



Fred Batstone

Call 2019

Fred Batstone is establishing a broad practice across the spectrum of criminal offences. He is regularly instructed to appear for the prosecution and the defence in the Crown Court, Youth Court and Magistrates' Courts on both a private and publicly funded basis. Fred has acted as a led junior and junior alone.

Fred has experience in cases involving serious violence (including domestic violence), drug supply, weapons, robbery and fraud, and is often instructed to represent vulnerable individuals. Fred is also regularly instructed to represent clients charged with motoring offences.

Fred is developing a practice in regulatory law alongside his criminal work and appears as a case presenter for the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Alongside his advocacy work, Fred is regularly involved with public inquiries. He has been instructed by Peters & Peters to review documents in relation to the Post Office 'Horizon' Appeals. He has also been instructed for HMRC as part of the Covid Inquiry and for the Brook House Inquiry.

Prior to joining 2 Bedford Row, Fred volunteered as a mentor for Vocalise, teaching debating to prisoners in HMP Pentonville

Practice Areas

Defence

Fred is regularly instructed to defend in a broad range of criminal matters in the Crown, Magistrates' and Youth Courts. He also has experience conducting appeals to the Crown Court and committals for sentence. Fred has experience in cases involving serious violence (including domestic violence), drugs, weapons, public order, robbery and fraud. Fred also has particular experience representing clients charged with motoring offences. Fred has particular experience representing youths and vulnerable individuals with serious mental illness, and has undertaken specialist training in dealing with vulnerable witnesses. He is able to assist in drafting letters of representation to the Crown Prosecution Service where appropriate.

Notable defence cases

R v DD

Defendant acquitted by a jury at Isleworth Crown Court of assault by penetration. The Prosecution alleged

that the Defendant had assaulted a 14-year-old by digitally penetrating her at a party. The complainant and her 10-year-old brother were cross-examined. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty following the five day trial.

R v PM

Defendant acquitted by a jury at Cambridge Crown Court of being concerned in the supply of heroin and crack cocaine, and on one count of possession of criminal property. The Prosecution sought to rely on cell site data and DNA evidence to demonstrate that PM assisted in the running of a drug line between Croydon and Cambridge.

R v DE

Defendant acquitted by a jury at Bristol Crown Court, on an indictment containing one count of theft. DE was accused of stealing £17,000 from his grandmother's safe.

R v AH

Defendant acquitted following a successful submission of no case to answer during a trial at Wood Green Crown Court following cross-examination of the complainant. The Defendant was charged with section 18 GBH and had already pleaded guilty to section 20 GBH.

R v AJ

Defendant acquitted following a successful submission of no case to answer during a trial at Basildon Crown Court. The Defendant was charged with assaulting an emergency worker. The submission was made after cross-examination of two police officers.

R v MI

Defendant received a suspended sentence order at Isleworth Crown Court. The Defendant was charged alongside numerous others with transferring criminal property between the UK and Dubai. The Defendant was responsible for the transfer of £2,520,000.

R v VP

Defendant acquitted by a jury at Harrow Crown Court of affray.

Prosecution

Fred regularly prosecutes in the Crown, magistrates' and youth courts. He has particular experience in prosecuting motoring offences and domestic violence. Fred is also regularly instructed by the National Probation Service for breach proceedings in the Crown Court.

Notable prosecution cases

R v LM

Defendant convicted by a jury at Inner London Crown court on one count of ABH (domestic violence) following retrial.

R v LM

Defendant convicted by a jury at Wood Green Crown Court for the supply of cannabis. The Defendant sought to argue personal use and experts gave evidence for both parties.

R v CS

Defendant pleaded guilty to section 20 GBH during a trial at Canterbury Crown Court and the jury were directed to enter a unanimous guilty verdict.

Road Traffic

Fred has particular experience representing clients charged with a range of driving offences, from drink and drug driving to failing to provide a specimen.

Notable road traffic cases

R v AW

Successful submission of no case to answer for drink driving, the issue being whether a caravan site was a 'public place'.

R v NW

Successfully argued exceptional hardship for a Defendant who was suffering with serious illness and relied on their vehicle to attend hospital.

R v RP

Crown dropped charges of failure to provide a specimen after written representations to review the case on the basis that language barriers can amount to a reasonable excuse.

R v CO

Successfully argued exceptional hardship in a case where the Defendant relied on his vehicle to take his children to school and social activities.

Publications

- CPS Panel Level 2

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Education

- Bar Professional Training Course with Masters of Law (Very Competent & Distinction), University of Law
- Graduate Diploma in Law, University of Law
- BA Hons History, University of Warwick

Scholarships / Awards

- The 5 Paper Buildings Prize for Cross Examination, The University of Law
- The Jules Thorn Scholarship, The Honourable Society of Middle Temple

Qualifications

- Vulnerable Witness Trained, Middle Temple