



Chris Aspinall

1998 - Qualified as a Solicitor

2004 - Achieved Higher Rights of Audience in 2004 – at Howells. Since then practised exclusively in the Higher Courts.

Called to the Bar 2008 – Middle Temple

Areas of Practice

Crime:

Complete range of Criminal offences in the Crown Court including:

- Homicide ; Manslaughter and Murder
- Serious Offences of Assault
- Robbery
- Firearms offences
- Serious Sexual Offences – Multiple Rapes and Historical cases of child abuse.
- Arson
- Offences involving attempts to pervert the Course of Justice.
- Drugs offences - large scale supply both at street level and wholesale.
- Money laundering.
- Identity Card Act offences
- Public Order Offences
- Fraud

Additionally satisfied all criteria for inclusion on the VHCC advocates panel.

Prison Law:

Experience of adjudications - specifically Mandatory Drug Testing along with breaches of the prison rules generally.

Notable Cases:

Murder and serious offences of Violence

- ***R v Andrew Clark*** – Murder – fatal stabbing of father – Mental Health disposal – secure order.
- ***R v Horner*** – Murder – fatal stabbing in the city centre of Sheffield .
- ***R v Forster*** – Murder – Liverpool historical racist murder from 1987 - charged after a witness came forward in 2004 – acquitted after trial.
- ***R v Dawson (and another)*** – S18 Assault x 2 – Oxford – One victim left bedridden and paralysed. Acquitted after trial – co accused convicted.
- ***R v Walker and Walker*** (represented both) – Section 20 Wounding allegation machete used – trial – both acquitted.

Sexual Offences

- ***R v Brunt*** – Alleged multiple rapes of thirteen year old complainant - acquitted after two week trial
- ***R v Denton*** - Historical allegations of systematic sexual abuse within a family setting – acquitted after trial.
- ***R v Hearnshaw*** – Allegations of rape and sexual abuse of children -multiple victims. Twenty two count indictment.
- ***R v Davis*** – Rape of daughter. Resulted in fourteen years sentence plus ten years extension - Sentenced under 1956 Act.
- ***R v Childs*** - Possession High number of Indecent Images of children – ten count indictment – after guilty plea mitigation resulted in Community Order.
- ***R v Price*** – Allegation of five offences of rape and four of sexual touching a female of thirteen years. After representations to the Crown regarding inconsistencies in the Complainants account, referring also to the DVD of her evidence, case discontinued.

Miscellaneous Offences

- ***R v Armitage*** - Robbery - night time offence motorbike stolen three offenders - acquitted after trial.
- ***R v Cappleman*** (and another) Three count indictment alleging Cruelty to child where the infants leg had been broken – Issue of causation - after Defence obtained medical reports Crown conceded could not prove causation – defendant pleaded to neglect re seeking speedy medical treatment.

- ***R v Strodder*** – Multiple Defendants in series of six separate trials held over an extended period at Sheffield Crown Court. Multi million pound drugs conspiracy to launder millions of pounds to Jamaica. This defendant convicted, with others, after three week trial.
- ***R v Bennett*** - Attempt to pervert the course of justice where mum shielded her sons involvement in death by dangerous driving.

Arson

- ***R v Marshall*** – Arson reckless as to endangering life - breakdown of relationship set fire to house whilst inside.
- ***R v Moroney*** – Arson with Intent to endanger life – two further counts of Arson being reckless as to whether life endangered – coupled with offences of criminal damage affray and use of a Crossbow fired at a moving car.
- ***R v Williams*** (and another) – Crown alleged ‘contract’ offence and initially considered Attempt Murder – Firearms also charged.

Drugs

- ***Operation Glean*** – Sheffield Crown Court
Represented seven defendants involved in this Operation – from a major supplier to street level dealers and runners.
- ***R v Lamb*** – Supply of drugs on wholesale basis - drugs £200 k + £135000 cash seized – accepted turnover of one million sterling per annum. Ten different drugs supplied. Sentenced nine years.

Court of Appeal:

- ***R v Manning*** – Appeal regarding sentence for possession of a ‘Stun Gun’. Case referred to as guidance re judgement of seriousness.
- ***R v Powell*** (juvenile of 14yrs) Robberies involving imitation handguns - sentence of four and a half years. Leave granted to appeal – sentence reduced to two and a half years.
- ***R v Rose*** – sentence of two years imposed for Breach of an ASBO and an assault. Leave granted to appeal – sentenced reduced to fifteen months.

Additional Information

Qualified SCUBA diving Instructor - teaching at Sheffield University Diving Club
Snowboarding (along with the rest of the family) - as and when time allows.
Mountain Biking as often as time allows.
Music