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JAMES NEWTON-PRICE KC

"James is a pleasure to work with and very aware of all aspects of the case at all times...He is an unmatched advocate"

Chambers & Partners 2023

Call: 1992 / Silk: 2018

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James Newton-Price KC is an extremely experienced criminal practitioner. He was appointed King's Counsel in early 2018. He has been instructed for the defence and the prosecution in a series of murder trials since taking Silk.

James is popular with solicitors because he handles difficult clients and witnesses with care and is experienced in dealing with high profile homicides and difficult cases involving the deaths and sexual abuse of children. He receives regular instructions because he responds swiftly to his solicitors' requests for advice and information during the preparation of the case for trial. He has secured acquittals for his clients in recent murder trials.

He is named in the current **Chambers & Partners** directory as a successful criminal barrister on the Western Circuit. Market commentators highlight his expertise in murder, rape and serious sexual offences cases. He is praised by the CPS and defence solicitors for his skill in dealing with sensitive cases and complex trials.

He is also Head of the Criminal and Regulatory Team in Chambers. He sits as a Recorder in criminal trials on the Western Circuit. He also sits as a Legal Assessor for the Health & Care Professions Tribunal Service (HCPTS) and as a Legally Qualified Chair for the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS).

Criminal

James practises across the spectrum of criminal offences, including murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, serious violence, child cruelty, causing death by dangerous driving, drugs offences, money laundering and fraud.

Since taking silk in 2018, James has appeared in a series of high profile murder trials, including the prosecution of a couple for the death of their 17 day old baby, the successful defence of a man charged with murder arising from an assault 11 years previously, and the defence of a man charged with the murder and rape of a 13 year old girl in

Southampton.

James has established a reputation for the defence and prosecution of sexual offences cases, including historic allegations – where he has appeared in numerous trials for cases concerning rape and child sexual abuse. The Legal 500 directory names James Newton-Price as a leading criminal barrister on the western circuit for his expertise in rape and sexual abuse cases.

In addition, James prosecutes and defends in large multi-defendant conspiracy cases involving allegations of theft, fraud and money laundering, which can include the presentation of complex mobile telephone and forensic scientific evidence. He possesses the ability to present and explain detailed evidence in easily understandable formats.

Selected Cases

R v Rolfe

Secured the acquittal of his client on charges of murder and manslaughter following a 3 week trial at Winchester Crown Court. The case concerned issues of joint enterprise and the liability of the defendant who was alleged to have supplied the knife in the fatal stabbing of a drug dealer during an alleged robbery.

R v Z

Prosecution of a troubled 15 year old schoolgirl, who was obsessed with serial killers and the Columbine high school shootings, for the attempted murder of her best friend in a school stabbing. The case attracted national publicity because of the way in the teenage defendant had planned the murder by her online research.

R v Sutherland

Defence of man charged with murder and manslaughter after the trial of complex causation issues (victim died 11 years after original assault). The defendant was acquitted following the pathologist's concession in cross-examination that the cause of death was not certain. The trial also raised issues of loss of control and diminished responsibility.

R v Davis & Davies

Prosecution of a mother and her partner for causing or allowing the death of their 24 day old baby. The trial involved complex medical issues in relation to the causation of brain injuries and multiple bone fractures to a child. The defendants were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment following a trial which attracted national media coverage.

R v Nicholson

Defence of young man charged with the murder and rape of a 13 year old girl. This was a high profile trial involving

Facebook messaging, bad character evidence, sophisticated GPS tracking of the defendant, forensic evidence relating to fibres, and CCTV imagery. The client was acquitted of multiple sexual offences.

R v Mohammad Arshad

Prosecution of a police officer for the rape and sexual abuse of 12 teenage girls following a 6 week trial. The Defendant groomed his victims via Facebook and other social media. The Defendant was sentenced to 15 years and the case attracted national publicity.

R v B

The successful defence of a young student charged with the rape of another student in her bed, relying on the unusual defence of automatism: “sexsomnia” or sexual intercourse during sleep.

R v Calloo

The successful defence of a young man charged with a serious intruder rape in a jury trial before the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.

R v Last, Loveridge & Smith

Leading counsel for the Prosecution in a major six week trial of a gang of violent armed robbers, who were convicted of cash-in-transit robberies of banks and numerous other offences, stealing over £500,000.

R v Hancock & Others

A murder in which two Londoners were hired and paid to beat up a Portsmouth man and killed him in the attack. The case included complex issues of joint enterprise, identification by CCTV imagery and DNA evidence.

Regulatory & Disciplinary

James is developing a practice in the regulation and discipline of medical and health care professionals, having been instructed in cases involving professional misconduct by medical professionals. He sits as a Legal Assessor to the Health & Care Professions Tribunal Service (HCPTS), advising panels at Fitness to Practise hearings that consider the conduct and competence of health professionals. He also sits as a Legally Qualified Chair at the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) which decides allegations of misconduct and deficient performance brought by the General Medical Council against doctors.

James has experience in the field of compliance with money laundering regulations, confiscation and asset recovery,

having been instructed in many cases of this kind in recent years.

He has taken his regulatory practice into many and diverse areas: health and safety regulation, professional discipline, breaches of maritime law, planning enforcement and animal protection.

Selected Cases

Case concerned the manslaughter by gross negligence of a casual worker, who was killed in gas cylinder explosion in a scrap metal yard. The company was also charged with health and safety offences, arising from unsafe working practices at the yard.

The defence of a small company charged with health and safety offences, arising from an accident in which a worker lost his finger whilst operating cutting machinery in a factory.

The defence of Polish cargo ship captain who was charged with maritime regulatory offences when his ship was involved in a near collision with a large passenger ferry in the Solent.

The defence of an experienced luxury yacht crewman who was prosecuted by the Maritime & Coastguard agency for working without obtaining the necessary qualifications.

Successful defence of a wealthy entrepreneur charged with a £5 million tax fraud, who had neglected to submit tax returns for 10 years. Prosecution dropped case when defence demonstrated that he had actually overpaid his tax on account

Leading counsel for the manager of a company that was alleged to have defrauded hundreds of customers by overcharging. Secured his acquittal on the main charge of conspiracy of defraud after a trial that lasted for 5 months at Southampton Crown Court.

Acting for a turkey farmer and a horse owner – both of whom were prosecuted for failure to comply with animal welfare regulations.

Junior counsel in the Grobbelaar & Fashanu match – fixing trials

A four defendant £1.4 million “long firm fraud”.

Transport Law

James Newton-Price has extensive experience of all areas of Transport Law.

James is known for his sensitive handling of clients and witnesses in the prosecution and the defence of the offences of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving and Causing Death by Careless Driving in the Crown Court. This includes cases that have involved the mechanical failure of vehicles, overtaking and racing, the effect of drugs and alcohol, falling asleep at the wheel and multiple deaths.

Selected Cases

Successfully representing individuals and companies at Public Inquiry hearings before the Traffic Commissioner when their goods vehicle operator’s licence is at risk.

Successful defence of clients who work in professional and managerial occupations, who are charged with road traffic offences, and who are at risk of losing their driving licence.

Acting for high-profile individuals (including a Radio One DJ) who are charged with road traffic offences.

Experienced in cases that concern lorry drivers’ hours, tachograph offences and breaches of the Construction & Use Regulations (overweight vehicles), including appeals to the Crown Court.

Familiar with cases of drink-driving or driving whilst unfit that involve the back-calculation of blood-alcohol levels or the effect of prescribed medication.

Qualifications

- Diploma in Law, City University, London
- BA (Hons), University of Oxford

Professional associations

- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Western Circuit

Outside Interests

James enjoys good art, fine wine, page turning fiction, time off with his family and of course Fulham FC.