



RICHARD PRATT KC

CALL 1980 | SILK 2006

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Prosecuting and defending all types of criminal cases with particular experience in homicide, fraud and money laundering and drug trafficking.

I will also accept instructions to represent alleged perpetrators of serious criminal conduct in child care proceedings in the Family Court.

PROFILE OVERVIEW

In the first fifteen years of my practice I was engaged in all areas of the common law, and had particular experience acting in personal injury actions on behalf of the members of the National Union of Railwaymen and the Rail Marine and Transport Union. This work included accidents on rail road and sea, ranging from minor injuries to multiple fatality cases. By way of example, I acted for the families of two railwaymen who had been killed at work in both the inquest proceedings and the actions for damages.

By the mid 1990s my practice had become almost exclusively criminal and employment work.

Chambers and Partners 2024 **Crime – Northern Bar Band 2**

Richard Pratt KC is head of chambers and is skilled as both prosecution and defence counsel for a range of criminal matters. He is particularly experienced in crimes of violence, including manslaughter and murder.

“He is vastly experienced, hard-working, great with clients and comfortable in any forum.”

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY TIMELINE

1978: BA (Hons) degree in Business Law

1980: Called to the Bar (Gray's Inn)

1981: Elected to the Northern Circuit and joined 5 Castle Street Chambers in Liverpool

1989: 5 Castle Street merged with 27 Dale Street to become Corn Exchange Chambers

1997: Appointed Assistant Recorder

1999: Corn Exchange Chambers merged with Martin's Bank Buildings to become 7 Harrington Street Chambers.

2000: Appointed Recorder authorised to sit in the Crown and County Courts.

2002 – 2006: Appointed to the Attorney General's panel (A list) authorised to prosecute the most serious cases on behalf of Government departments. (Appointment relinquished automatically upon taking Silk)

2006: Appointed Queen's Counsel.

2009: Approved to try serious sex cases in the Crown Court.



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DIRECTORIES

(Legal 500 2023) Ranked Tier 3
(Crime, Leading Silks)

'Very active in serious violent crime,
including areas such as
infanticide.'

Ranked: Tier 3 (Legal 500) (Crime,
Leading Silks)

"Very active in serious violent
crime, including areas such as
infanticide" (Legal 500 2020)

Ranked Tier 3 (Crime, Leading Silks)

Chambers and Partners 2022
Crime – Northern Bar Band 2
Richard Pratt QC is head of
chambers and is skilled as both
prosecution and defence counsel
for a range of criminal matters. He
is particularly experienced in
crimes of violence, including
assault, manslaughter and murder.

Recent work: Prosecuted a 17-year-
old for the murder of a family friend
who he thought had sexually
assaulted his mother.

2010: Elected Bencher of Gray's Inn

2011 – 2013: Leader of the Northern Circuit

2012 – date: Head of 7 Harrington Street Chambers

2014: Authorised to undertake Direct Access Work.

2015: Joined 3, Paper Buildings, Temple as a door tenant.

2016: Appointed Tutor-Judge to the Judicial College, participating in the
continuing training of both full-time and part-time Judges.

2021: Appointed to the Panel of Deemsters in the Isle of Man

2022: Appointed King's Counsel, upon the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

NOTABLE CASES

Homicide

Over the years both as a junior and in silk I have prosecuted and defended in
many cases of murder and manslaughter of which the following are a small
sample.

R v Morgan Smith (2000) HL. Junior Counsel for the defendant in case which was
at the same time a landmark case on the law of provocation.

R v RG (2005) Court of General Gaol Delivery, Douglas IoM. Counsel for the owner
of the Solway Harvester (which capsized in the Irish Sea) charged with gross
negligence manslaughter of the seven crew members who were lost.

R v O'D (2007) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant a student
charged with murder of a fellow student during brawl outside city centre night
club.

R v SM (2008) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing 18 year old charged with
murder of 11 year old schoolboy Rhys Jones.

R v MS (2010) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with
murder. Medical causation was a significant feature of the case, involving
consideration of PRIS (propofol infusion syndrome) and alleged failures in the
victim's medical treatment.

R v F (2010) Manchester Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with
murder of taxi driver who was already terminally ill raising issues of medical
causation.

R v B (2010) Liverpool Crown Court. Defendant charged with manslaughter of
baby, raising issues of 'shaken baby syndrome' with the usual confrontation of
complex expert opinion.

R v C (2011) Belfast Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with terrorist
murder, 37 years earlier, of Captain Robert Nairac an undercover soldier who
had been posing as a republican militant.

R v GA (2014) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with
murder of drug dealer involving a full blown 'cut throat' defence.



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NOTABLE CASES

Homicide continued..

R v TW (2014) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder by shooting said to represent a gangland 'contact killing' execution.

R v M and S (2015) Nottingham Crown Court. Seven week trial prosecuting guardian aunt for murder of and child cruelty towards 7 year old girl. The defendant was co-accused with her mother in respect of the child cruelty allegations.

R v CD (2015) Exeter Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murdering his mother.

R v JV (2015) Bristol Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder and section 18 arising out of random night time attacks on members of the public, raising issues of diminished responsibility.

R v MS (2016) Manchester Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder of his friend in Cockermouth, Cumbria.

R v MP (2016) Sheffield Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder and attempted murder of two brothers.

R v MW (2016) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder of prostitute.

R v KC (2016) Portsmouth Crown Court. Representing one of two defendants charged with attempted murder of an alleged criminal associate.

R v JC (2016) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing one of three defendants charged with murder by shooting of innocent 16 year old boy in the context of gang rivalry.

R v TD (2017) Bolton Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder by stabbing of popular local man who intervened after defendant had been violent to his sister in public.

R v JM (2017) Mold Crown Court. Representing one of four defendants charged with murder allegedly arising out of drug 'turf war'.

R v CP (2017) Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting defendant who murdered female acquaintance before seeking to dispose of body by carrying her to remote spot and setting fire to her body.

R v KK (2018) Liverpool Crown Court. Representing one of four defendants charged with murder of criminal associate after failed drug importation. Case involved torture and destruction of body by fire.

R v JA (2018) Lincoln Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with stabbing his friend to death.

Operation Satinleaf (2018) Leeds Crown Court. Defending one of two 15 year old boys, following investigation by the Counter Terrorism Unit charged with conspiracy to murder teachers and pupils at his school by shootings and explosions.

R v WC Operation Yale (2019) prosecuting nine handed murder trial over several weeks, against a background of gang and drug involvement.

R v W (2019) Liverpool Crown Court prosecuting man charged with manslaughter of his wife by gross negligence in failing to obtain medical assistance for her notwithstanding her obviously deteriorating condition.

R v P (2019) Liverpool Crown Court defending man charged with murder of his wife raising the partial defence of 'loss of control'

R v B (2019) Liverpool Crown Court prosecuting man charged with murder of his friend using a crossbow.

R v A (2019-20) Liverpool Crown Court defending man charged with murder, relying on partial defence of diminished responsibility as he was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. His plea of manslaughter was confirmed by the Jury's verdict.



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NOTABLE CASES

Fraud and Money Laundering

(a) MTIC

Operation V959 (2004) Manchester Crown Court. Prosecuted this early MTIC fraud firstly as junior Counsel and then as Leader upon the proposed retrial. The case involved far-reaching abuse of process arguments.

Operation Gelling (2005 – 2008) Manchester Crown Court. Represented Prosecution in the trial of six alleged money launderers arising out of the V959 trial. Case was prolonged due to incapacity of principal defendant and major abuse of process arguments.

Operation Echogramme (2009) Manchester Crown Court. Represented, DH, one of three defendants in trial lasting 10 weeks charged with money laundering of proceeds of MTIC fraud.

Operation Vex (2012) Kingston Crown Court. Represented SH, one of five defendants on trial for conspiracy in multi million pound VAT fraud in trial lasting 5 months.

Operation Vaultier (2013) Kingston Crown Court. Represented DM, one of five defendants involved in the freight forwarding limb of the multi million pound MTIC fraud in trial lasting 3 months.

(b) Other Frauds

R v PK (2009) Leeds Crown Court. Represented defendant PK, the lead defendant in so-called red diesel fraud in trial lasting 2 months.

Operation Valgus (2013) Mold Crown Court. Represented principal defendant in what was described as the largest mortgage fraud ever to be prosecuted in the UK. Trial lasted 5 months.

R v RL (2014 –2015) Leeds Crown Court. Four month regulatory fraud trial in Leeds Crown Court representing defendant charged with conspiracy to defraud the Drivers Vehicles Standards Agency (formerly VOSA). The allegation related to an alleged bogus scheme designed to circumvent the law and regulations relating to Operators Licenses in respect of large goods vehicles.

Operation Bamburgh (2016) Teeside Crown Court. Representing solicitor charged with large scale mortgage fraud.

R v JM and Others (2017) Chester Crown Court. Prosecuting seven defendants (including company) in six week trial for conspiracy to defraud, arising out of a substantial and long-running car-ringing fraud.

Family Cases

Operation Directed (2019) Family Division Manchester. Represented alleged perpetrator of very serious sexual offences against two early-teenaged girls. During the course of his judgment, Sir Mark Hedley specifically exonerated our client from any such behaviour.

Knowsley MBC v V (2019) Instructed to represent mother in proceedings in which issues of Police Disclosure, PII, Closed Court Procedure and Special Advocate were raised.

Sefton MBC v K (2019 – 20) Instructed to represent mother in case involving allegations of 'baby-shaking' and alleged NAI.

Knowsley MBC v H (2019-20) Instructed to represent mother in case involving allegations of sexual and physical abuse of children.