

Curriculum Vitae

Peter Woodall

Called 1983 Middle Temple

University of Lancaster 1978-1979 Philosophy

University of Leeds 1979-1982 LLB (Hons)

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 serious fraud 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, money laundering and serious organised crime. Often instructed in offences of rape and serious sexual offences.

Notable Cases

FRAUD

R v P [2014]

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 [2013]

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 [2013]

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 [2012]

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 [2011]

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

R v H

Leading Junior Counsel – multi handed money laundering conspiracy that involved the movement of profits from an alleged, and notorious, organised crime operation. The monies came from a network of large discrete frauds and were then turned through multiple accounts and mortgages and remortgages.

R v C

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

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

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 Mr Nigel Lambert QC.

MURDER AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE

R v X [2012]

In April 2011 two men were convicted of the murder of a young girl called Agnes Sina-Inakoju in Hackney. One year later a group of alleged London Fields gang members were arrested in Northern England and charged with trying to attack a primary witness in that trial. This was a difficult multi handed case representing one of the principal defendants.

R v O [2011]

Attempted murder trial. The defendant was said to have stabbed the victim multiple times in a public street with the assistance of two others in relation to a drug debt.

R v K

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

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 anti-terrorist prosecution. Led by QC.

GENERAL CRIME**R v B [2013]**

Blackmail. Guilty plea to blackmailing the partner of one of the defendant's associates. The Crown alleged that the defendant was a drug dealer who invented a kidnapping story to extort money from the victim. The sentence was successfully reduced on appeal.

R v W [2012]

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 [2012]

Large-scale heroin conspiracy ranging throughout the North East. The drugs were primarily moving from Teeside 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.

R v J [2009]

Leading Junior in a multi handed drug conspiracy, GBH conspiracy and blackmail. This was an allegation arising from drug debts through the supply of cocaine throughout Sussex. The victim was seriously injured in a Stanley knife attack suffering permanent injuries. Two suppliers turned Queen's evidence. The case lasted five weeks.

Contact Details

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