

"The next generation of stars" Legal 500

Alex read Law at the University of Manchester before completing his Bar exams at the Inns of Court School of Law in London.

He regularly lectures to fellow practitioners on areas of criminal law and has recently delivered a series of lectures on anonymity in criminal proceedings.

Alex has been a level 4 prosecutor since 2009 and is on the specialist panels for Fraud, Serious Crime and Confiscation.

Coroners Inquests

Alex practises as counsel to Coroners Courts Inquests.

R v HL – Counsel to the family of the deceased in a case in which a young woman lost her life in a road traffic collision. As a result of the family's campaign and representations made by Alex at the inquest, the road layout was changed in a way that would have prevented the death of the deceased.

R v PW – Counsel to the family of the deceased in a case in which a man died during a standard surgical procedure. The inquest involves the questioning of the surgical team that treated the deceased on medically complicated series of events which led to death.

R v JA – Alex was asked to advise the Coroner regarding an issue of Unlawful Act Manslaughter.

Criminal Law

Alex has prosecuted and defended in a wide range of cases. Most recently his practice has involved a series of multi-handed gang related cases, firearms conspiracies, rape, murders and attempted murders. Alex has a broad range of experience in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division where he has conducted numerous appeals against sentence, conviction and Attorney General's References.

Murder & Attempted Murder

R v H and H – Alex was junior counsel in this murder in which the deceased was tortured, murdered and his body hidden in a suitcase. The period of time that elapsed between the murder and the discovery, together with the "cut-throat" nature of the defence made for complex forensic scientific issues.

R v Anderson and Lee – Alex was instructed in this case which involved a shooting in a club in Moss Side. Difficult disclosure issues arose out of the refusal of the large number of witnesses present to participate in the investigation of the case.

R v Mahmood and others – Alex was junior counsel in this murder which involved the shooting of a cash exchange worker during an armed robbery.

R v Ali and others – Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this murder of a nightclub doorman in which seven defendants have been charged on an indictment alleging Violent Disorder and Murder.

R v Ryan – Attempted Murder. Alex was instructed to prosecute this attempted murder in which the defendant was convicted of shooting another man using a self-loading pistol. The defendant received 19 years imprisonment.

R v Cameron – Attempted Murder. Alex was instructed in this case in which the defendant was alleged to have attempted to murder two men using a self-loading pistol. The case involved evidence of facial mapping

R v Peniston and Peniston – Murder/Manslaughter. Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this case (which resolved by way of plea to Unlawful Act Manslaughter and possession of a prohibited firearm), in which a 15 year old boy shot and killed his 12 year old sister.

Organised Crime

R v C and others – Alex was instructed in this conspiracy to rob, kidnap, possess firearms and commit Arson involving the kidnap, torture and robbery of members of the public by men disguised as police officers.

R v Thomas and others – Alex was instructed on this conspiracy to rob in which members of the public were restrained and robbed in their own homes by men disguised as police officers.

R v Edwards and others – Alex was counsel on this conspiracy to commit armed robberies of a bank and commercial premises.

R v Ordish and others – Alex was instructed in this £1m Arson and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, in which a police compound was destroyed by fire in order to destroy evidence of crime.



CONTACT DETAILS

Email:
alex.leach@lincolnhousechambers.com

Telephone:
0161 832 5701

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Crime & Financial Regulation
Criminal Law
Professional Discipline
Regulatory

EDUCATION

Inns of Court School of Law, London

University of Manchester - Law

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R v Fitzpatrick and others – Alex was instructed in this conspiracy to rob jewellers and banks in the Greater Manchester area.

R v Donald and others – Conspiracy to possess firearms with intent to endanger life. Alex was instructed to prosecute a number of firearms indictments which were joined to become an 11 handed firearms conspiracy. Alex then assumed the role of junior counsel in the trials that followed during which 10 of the defendants were convicted, (some by their plea). The case involved the supply of self-loading pistols, sound moderators and infra-red sighting systems between London, Manchester and Leeds. The prosecution relied upon an enormous volume of telephone evidence, (traffic and cell siting).

R v Johnson and Wint – Possession prohibited firearm with intent to endanger life. Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this gang motivated drive by shooting which took place at a family fun day in Moss Side in Manchester. The case involved anonymous witnesses and an enormous quantity of audio probe evidence.

Fraud

R v B – Alex was instructed in this case involving the role of an in house accountant. The case involves extensive criticism of the way in which the fraud has been investigated and the way in which the prosecution have approached disclosure. Working together with a forensic accountant and his instructing solicitor, Alex is carrying out a detailed examination of Sage accounting records and a communications trail left by a previously undiscovered email backup facility.

R v L and J – Alex was instructed to deal with this mortgage fraud and money laundering case in which two defendants had fraudulently obtained mortgages enabling the purchase and resale of a network of properties.

“Operation Contact” – Alex was counsel in a series of complex “cash for crash” frauds involving insurance claims following induced or staged collision. The cases involved Ministry of Justice accredited claims handling companies, dishonest expert evidence and private motorists and claimants. It was regarded as a leading case in its field and has been used by police forces and the insurance industry as a model of its kind.

R v Main – Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this case which alleged money laundering on the part of this defendant who was said to have acted as an accountant concealing funds from a diesel fraud. The trial was followed by a complex £1.5 million confiscation hearing which dealt with properties in the USA the United Arab Emirates, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.

Rape & Family Abuse Cases

R v N – Alex was instructed in this case which involved allegations of child rape, assault and sexual abuse of three different children spread across two different families. The case involved a great deal of material from social networking sources.

R v P – Alex was instructed in this case which involved two complainants and allegations of child rape, sexual assault, abduction, grooming and enforced prostitution over a period of more than a decade.

R v N – Alex was counsel in this case involving allegations of child abduction and sexual activity with a child. The complainant suffered from extreme learning difficulties and her evidence had to be given with the assistance of an intermediary.

R v M – Alex was instructed in this case involving allegations of sexual abuse by one child of another within a family setting.

Large Scale Public Order Cases

R v G and others – Alex was instructed in this 12 handed violent disorder which took place between rival factions outside a nightclub. The case involves detailed review of hours of CCTV evidence.

R v Mousah and others – Alex was instructed in this 9 handed gang related Affray during which members of a Manchester gang surrounded and made threats (including threats to kill) towards three police officers and another male.

“Operation Gale” – Alex was instructed pre-charge to review and advise upon this investigation into the widespread disorder surrounding the Glasgow

Rangers v Zenit St Petersburg UEFA cup final in 2008.

“Operation Bridge” – Alex was instructed in this clash between Manchester City and Birmingham City supporters outside the City of Manchester Stadium.

“Operation Brill” – Alex was instructed in this case which involved a large scale disorder between Manchester United and Manchester City supporters following the Manchester derby.

“Operation Lucas” – Alex was part of a team of three members of Chambers who prosecuted more than 40 defendants for offences arising out of citywide disorder following a world cup qualifying match played at Old Trafford. Alex prosecuted a 24 handed sentence over five days which marked the culmination of this operation.



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alex.leach@lincolnhousechambers.com

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