

Curriculum Vitae

Peter Woodall

Called 1983 Middle Temple
University of Lancaster 1978-1979 Philosophy
University of Leeds 1979-1982 LLB (Hons)

Accredited Facilitator of the Vulnerable Witness Programme.
Casework advice for the Criminal Case Review Commission.

Pupil Supervisor 2004-2006
2009-2010 QAA pilot scheme Cardiff Law School – accredited with a pass in the highest applicant level.

Expertise

Criminal Law

Specialist defence advocate. Extremely experienced leading junior with a particular specialism in complex fraud, serious sexual offences and organised crime.

Specialised in contracted cases since the inception of the VHCC scheme as both leading and junior counsel.

Instructed in some of the largest frauds prosecuted in recent years such as Operation Vaulter and Operation Eraser.

General crime: Vast experience in multi handed drug conspiracies, murders, money laundering and serious organised crime. Often instructed in offences of rape and serious sexual offences.

Notable Cases

FRAUD

R v U (Southwark Crown Court)

Junior to QC immigration fraud 8-month trial.

R v P (Manchester Crown Court)

Leading Junior Counsel – multi handed mortgage fraud involving the raising of false charges and identity theft. Value of fraud £4 million. Trial lasted forty days.

R v S (Liverpool Crown Court)

Leading Junior Counsel – multi handed VHCC trial. One of a sequence of three Missing Trader VAT frauds. The case lasted approximately three months. The served evidence was in excess of 200k pages. Value over £30 million. This was the first of three trials involving one of the largest carousel frauds of its type. The allegation centred upon a network of companies purporting to trade in high cost, high volume merchandise from the UK to the UAE over a period of years.

R v W (Derby Crown Court)

This was a multi handed tobacco excise evasion conspiracy that was one of the largest of its kind. The contraband was imported and sold on wholesale. The monies were then laundered through a number of outlets including property fraud and gambling. The total benefit figure was said to be £26 million.

R v P (Liverpool Crown Court)

Leading Junior Counsel – multi handed VHCC trial (plea negotiated) – one of a sequence of three Missing Trader VAT frauds. Sentence successfully reduced on appeal.

R v T (Middlesbrough Crown Court)

Leading Junior Counsel – multi handed VHCC trial – Missing Trader VAT fraud and money laundering. The case lasted approximately six weeks.

R v C (Southwark Crown Court)

Conspiracy to defraud and money laundering. This was a multi handed conspiracy involving frauds upon the MOD and the DSS throughout the country. The case took almost two years to come to trial and the fraud amounted to over £1 million. The defendant was acquitted after two days of jury deliberation.

R v M (Middlesbrough Crown Court)

This large fraud investigation was broken down into three trials. The defendant was in the principal trial. The conspiracy involved a scheme of multiple mortgage applications and identity theft. The defendant was said to be a primary associate to the main organiser of the fraud. The defendant alone was acquitted after three days of jury deliberation.

R v S & Others (Operation Anaconda)

Instructed as Leading Counsel for the first defendant in the largest in a series of Department of Education frauds, following a tabloid expose. The case involved the alleged defrauding of over 80,000 students, several qualification bodies, the Post Office, and the consequent ruination of the Government's ILA scheme in 2002. Over £16 million was said to have been obtained. Trial commenced on 9 June 2008 and lasted over 5 months. The consequent Appeal is a reported case. The confiscation proceedings were set at £13 million. Reduced after a hearing in 2012 to under £300,000.

R v M & Others (Worcester Crown Court)

VHCC case. Instructed as Junior Counsel in a SFO prosecution alleging the fraudulent incorporation, marketing, and trading of an investment company to British ex-patriot citizens abroad. The fraud amounted to over £1 million worth of investment over a ten-month period, principally in Cyprus, Czech Republic, and the Far East. The trial commenced on 28 September 2009 and ran for just under three months. Led by QC.

MURDER, OTHER HOMICIDE AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

R v R (Bristol Crown Court) Murder trial led by Kings Counsel. Murder of highly vulnerable victim involving psychiatric expertise going to diminished responsibility and fitness to plead.

R v K (Liverpool Crown Court)

Leading Junior in the Reese Jones murder trial. This was a VHCC case. Represented the principal defendant charged with assisting the first defendant in escaping the murder scene and concealment of the firearm.

R v C (Central Criminal Court) assisting a murderer to escape the scene of a multiple stabbing targeted gang attack.

R v K (Cardiff Crown Court)

Led by David Aubrey QC. The defendant, a young woman, was one of three charged with Murder. The victim was killed during a violent disorder outside of a public house. Mid way through the jury trial the Crown dropped all charges when the principal defendants pleaded guilty to offence of Manslaughter.

R v C (Preston Crown Court)

Conspiracy to murder. This was the first UK mainland bombing by Northern Irish Nationalists. A car bomb was set off in Bolton in an attempt to kill a notorious loyalist – Johnny Adair. This was an antiterrorist prosecution. Led by QC.

RAPE and SERIOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES (RASSO)

R v O (Cardiff Crown Court)

Multiple counts of Indecency trial, within an on-going relationship, with associated allegations of violence, strangulation, and control.

R v O (Harrow CC) Stranger Rape focused on clubs in the West end of London

R v M (Guildford CC) inciting child to engage in sexual activity arising from vigilante hunters

R v G (Central criminal court) inciting child to engage in sexual activity arising from vigilante hunters

R v A (STOKE ON TRENT Crown)

Multiple allegations of child abuse and grievous bodily harm. Cut throat defence.

R v C (Gloucester Crown Court)

The defendant was an adult ASD sufferer charged with sexual assault on a six-year-old child and possession of unlawful images. Intermediaries were instructed on both sides and a psychologist was instructed by the defence. The defendant was acquitted.

R v X (Gloucester Crown Court)

The defendant was an asylum seeker charged with sexual assault upon a young woman in a secluded car park whom he had initially met in a local night club. The defence was one of consent. CCTV evidence was critical to the defence. The defendant was acquitted.

R v M (Lewes Crown Court)

Led by Greg Bull QC. The defendant and one other faced a twenty-count indictment alleging historical multiple rapes and sexual assaults. The allegations focused upon schoolgirls from a local Sussex college. The trial lasted four weeks and involved an expert witness in the transmission of HIV and antiterror drugs.

R v X (Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court)

The defendant was charged with multiple offences of historic sexual assault against members of his family and a young babysitter. The matters went back approximately thirty years. The defendant was acquitted of all counts.

R v S (Preston Crown Court)

This was a multi handed torture case. The defendants were charged with taking prisoner a drug addict in a revenge attack the latter was said to have abused a young woman. The Crown case was that the

victim has beaten, falsely imprisoned, threatened with rape and his head set alight with accelerant. The victim was found injured and bleeding in the street with burn marks. The first trial was discharged due to the defence discovering critical disclosure failings. The retrial lasted three weeks and the defendant was acquitted. Pivotal to the case was my cross examination of the Crown expert witness on blood staining.

GENERAL CRIME

R-V-K (Ipswich Crown Court) Blackmail and drugs conspiracy to supply Indictments.

R v T (Liverpool CC) Multiple Firearms and drugs conspiracy trials involving several organised crime groupings.

R V F (Gloucester Crown Court) Cocaine supply conspiracies covering the west country Birmingham and the south east.

R V C (Preston CC) - Multi handed Slavery case centring upon a series of Brothels and prostitution rings from the North West to the south east

R V T (Liverpool Crown Court)

Instructed in trial 3 of 4 in operation Bombay - alleged Firearm and drugs Conspiracies.

R V M (Carlisle Crown Court)

12 handed Conspiracy to Burgle/steal involving attacks on commercial premises with heavy Plant, breaking through walls to remove cash dispensing machines.

R v B (Bristol Crown Court)

Multi handed conspiracy to move drugs from the west Midlands and Southeast to Gloucester.

R v F (Birmingham Crown Court)

This was a 10,000 page plus multi handed Class A drugs conspiracy that was listed for a six-week trial. The Crown alleged that wholesale amounts of Cocaine were being moved from the West Midlands to Sussex. At the close of the Crown case the jury were discharged against all defendants save for F. The trial continued against him alone. He was duly acquitted.

R v U (High Court)

Led by Stephen Leslie QC. Subsequent to a complex civil action alleging a multimillion-pound international share fraud the plaintiff, a Russian Bank, brought an action for Contempt against two of the original defendants. This matter was prepared for trial over a period of 12 months. The action was withdrawn when the respondent was convicted of a linked criminal Indictment at Southwark Crown Court.

R v J (Croydon Crown Court)

Led by Stephen Leslie QC. We were called into this case with a new firm of instructing solicitors just before the close of the Crown case due to the defendant sacking her fourth legal team mid trial. That firm of solicitors subsequently was forced to withdraw and the PDS solicitors Swansea were instructed. The allegation concerned a series of benefit frauds covering hundreds of thousands of pounds going back 20 years premised upon a series of aliases that began in the nineties. The investigation had been ongoing for four years and was the subject of two BBC investigative programmes.

R v W (Bristol Crown Court)

Multi handed allegation to launder large amounts of monies through illegal brothels. The brothels were set up through the West Country and the South East by use of identity theft. They were then successfully run for profit.

R v H (Middlesbrough Crown Court)

Large-scale heroin conspiracy ranging throughout the North East. The drugs were primarily moving from Teesside to Manchester. The defendant was caught after a police chase with a parcel of heroin in his taxi. This was a multi handed trial over four weeks in which the defendant was successfully acquitted.

Contact Details

Robin Driscoll, Senior Clerk
Public Defender Service Advocacy Team
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Inquiries to Robin Driscoll, Senior Clerk
Telephone: 020 3334 4253/6163
Email: pdsclerks@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://publicdefenderservice.org.uk>

Offices in: Cheltenham, Darlington, London, Merthyr Tydfil & Swansea