



Josh Normanton

2012

"Always well prepared and clients love him"

- Instructing Solicitor

OVERVIEW

Josh regularly appears in the Crown Court for both the defence and the prosecution. He is regularly instructed as junior counsel or as a led junior in extremely serious or complex cases. He has particular expertise in murder, fraud and serious sexual offences. He has demonstrated his competency in cases which would ordinarily be beyond a barrister of his call.

Josh has significant experience in cases involving vulnerable witnesses and defendants. He assisted in the design of a national course on cross-examining vulnerable witnesses and has contributed to leading practitioner textbooks in the field.

Josh also regularly prosecutes and defends in environmental, health and safety and food hygiene offences and is often instructed in an advisory capacity to local authorities in relation to these offences.

Josh also has expertise in prison law and accepts instructions to appear before the Parole Board. He has represented prisoners subject to whole life tariffs and those subject to extended sentences or imprisonment for public protection.

Josh is a popular public access practitioner and welcomes appropriate instructions from members of the public. He is an expert in road traffic law.

Josh has an interest in financial services law following a secondment at the General Counsel's Division of the Financial Conduct Authority in 2017. While there, he developed practical expertise in the interpretation of European legislation and advised on a range of issues from the application of MiFID II to the legal nature of cryptocurrency.

NOTABLE CASES

R v B (2017)

Josh represented a prison officer who, along with other prison officers, was alleged to have committed misconduct in a public office. The prosecution followed a BBC Panorama Investigation in which certain prison officers were seen to violently abuse child inmates. The prosecution offered no evidence against Josh's client before trial and he was acquitted. Considerable pressure was placed on the Crown in the disclosure process to achieve this result. Josh has now represented a number of prison officers accused with offences arising out of the Panorama investigation. Each has been acquitted.

Operation Eriksen (2017)

Josh was led by James Norman of Chambers in the prosecution of a Luton drugs gang who kidnapped and tortured an innocent member of the public at gunpoint. Each defendant was convicted and each received a considerable custodial sentence. The case was reported in the national press.

R v S (2017)

Josh appeared before a panel of the Divisional Court which included the President of the Queen's Bench Division, Sir Brian Leveson QC to represent a juror who had conducted research into a defendant's criminal past in the course of trial. The juror admitted criminal contempt but following Josh's mitigation received a short suspended sentence.

R v W (2016)

Josh acted for a 19-year-old vulnerable male with learning difficulties who faced multiple allegations of historic rape against his younger male nephew. In the course of the trial, Josh successfully applied to cross-examine the complainant about his sexual history under section 41 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999. The history tended to demonstrate the allegations were concocted. At the end of the trial, Josh's client was acquitted.

R v C (2015)

Josh's client was indicted with threats to kill his young daughter and wife. It was suggested by the Judge that the client would face a finding of dangerousness if found guilty. Despite a number of previous convictions for threats to kill being admitted into evidence before the jury during trial, Josh's client was acquitted.

R v S (2015)

Josh was instructed as junior counsel in a multi-handed trial involving the alleged serious sexual abuse of a number of children by a large paedophile ring which included the children's close and extended family. The case was complicated by alleged malpractice by a County Council Children Services' department. Josh's client was acquitted of all counts of sexual abuse. The case was reported in the national and international press.

R v P (2014)

Instructed as junior counsel, Josh represented a Lithuanian defendant indicted in a brutal multi-handed murder. Josh's client was acquitted. The case was reported in the national press.

R v Ozberkcan [2014] EWCA Crim 2377

Josh appeared in the Court of Appeal in an appeal where he did not represent the appellant at trial. In submissions described as ‘focused and eloquent’ by the Lord Justices of Appeal, Josh successfully argued that a sentence of 9 months for a ‘bad case of affray’ (as it was described by the court) was manifestly excessive. The sentence was reduced.

EDUCATION

BPTC (Very Competent), LLB (Hons) 2:1.

University of Sheffield. BA (Hons), 1st Class.

In 2011, Josh was awarded the Harold G Fox Scholarship, a prestigious international scholarship. As part of the scholarship, he worked at associate level in the litigation department of the prominent Canadian law firm Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP in Toronto. He worked under John Campion of the same firm, who is recognised as one of the leading litigation lawyers in North America. Josh also shadowed Judges at the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa.

Josh was also a recipient of the Lord Diplock Scholarship from the Honourable Society of Middle Temple.

Josh is on the committee of the Young Fraud Lawyers Association and is a lawyer member of Liberty.

OTHER

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Josh edited the chapter on witnesses in the forthcoming year’s (2018) edition of Archbold Criminal Practice.

Josh contributed to a chapter on case management in “Vulnerable People and the Criminal Justice System: A Guide to Law and Practice” edited by Professor Penny Cooper and HHJ Heather Norton (OUP: 2017).

Articles

“Skiving, Truancing or Just Plain Criminal? Dealing with charges under section 444(1) and (1a) of the Education Act 1996”. Vol.179, No. 6, Criminal Law & Justice Weekly.

Acid Attacks: Lessons to Learn from the Indian Sub-Continent, (30 August 2016, 5 Paper Buildings blog).

Cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses: putting inconsistencies (03 November 2015, 5 Paper Buildings blog).