

EXPERTISE

Michael undertakes criminal defence and prosecution work. He has been instructed in a wide range of cases, including section 18 GBHs, kidnapping, a conspiracy to defraud, robberies, rapes, sexual assaults, possession of indecent images, burglaries, drugs supply, escape from lawful custody and dishonesty offences.

Michael has developed a particular experience in road traffic cases, having successfully advanced technical arguments in alcohol-related driving offences e.g. the “hip flask” case, having won a number of special reasons cases and having regularly succeeded in “exceptional hardship” arguments.

Michael is currently a Level 2 Panel Advocate for the CPS. His on-going case load, however, includes a VAT fraud and a conspiracy to commit money laundering. Michael’s prosecution experience also includes acting for the Probation Service, the Youth Offending Team, the Department of Work and Pensions, Revenue and Customs, TfL, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and numerous local authorities. As a result, he has built a particular body of experience of dealing with advancing and resisting legal arguments in respect of both benefit frauds and Probation breach matters.

Following the completion of a nine-month secondment with the Nursing & Midwifery Council in September 2013, Michael continues to receive regular instructions from this organisation as external counsel. In the last two-and-a-half years, he has established a reputation as a heavyweight Case Presenter at the NMC, and is regularly instructed in difficult or complex cases. Michael has acted for the NMC in a number of midwifery cases that have gained national media coverage (see NMC v PM and NMC v KS below) and continues to act as Case Presenter in referrals arising from the Orchid View care home.

Michael is well-regarded for his thoughtful and intelligent advocacy, and has also gained a reputation for being well-suited to dealing with vulnerable lay clients.

In addition to crime and professional regulation, Michael has also appeared before Westminster Magistrates’ Court and the High Court in extradition matters. He also has a background of dealing with Parole Board hearings.

Michael is qualified to receive Direct Access instructions.

NOTABLE CASES

R v SH [2014] EWCA Crim 1253 – Represented appellant seeking leave to appeal in a conspiracy to commit burglaries case

PM v NMC [2014] EWHC 1862 (Admin) – Acted for the NMC in successfully resisting an appeal from a midwife who had succeeded in an earlier appeal by submitting a forged document to the court

R v M [2013] EWCA Crim 850 – Represented appellant in challenge to sentence imposed for two street robberies

A-G’s Ref No. 51 of 2011 [2011] EWCA Crim 2297 – Acted for respondent in a challenge to the imposition of a community penalty for a Level 2 robbery

R (on the application of Arunthavaraja) v Administrative Court Office [2009]
EWHC 18921 (Admin) – Claim for judicial review dealing with the time limits for filing and serving notice of appeal

R v T [2008] EWCA Crim 1389 – Appeared for the Crown in a defence appeal against sentence based on failure to award time on remand

R v P [2006] EWCA Crim 2740 – Acted for appellant in a challenge to the sentencing judge's finding of "dangerousness"

SERIOUS CRIME

R v DV (St Albans CC, 2016) – Prosecuting a VAT fraud, involving a stolen identity being used to perpetrate the fraud

R v B and G (St Albans CC, 2016) – Prosecuting a 2-handed money laundering conspiracy in which in excess of £100k was passed through students' bank accounts

R v MW (Leicester CC, 2015) – Secured suspended sentence for former Radio 1 DJ found in possession of indecent images

R v VY (Isleworth CC, 2014) – Secured acquittal in a knife-point robbery case, occurring within the complainant's own home

R v B and H (Reading CC, 2013) – Represented defendant in a 2-handed conspiracy to burgle case covering 14 dwelling-house burglaries

R v B (Leeds CC, 2013) – Successfully defended in an aggravated dangerous dogs case at Leeds Crown Court, with the jury returning a not guilty verdict within twenty-five minutes

R v M (Luton CC 2012) – Defended in a possession of indecent images case involving a defendant who was sectioned under the Mental Health Act whilst on bail pending the trial

R v C (Isleworth CC, 2010) – Prosecuted a s.18 wounding that was a revenge attack following the complainant's previous arrest for the alleged rape of the defendant

R v B (Croydon CC, 2010) – Defence junior in a case involving allegations against the defendant that he physically and sexually abused his daughter over a two-year period

R v D (Southwark CC, 2010) - Defence junior in a multi-million pound VAT fraud. The case was dropped as a result of inadequate disclosure by the prosecution

R v S (Wood Green CC, 2010) – Defence junior in a case involving a 14-year old defendant charged with false imprisonment and blackmail

DEFRA v ST Ltd (Southampton MC, 2010) – Prosecuted the first case brought for obstructing a compliance officer of Gangmasters Licensing Authority, under legislation brought in as a direct result of the cockle-picking disaster in Morecambe. The defendant pleaded guilty before trial and, as part of his sentence, was ordered to pay over £10,000 towards the prosecution costs

R v M (Hove CC, 2009) – Acted as defence junior in a 7-week s.18 GBH and conspiracy to supply Class A drugs trial in which the defence of duress was advanced

ROAD TRAFFIC

R v B (Ealing MC, 2012) – Secured acquittal following advance of “hip flask” defence

R v K (Westminster MC, 2012) – Successfully advanced “special reasons” argument based on shortness of distance driven

R v M (Feltham MC, 2012) – Successfully advanced “special reasons” argument based on duress of circumstances

REGULATORY

NMC v KS (2015-2016) – Presented a midwifery case involving allegations of inappropriate administration of a bolus dose of an oxytocic drug to twenty women in labour, leading to many of them needing emergency caesarean sections

Orchid View (2014 – 2016) – Acted as Case Presenter in a number of cases arising from the now-defunct care home, including the one-time Home Manager who had shredded MAR charts and forged replacements

NMC v E (2014) – Presented a case involving a series of allegations regarding a nurse at a secure mental health unit, including threats made to colleagues over social media sites

NMC v H (2014) – Presented a case involving a community mental health nurse forming an inappropriate relationship with a patient

NMC v O (2014) – Presented a case against a nurse who, having failed to achieve their nurse-prescriber qualifications, proceeded to prescribe medication whilst working for the Armed Forces

NMC v PM (2013) – Presented a re-hearing of a case involving allegations that the midwife produced false documents at the High Court to win the appeal that led to the re-hearing

NMC v D (2013) – Presented a case involving a cross-referral to the GMC by the nurse against the GP that had referred her to the NMC

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Criminal Bar Association
Extradition Lawyers’ Association
South Eastern Circuit

QUALIFICATIONS

MA (Law) Cantab.
Direct Access qualified

fifteen
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