

Curriculum Vitae

Robin Howat

Hatfield College, Durham University B.A. (Hons) Law and Politics 1985

Called to the Bar 1986

Pegasus Scholar to Canada 1989

Pupil Supervisor

Expertise

Criminal Law

Comprehensive experience of most aspects of serious crime with an exclusively defence-based practice for over 25 years. Experience as Leading Junior Counsel, Led Junior and Sole Counsel.

Areas of expertise include Homicide, serious violent crime, MTIC fraud, Rape and child sex grooming offences, firearms, money laundering, drugs importation and supply, sanctions evasion, prison mutiny.

Widespread experience in Appellate Courts

Prison Law

Advocate in challenges to mandatory drugs testing, amendments to the Home Leave regime and relating to the Royal Prerogative of Mercy. Represented a number of Prisoners within the Bloggs System.

Notable Cases

Set out below is a selection of cases in which Robin has been involved, but it should not be regarded as exhaustive.

Fraud

R v C, Doncaster Crown Court

Successful defence of scrap metal dealer accused of money laundering in the region of £250000.

R v S Lincoln Crown Court

Successful Defence of man accused of £1 Million Conspiracy to steal metal and cables from the Railway Network

R v C, Bradford Crown Court

Successful defence of Company Director said to have been involved in a million pound plus conspiracy to defraud HBOS by suppliers of computer services.

R v L, Minshull St Crown Court

Leading Counsel in successful defence of client said to be involved in the fraudulent evasion of import duty on computer memory chips and MTIC fraud exceeding £10 million loss of duty.

R v J, Preston Crown Court

Leading Counsel in VHCC contracted fraud case involving advanced fee fraud by subject of TV expose. Utilized specialized knowledge of the law and practice of Disclosure and RIPA.

Homicide

R v T, Manchester Crown Court

Junior Counsel for client acquitted of murder and GBH in a Mosside Community center.

R v G, Birmingham Crown Court

Junior Counsel for client acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter of his 3-month old son.

R v N, Central Criminal Court

Leading Counsel for client who admitted the murder of his aunt.

R v C, Leicester Crown Court

Sole Counsel for client who admitted the murder of his wife.

R v T, Lincoln Crown Court

Leading Counsel for a bus driver who pleaded guilty to five counts of causing death by dangerous driving following the "Skegness Bus Disaster" following lengthy legal arguments.

R v M, Newport Crown Court

Defence Counsel for Man who admitted Causing Death by Dangerous Driving of a Schoolboy during a period on License for Serious Drug Offending

Sexual Offences

R v L, Nottingham and Leicester Crown Courts

Leading Counsel in a series of three trials lasting nearly 12 months in total for one of the main Defendants in Operation Retriever. The operation was based around a "street grooming gang" based in Derby. The Defendant was acquitted of a substantial number of the allegations he faced. The case received extensive national press coverage and triggered widespread debate.

R v J, Northampton Crown Court

Successful defence of Defendant accused of multiple counts of rape.

CPS V B Chester Youth Court

Made Submissions to the DPP which led to the discontinuance of proceedings against a boy who was alleged to have committed several acts of Rape whilst aged 10 on a complainant aged 8 yrs reversing the local decision to Prosecute

R v B, Minshull ST Crown Court

Acquittal of man accused of historic child sex offences dating back 30 yrs. plus when he was approx. 13-14 years old despite Crown relying on Bad Character of previous sex offences against a child either side of the dates indicted and their being 2 complainants

R v H, Lincoln Crown Court

Successful acquittal of Defendant at trial of man accused of historic sexual offences against a disabled family member when she was a child

Sanctions Offences

R v A, Central Criminal Court

Junior Counsel in Matrix Churchill trial which collapsed following admissions that Government Ministers acquiesced in the sale of missiles to Saddam Hussein leading to Scott Enquiry.

R v R and Unipower Plc, St Albans Crown Court

Junior Counsel in the successful defence and staying of proceedings against the Plc accused of supplying tank transporters to Colonel Gaddafi in breach of UN sanctions.

Drugs

R v H, R v C

Leading Counsel in Court of Appeal and Led Junior in House of Lords in leading authority on Disclosure in Criminal cases and the appointment of Special Counsel. Client acquitted of Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs at trial in Sheffield Crown Court.

R v S, Lewes Crown Court

Leading Counsel in VHCC contracted case for main Defendant in 15-handed Conspiracy to supply multiple kilos of Class A drugs from South America via Africa and Europe.

R v M, Bradford Crown Court

Successful Application to Dismiss Count of Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs based on Cellsite evidence, Surveillance evidence and ANPR evidence.

R v L, Chester Crown Court.

Successful Application to Dismiss Case alleging drug dealing based on DNA evidence arguing secondary transfer of DNA a real possibility

R v H, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Successful application to discharge Counts of Conspiracy to Supply heroin and Crack Cocaine based on Surveillance evidence and arrest in proximity to drugs, money and paraphernalia

R v M, Ipswich Crown Court

Leading Counsel in successful defence of Defendant accused of Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs after approximately 40 days and discharge of 4 juries the Crown offered no evidence for undisclosed reasons after several applications for abuse of process.

Serious Violence and Firearms

R v W, Manchester Crown Court

Defence of alleged leading gang member who armed himself for protection following several attempts on his life.

R v W, Manchester Crown Court

Leading counsel in the defence of a client accused of being complicit in the discharge of a firearm or firearms at a family fun day in Moss Side as part of ongoing gang feud. Case involved anonymised witnesses giving evidence with voice distortion and other special measures.

R v C, Bolton Crown Court

Successful application to dismiss in Possession of sawn off shotgun case where the clients DNA was found on the trigger guard. Submission based on Expert Evidence of possible secondary transfer of DNA

To Note/Other

Robin has experience of conducting VHCC cases as a Leading Junior. A considerable number of his cases last several months and involve vast amounts of depositions and unused material. He has conducted numerous Applications to Dismiss with success in cases of Attempted Murder, Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs, Armed Robbery and Concealing Criminal Property. He has experience of representing clients from Youths to those in their late 80s as well as those who have learning or physical frailties. Robin has garnered a specialist understanding of the law and practice of Disclosure and RIPA authorisation in relation to Covert Surveillance. Robin has in depth experience in cross examining Complainants of all ages in Sexual Offence allegations and vulnerable witnesses including bereaved relatives. He has cross examined witnesses who required the assistance of an intermediary.

Contact Details

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