) – leading counsel. The Defendant stabbed and killed an assailant, who had assaulted him with a dumbbell bar and chased him into the street. The Defendant argued that he was acting in self-defence. The Crown's case was that he engaged in retaliatory violence.

R v Josphat Mutekedza (May 2016) – leading counsel. The Defendant killed his girlfriend who had been unfaithful to him. The case required a link to the British Embassy in Zimbabwe. The issue for trial being loss of control.

R v James Clarke (September 2015) – leading counsel. The Defendant killed his father, who had been abusive to the him, his mother and his sister. The father had been the cause of his mother's heroin addiction, that had led to her death, and had prostituted his sister prior to her drug related death. The issue for trial was loss of control.

R v Oral David Bryan (March 2015) – sole counsel. The Defendant murder his girlfriend during argument with his 'baby mother'. Four of the Defendant's young children were witnesses to the attack and two gave evidence in the trial.

R v Andre Bright (January 2015) – leading counsel. The Defendant, a drug dealer, killed his girlfriend after she had taken £5,000 of his money to spend on their child. The Defendant claimed to have suffered a drug induced psychosis at the time of the killing.

R v Dawan Ismail (October 2014) – Attempted murder of a police officer and wounding a further officer with intent to cause GBH. The Defendant suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. He genuinely believed that the Police would rape and/or kill him. The issue in the trial was whether he stabbed the officers because of his honestly held belief that he was under attack, or because of a psychotic compulsion to kill.

R v Sctott Richardson (2015) – manslaughter; R v Steven Carroll (2015) – manslaughter; R v Naunihall Singh (2015) – murder; R v Dunkerly & McClarren (2014) – murder; R v Liam King (2014) – murder ; R v Martin Thomas (2014) – multiple s.18s on a four month old baby who subsequently died; R v Simon Tarry (2014) – manslaughter ; R v Barik Miah (2014) – attempted murder – insanity; R v Matthew Brierley (2013) – murder; R v Creedy, Murrary, Brown, Smith and Garner (2013) – manslaughter; R v David Gray (2013) – murder ; R v Robert Archbold (2013) – murder; R v Kelly – attempted murder of daughter; R v Forshaw – murder (junior counsel); R v Dellaway, Hughes, Dunn, Platt and Mayne – murder (junior counsel) – appeal against sentence (sole counsel).

Beyond the Bar

Keen recreational cyclist.