

Bill Baker KC

Call to Bar: 1991

King's Counsel 2024



Bill has been a dedicated criminal advocate for more than 30 years. He prosecutes and defends the most serious, complicated and high profile criminal cases.

For 14 years he was one of the most senior in-house prosecution advocates in the country prosecuting only cases that involved large amounts of evidence and unused material, legal and factual complexity or difficulty, covert investigation techniques, reputational risk to the CPS and or NCA, organised crime and an international element. He has led numerous multi-handed large-scale conspiracies, including the largest ever detected conspiracy to import drugs with an estimated wholesale value of £7 billion and the longest ever criminal trial.

His cases often involve witnesses from abroad, hearsay, technical evidence, experts in mobile phones, computers, cell site analysis, handwriting, fingerprints, DNA, drugs, money laundering, finance, psychiatrists, neurologists, proceeds of crime and serious crime prevention orders.

He is adept at explaining complicated offences to juries persuasively and cross-examining witnesses called by the opposing side so the jury can reject their evidence. He only takes a small number of cases at a time so he can dedicate himself to them.

R v T and V, Murder/Manslaughter involving issues of causation, hearsay, bad character, vulnerable witnesses and the reconstruction of events using CCTV.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/family-of-loving-grandad-pay-29841504>

R v M and 28 others. Money laundering of millions of pounds of cash from crime.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/money-launderers-moved-10m-shore-11265352>

Clerk Contact details:

Dwright@lincolnhousechambers.com

David Wright – 0161 832 5701

Practice areas:

Crime & Fraud
Business Crime & Financial Regulation
Pre-Charge
Serious Crime
Murder & Manslaughter
Sexual Offences
Terrorism
Private Prosecutions
POCA, Confiscation & Restraint

R v G and 25 others, largest ever detected conspiracy to import drugs with an estimated wholesale value of £7 billion and trials lasting 23 months and 9 months involving foreign wiretaps, witnesses from abroad, limited companies, false identities, banking evidence, Encro phones, expert evidence in cell site, mobile phones, computers, handwriting, fingerprints, drugs and legal issues including hearsay, bad character, abuse of process, disclosure of unused material, Notification and PII applications.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czd4pevz474o.amp>

R v X, sophisticated fraud to rent 446 premises across 34 police force areas for use in crime such as brothels and cannabis farms, which involved liaising with 34 police forces and tracing proceeds and assets.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-50858299>

R v D, responding to appeal of Murder and Conspiracy to Kidnap convictions involving complicated factual background, reported at [2018] EWCA Crim 1147.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/gangster-jailed-life-over-kidnap-14602524>

R v A, R, H, P and M. The “British Breaking Bad” where five Manchester University students used the dark web to sell drugs all over the world in exchange for bitcoin involving evidence from the FBI and expert evidence on data bases and the dark web.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/breaking-bad-students-who-sold-12228889>

R v G, conspiracy to import tonnes of Class A drugs, involving evidence from abroad including covertly recorded conversations.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-39644249>

R v G, largest ever seizure of heroin imported to Manchester Airport.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-37611632>

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