



Charles Conway

Call 1969

Charles Conway has an exclusively criminal defence practice that consists mostly of leading junior work.

As a junior he has been led in many high- profile cases including the Russell Bishop “Babes in the Wood” murder, the Jason Swift paedophile killing, the Brinks Matt £26 million Gold Bullion robbery, for Freddie Foreman in the £6 million Security Express robbery and for Kenny Noye in the road rage murder.

For the last 25 years he has had a largely Leading Junior practice in a diversity of heavy criminal cases ranging from murders to fraud, drug importations to money laundering. He has also held leading junior briefs in a range of various types of fraud cases.

He represented all five Stephen Lawrence suspects in the Divisional Court and three of them in the McPherson Public Inquiry. He appeared as Junior Counsel for one of them at the Old Bailey.

He also has a substantial private practice. and he has successfully represented Ray Winstone and Max Beesley.

In more recent times he has held leading junior briefs in long, complex, high- profile drug, fraud and robbery cases many of which are said to have been amongst the largest of their kind ever brought e.g. the £53 million Tonbridge Securities robbery when he acted for a major player.

He has held the leading junior brief in a contested £3 million mortgage fraud at the Old Bailey

He has been instructed in the last 5 years in many heavy drugs cases by solicitors from all over the country including Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle.

Charles is an occasional contributor to TV news programmes.

In 2016 he represented one of 8 Defendants in a Rotherham sex abuse trial in the Sheffield Crown Court. (R v A) and in 2018 he was in another Rotherham sex abuse case when the client was acquitted of 5 out of 7 charges brought against him

In 2018 he a represented an organiser in a multi-handed conspiracy to supply cocaine and heroin in Derby Crown court (R v R).

In 2017 he successfully represented a Defendant charged with attempted murder (a shooting) in Birmingham Crown Court (R v K) and successfully defended a major player in a serious perverting the course of justice trial in Manchester Crown Court which lasted 4 weeks (R v M). The Defendant was alleged to be an organiser of a large OCG in the north west of England.

He also represented a major organiser charged along with 8 others in a conspiracy to import 165 kilos of heroin from Pakistan (R v MA). This was an 11 handed case in which the other 2 major organisers were represented by Queen's Counsel.

In July 2017 he successfully represented a Defendant charged with possessing a firearm (a shotgun) with intent R v S (St Albans Crown Court) and in September 2017 secured the acquittal of a Defendant charged with fraud at Basildon Crown Court (R v B). In November/December 2017 at Newport Crown Court, in a case prosecuted by Queens Counsel, he represented the main Defendant in a 4 week £1/2million conspiracy to convert criminal property trial (R v E).

In Jan/Feb 2018 at Basildon Crown, his client was acquitted of rape after a 7day trial and later that month, at Chelmsford CC, he represented the Co Defendant in a 4 week 2 handed high profile murder trial charged with perverting the course of justice and possessing loaded firearms (R v S) (prosecuted by Queens Counsel).

In August 2018 after a 2month trial in Chelmsford CC, his client was acquitted of money laundering (R v M) and in September 2018 at Sheffield Crown Court, in another Rotherham sex abuse trial his client was acquitted of 5 out of 7 allegations brought against him after a 6 week trial (prosecuted by Queen's Counsel).

In January 2019 at St Albans Crown Court his client (principal Defendant) was acquitted of a £100,000 conspiracy to steal.

In May 2019 at Liverpool CC represented a Defendant in a 6 week conspiracy to supply cocaine case R v G O'B prosecuted by QC)

In June 2019 he represented a client in an 8 week case at Ipswich CC charged with assisting an offender in a gangland murder case. RvD

In November/December 2020/January 2021 he represented a client R v A at Leicester CC charged as part of a major OCG group charged with conspiracy to supply Class A and B drugs case which was not concluded after 3 months because of coronavirus issues (prosecuted by QC)

In R v A in 2021 at Lewes Crown Court secured an acquittal for an organiser of drug mules from South America in a conspiracy to import class A drugs R v A. (leading Junior brief)

In May 2021 at Inner London Crown Court secured the acquittal in a shooting that occurred in a block of flats (R v C)

In June 2021 at the Central Criminal Court secured the acquittal of a client charged with attempted child abduction (R v A)

In July 2021 at the Central Criminal Court secured the acquittal of a client charged with facilitating a gang land shooting in Notting Hill (R v A)

Represented a variety of defendants, mostly in drug and fraud cases where millions of pounds have been at stake

Practice Areas

Crime

Notable crime cases in the past 10 years are listed below.

Notable crime cases

R v E

Represented the main Defendant in a 4 week £1/2million conspiracy to convert criminal property trial, in a case prosecuted by Queens Counsel.

R v S

His client was acquitted of rape after a 7day trial and later that month he represented the Co Defendant in a 4 week 2 handed high profile murder trial charged with perverting the course of justice and possessing loaded firearms (prosecuted by Queens Counsel).

R v M

His client was acquitted of money laundering and in a Rotherham sex abuse trial his client was acquitted of 5 out of 7 allegations brought against him after a 6 week trial (prosecuted by Queen's Counsel).

R v F R-J

4 years ago held the leading brief for a major player in the biggest ever cannabis farm case in Europe, which lasted 3 months at the Central Criminal Court.

R v MC

In 2018 represented a major defendant in a series of armed robberies involving firearms which lasted 2 months at the Central Criminal Court.

R v DS

Represented an alleged major player in a well-known criminal family in Liverpool (the Fitzgibbons) in a conspiracy to import 35 kilos of heroin from Turkey and involved in a separate conspiracy to supply 167,00 tablets of ecstasy.

R v S

His client was acquitted of rape after a 7day trial and later that month in Chelmsford CC he represented the

Co Defendant in a 4 week 2 handed high profile murder trial charged with perverting the course of justice and possessing loaded firearms (prosecuted by Queens Counsel).

Fraud

He has been involved in recent years in a variety of fraud cases including carousel frauds and diversion frauds. In 2018 he held a leading brief in a £3 million mortgage fraud at the Central Criminal Court. He has acted for a director in a Company Directors Disqualification Act case, lasting 2 weeks. He has been involved a number of these cases in the past and have represented an Appellant in a leading authority of R v Doring 2003 that is still cited in Archbold.

Notable fraud cases

R v SE

Acted for principal defendant in a month-long time- share fraud.

R v DH

Represented a chartered accountant charged with aiding the theft of £650,000 from a well-known West End restaurant and assisting a disqualified director in managing it? Acquitted after a month's trial.

R v C

Leading Junior brief for the English organiser of an international alleged £18 million Excise and VAT fraud involving the setting up and running of illicit counterfeit alcohol and tobacco factories.

R v IG

Acted for a chartered accountant in an international conspiracy to import and distribute counterfeit medicines. Said to have been the largest conspiracy of its kind ever to have been brought. He was acquitted after a 4 month trial.

Murder & Manslaughter

I have held leading junior briefs in 5 murders in the last 15 years.

Serious Sexual Offences

He represented a number of clients involved in a variety of sexual offences ranging from rape to sexual assault. He was involved in 2 long trials in Sheffield CC involving sexual grooming and sexual assaults on young teenage girls in Rotherham.

In October 2022 he represented a client charged with a variety of sexual offences (35 counts on the indictment) involving 13 young teenage girls.

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association