



Oliver Kavanagh

Oliver is a busy Crown Court practitioner, defending those accused of offences including fraud, supply of drugs and serious violence. He is also a specialist Youth Court advocate and frequently achieves successful outcomes in challenging circumstances.

Oliver is comfortable dealing with legally and factually complex cases and prides himself on presenting his cases as clearly as possible in Court. He provides accessible and practical advice to clients and often assists with written advice and drafting. He is regularly commended by Judges for the quality of his written work.

Although he is a specialist jury advocate, Oliver accepts instructions in a broad range of work including Inquests and Family Court fact-finding hearings. He has appeared in the Court of Appeal, High Court, County, Family and Administrative Courts and is often instructed in cases which span the civil and criminal jurisdictions, including trading standards investigations, sexual risk, criminal behaviour and football banning orders and proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Notable Cases

R v M (2023) – acquittal for domestic violence offences (ABHs and breach of restraining order) despite previous convictions against the same complainant, following lengthy cross-examination that all the complaints were fabricated.

R v S (2023) – unanimous acquittal for a carer accused of assaulting two police officers who had wrongly ejected her from her home for a suspected breach of Covid-19 regulations.

R v X (2023) – acquittal of young man accused of supplying class A drugs following abuse of process argument based on the result of numerous disclosure requests relating to his role as a police informant.

R v K & W (2023) prosecuted Polish gangsters to conviction for violent knife-point robbery of women working in a brothel in Leicester

R v H (2022) – case stayed as abuse of process due to disclosure failings revealed in cross-examination that demonstrated police had lied to the Court about the existence of CCTV within police station that covered the alleged offence.

R v D (2022) client's sentence for PWITS class A halved by Court of Appeal from 60 to 30 months, resulting in his immediate release.

R v P (2022) acquittal for money laundering relating to the proceeds of a scam product sold online

R v T (2022) prosecuted domestic ABH to conviction despite complainant having initially lied to police to protect the defendant

R v M (2021) – prosecuted defendant of previous good-character to conviction for high-value joint-enterprise car robberies committed through AutoTrader

B v H (2021) – Successfully resisted serious accusations of child cruelty against Mother in a Family fact-finding hearing despite children's 'consistent' reports to professionals, following extensive

cross-examination of Father which established the children had been heavily influenced by the Father's views

R v J (2021) – youth acquitted with robbery at half time in Crown Court due to nailing eye-witnesses to inconsistent and conflicting accounts

R v T (2021) acquittal at half time with aggravated vehicle taking as prosecution had failed to prove the defendant's knowledge the car was stolen

R v B (2020) – successful insanity defence at trial for violent offences where defendant claimed epileptic seizure, despite inconclusive medical evidence

F v E (2020) – successful appeal of a County Court judgment on Article 6 basis where Judge had not allowed cross-examination of claimant's witness

R v G (2019) – one-punch knock out ABH defendant acquitted of all three charges on basis of self-defence, helped by careful dissection of CCTV evidence and half-time submission of no case to answer on one charge

R v A (2019) – suspended sentence for conveying class A drugs into prison through mitigation dealing with coercion of 'naïve' defendant who had 'a promising future'

R v B (2019) – Acquittal on basis of householder self-defence for mentally ill defendant charged with serious assaults on police officers who had forced entry to his home

R v K (2019) – unlikely acquittal of racially aggravated assault on bar manager by drunk customer on the basis of self-defence

Professional Associations

Criminal Bar Association
Young Fraud Lawyers
Society of Labour Lawyers

Qualifications

Law LLB (Hons), University of Liverpool: First Class
BPTC, City Law School: Outstanding