Damian Nolan

Call 1994

Clerks

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Appointments

- CPS Category 4 Prosecutor
- Specialist Rape Panel member
- CPS Category 4 member of the Serious Crime and Fraud Panels
- Specialist Regulatory Panel member (List B)

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Proceeds of Crime Lawyers' Association
- Fraud Lawyers' Group

Education

- St. Edwards's College, Liverpool

Criminal

Damian specialises in criminal work. He undertakes defence work mainly, but as a Category 4 (the highest grade) Prosecutor continuously since 2005 he represents the Crown in complex matters. He has also been appointed to both the CPS Serious Crime Panel and the Fraud Panel. Damian has recently been appointed to the Specialist Regulatory Panel List B.

He has consistently appeared as recommended counsel and a "leader in his field" in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 since 2003. Since 2016 in each edition of "Chambers and Partners", Damian was one of only 3 junior counsel ranked in Tier 1 on Circuit. He is well respected within the profession by his peers and the judiciary.

He appears as a leading junior, led junior and junior alone in complex and lengthy cases and has vast trial experience in all aspects of serious and heavyweight criminal work including experience in financial and regulatory offences and serious organised crime. He has appeared in a number of high profile cases and regularly appears in cases covering all aspects of business related crime and enforcement. Damian has experience of the multi-faceted and multi-jurisdictional aspects of criminal procedure including legal professional privilege, judicial review, appeals by way of case stated, voluntary bills of indictment, appeals against terminating rulings and appellate work including when not counsel originally instructed.

Damian also undertakes inquest work and appears as an advocate before various professional disciplinary tribunals.

- BSc (Econ) Joint Honours (1st Class)
- Inn: Lincoln's (Hardwicke Scholarship)

Damian likes to be involved in each case at an early stage and is able to adopt a team approach to the conduct of criminal litigation. Damian recognises that in complex litigation a successful outcome to a case can more often than not be underpinned by detailed preparation in advance of the trial and an early recognition of the key issues in the case combined with the formulation of the appropriate strategy applicable to the case at hand. He is bright while remaining grounded when dealing with issues. These key attributes coupled with his tenacity and determination to see each instruction through set him apart from others. Damian is known by those who instruct him to work tirelessly for his professional and lay client, seeking to provide clear, robust advice and a high standard of advocacy throughout the course of proceedings. He is known for his meticulous preparation of cases, his clear focus on the client's cause, but also his relaxed and approachable style.

Defence work is undertaken for a wide range of solicitors across Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, The Midlands, West and North Yorkshire. He has established a loyal following amongst senior solicitors and this work spans all aspects of serious crime. His extensive practice includes both privately funded and legal aid work.

Criminal Cases

Selected Cases

Fraud/Regulatory (sample cases)

R v Pell – Land Banking Fraud

R v Kearley – Leasing and VAT fraud

R v Rees – VAT / Film Fraud

R v Spencer – MTIC

R v Hughes – Advance Fee fraud

R v Anderson – Diversion Fee Fraud

R v Majid – MTIC fraud

R v McCabe – MTIC fraud.

R v Pickard – Led junior in a 4 month Ponzi fraud scheme trial representing a solicitor. The case involved FSMA offences and considerations as to the legal ambit of the Act and when various statutory offences can be said to have been committed

R v Thompson – Junior in a 3 month fraud trial dealing with allegations of Pension Tax Relief fraud. Defendant acquitted on a terminating ruling upheld by the Court of Appeal

R v Chandler – Junior in a 2 month trial concerning allegations of Land Banking fraud

R v Donnelly – Led junior in 5 month MTIC trial involving the Directors of FCIB; said to the bank utilised by MTIC fraudsters for over a decade.

R v Rutherford – Junior in trial alleging a fraudulent scheme exploiting the Construction Industry Scheme for sub-contractors

R v Boyd – Leading junior in a 3 month trial dealing with the VAT evasion of duty associated with "red diesel"

R v Williams – Leading junior in a 3 month trial concerning allegations of a nationwide fraud over advertising fraud surrounding the emergency series in England and Wales

R v Roper – Represented (Led Junior) defendant charged with fraudulently utilising bureaux de changes. Case stayed before the jury was sworn as an abuse of process by the trial Judge after 12 months of legal argument

R v Siegler – Represented (Leading Junior) defendant charged with an Advance Fee fraud in a 4 months trial. Defendant acquitted.

R v Good – Junior in advertising fraud – similar factual background to R v Williams

Murder/Organised Crime (sample cases)

R v Castle – Murder of infant by mother

R v Higgins – OCG murder – importation of firearms

R v Walker – OCG murder of rival gangleader

R v Khalique – Supply of Firearms across the UK

R v Brown (Operation Blush) – Defendant charged with Conspiracy to possess Firearms with Intent to Endanger Life, Conspiracy to Possess Ammunition, Conspiracy to Supply Class A and B drugs. The defendant was said to be one of the main protagonists in an OCG involved in an attempted murder, possession of submachine guns, possession of handguns, trading with other OCGs in handguns and the supply of very large amounts of drugs.

R v Thomasson and others – Led Junior in high profile case involving an OCG. Centered around two shootings – one of a known criminal nominal and one involving the shooting of a woman and child as part of a revenge attack.

R v West and others – OCG case involving the murder of one OCG nominal and the attempted murder of another. Alleged that an OCG had fallen out with a rival group over Class A drug dealing territory.

R v Walker – Defendant was alleged to have murdered a customer from drug trade who refused to pay monies due.

R v Tavano – Defendant charged with strangulation of his victim – motive said to be financial

R v Woodford – Led Junior representing an NCA “nominal” charged with organising the execution of a member of a another “nominal” crime family

R v SBE (juvenile) – Led junior representing a youth charged with murder arising from a gangland feud (8 week trial)

R v Beckford – Led junior – representing a defendant in a high profile murder trial in Manchester (9 week trial)

R v Fleetwood – Represented (Led Junior) young defendant charged with two murders (separately committed) in a “gangland style” execution

R v Yavuz – Represented (Led Junior) defendant charged with murder (Old Bailey) arising from the unrest between Turkish community and PKK in London

R v Trussell – Represented (Led Junior) defendant charged with 19 offences of Armed Robbery of sub-Post Offices

R v Ambrose – Represented defendant charged with Perverting the Course of Justice arising from his involvement in offences leading to the Home Secretary commuting the original sentence of 15 years' to 5 years'

Drugs/SOCA/NCA (sample of cases)

R v M – largest NCA prosecution – importation and distribution of drugs over a 3 year period – said to be worth in excess of £800m (Reporting Restrictions in place)

R v Brown (Operation Blush)

R v West and others

R v Morgan – Supply of Firearms, grenades and drugs

R v T and others (Operation Subzero [2] – part 2 of the original Encro investigation)) Supply of multi-klos of class A drugs through national distribution networks in England Scotland.

R v Hoy (Convicted murderer released and then tried for Conspiracy to Supply hand grenades, firearms and class A drugs.)

R v Maxwell (Conspiracy to Supply class A , Firearms and Class B drugs)

R v Strachan (class A and B drugs)

R v Young (Firearms, class A and B importation)

R v Burrell (Class A and B – large OCG – over 350kgs)

R v Jennings (Firearms and ammunition importation)

R v Byrne (UK distribution of multi-kilos of class A drugs)

R v Moogan – Firearms, class A importation and class B distribution

R v Jarvis (Distribution of Explosive devices)

R v Cook (Importation of class A drugs)

R v Stewart (Importation of class A, B and C drugs)

R v Walker

R v Marley and Others (Operation Quartz)

R v Whelan

R v Hughes

R v Rowley

R v Forster

R v Whalley

R v Nicholls

R v Howard

R v Perry

R v Campbell

R v Wiggan

R v Ulshan

R v Busutill

R v Prescott

R v Singleton

R v McCarten

R v McNally

All of these cases and trials covered the length and breadth of the country and involve the importation/cultivation of huge amounts of drugs for distribution through national networks

Recommendations

“Damian is a top barrister that you can rely on.

“Damian’s attention to detail and forensic analysis, as well as being able to take those and speak to a lay client who is unaware of court proceedings, stand out. He is very tenacious.”
Chambers and Partners 2026

“Damian is a fantastic barrister with a huge courtroom presence. He is a real fighter.”
The Legal 500, 2026

“He is a very experienced and approachable barrister who has an excellent skill set and is good with clients.”
Chambers and Partners 2025

“Damian is a real fighter who clients love to have on their side. His preparation is fantastic, his paperwork meticulous, and juries really enjoy listening to him.”
The Legal 500, 2025

“His client care is outstanding, his written applications thorough and his advocacy excellent.”

“Damian is a phenomenal advocate. He has meticulous preparation and a scythe-like skill in complex matters.”

“Damian is a real fighter. He has fantastic client care and is really good in front of a jury.”
Chambers and Partners 2024

“Damian is a barrister that fights your corner leaving no stone unturned. He is unflappable during the trial process, and his ability to withstand intense pressure from the prosecution is second to none.”
The Legal 500, 2024

“Damian is one of the leading juniors in the North.”

“He is a fantastically safe pair of hands.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

'Damian is a highly sought after barrister who works tirelessly for clients. A particular strength is an ability to put clients at ease and provide advice in an easy to comprehend manner. An exceptional jury advocate who commands the courtroom and has the respect of the judiciary.'

The Legal 500, 2023

"A fantastic jury advocate. He is always very well prepared and his written and verbal work is top class. He puts clients at ease and they really warm to him. He's a real big hitter on the Northern Circuit."
Chambers and Partners 2022

"Damian is a go-to barrister who provides firm and practical advice – he fights tirelessly for his clients who are grateful to have him on their side. A star of the junior bar who is incredibly responsive."
Legal 500, 2022

"Very forceful in his manner – he is robust and a good jury advocate."
Chambers and Partners 2021

"A quality barrister, master tactician and a real fighter."
Legal 500, 2021

"He is exceptionally bright and forthright in his advocacy."
Chambers and Partners 2020

"A real fighter who clients are grateful to have on their side."
Legal 500, 2020

"A formidable advocate who fights tirelessly for his clients. He has a very detailed analytical approach which proves invaluable in complex cases. His relaxed disposition puts clients at ease and instils confidence."
Chambers and Partners 2019

"An impressive barrister who fights tirelessly for his clients."
Legal 500, 2018/19

"He is a good advocate, who's good with clients and on the law."
Chambers and Partners 2018

"Extremely hardworking and a great communicator."
Legal 500, 2017

"He is supportive of clients and appreciative of their difficulties, and he has a robust and open attitude both in chambers and in court. He is a courageous advocate."

"He is a real fighter, but is also very easy to work with and is liberal with his advice."
Chambers and Partners 2017

Damian Nolan's "high standard of advocacy" impresses sources. He has been involved in a number of high-profile murder, rape and kidnap trials."
Chambers and Partners 2016

"Damian Nolan is highly rated at the junior level."
Legal 500, 2016

"Damian Nolan is highly effective in Court."
Chambers and Partners 2015

"Damian Nolan is very tenacious and hard working."
Chambers and Partners 2014