

Anthony James

Call 2021



clerks@mountfordchambers.com



020 7936 6300

A spirited advocate with an eye for technical legal arguments, Anthony's approach regularly wins him favour with clients.

Anthony has developed a broad and varied practice in all areas of criminal law, having represented clients charged with offences of violence, drug-related crime, fraud and sexual offences. As confident in his witness handling as he is dealing with legal argument, Anthony has had success in technical submissions of no case to answer as well as arguments to stay proceedings as an abuse of process.

Anthony has a particular interest in the area of animal welfare, advising on private prosecutions and representing clients charged under the Hunting Act 2004 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006. He has also successfully represented defendants charged with offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Anthony also has significant experience in regulatory law, having undertaken a secondment with the Nursing & Midwifery Council and represented parties before various tribunals.

Prior to joining Chambers, Anthony volunteered with post-conviction charities and law clinics including Innovation of Justice and the California Innocence Project in San Diego. Anthony is also a member of Amicus ALJ, a charity providing representation for those facing the death penalty in the US. Whilst at university, he spent a year abroad in Germany, studying law.

Anthony is an advanced German speaker and has experience of advising clients in German.

Expertise

Crime

Anthony deals with cases across the spectrum of criminal law both as a junior alone and led junior. Anthony regularly deals with cases of particular seriousness given his level of call and has been praised by judges for his style and approach.

Anthony's experience of paper-heavy cases and legal knowledge has served him well as a led junior in multiple complex and serious cases in the areas of financial and organised crime.

Notable Crime cases

R v O [2024] Basildon CC

Operations Hambag, Hamknee and Slope – junior counsel (led by Richard Furlong) in a six-handed firearms conspiracy case, involving extensive telephone data and experts in firearms and gangs.

R v B [2024] Warwick CC

Represented a man of good character charged with rape and attempted rape, aided by a second defendant. Anthony advanced the defence of consent and that the two complainants had contaminated the evidence of each other. Both defendants were acquitted unanimously of all counts after an eight-day trial.

R v F [2024] Reading CC

Client acquitted after trial of controlling or coercive behaviour, involving alleged abuse over a 2-year indictment period. Anthony reviewed thousands of WhatsApp messages between the couple and deployed a considerable amount of defence-obtained evidence to argue that there were two sides to the relationship.

R v M [2024] Sheffield CC

Represented the second defendant in a seven-handed section 18 and violent disorder trial, concerning the orchestrated attack by one family of another.

R v A [2024] Croydon CC

Represented the second defendant in a two-handed fraud trial regarding the purchasing of high-value products with cloned credit cards. Anthony successfully argued that there was no case for his client to answer at half-time.

R v H [2024] Wood Green CC

Successfully represented a client who was acquitted of being the owner of a dog dangerously out of control which killed another dog. Anthony ran the statutory defence that the dog had been in the charge of another at the material time.

R v L [2024] Woolwich CC

Anthony's client of good character was acquitted of fraud, having used company money to purchase wedding invitations for a colleague.

R v B [2024] Chelmsford CC

Represented the third defendant in a five-handed; five-week trial concerning an international dog fighting ring.

R v M [2024] Woolwich CC

Junior counsel (led by Ben Hargreaves) in a multi-handed case concerning the possession of a Škorpion submachine gun and full magazine.

RSPCA v S [2023] Woolwich CC

Anthony's client faced 4 counts under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Anthony successfully stayed proceedings as an abuse of process on the basis that the RSPCA sought to renege on a previous acceptance of lesser pleas.

R v O [2023] Woolwich CC

Represented a defendant accused of the attempted kidnap and affray perpetrated by a group of four to five men. Anthony's client was the only man charged on the basis of recognition evidence of the alleged victim's family, who were at the scene. The prosecution offered no evidence following Anthony's half-time submission, which focussed on the weak and unsupported identification of Anthony's client.

R v N [2023] Cardiff CC

Operation Red Wezen Two – junior counsel (led by Tom Crowther KC) in a multi-million pound, eight-handed fraud conspiracy involving false claims on the chargeback scheme operated by WorldPay.

R v A [2023] Isleworth CC

Operation Brightly – junior counsel (led by Alexandra Scott) in a multi-million pound money laundering involving the transporting of cash to Dubai.

R v M [2023] Birmingham CC

Represented at trial a defendant charged with robbery and false imprisonment involving a pistol.

R v J [2022] Isleworth CC

Acquittal for a defendant charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A and Class B drugs following a four-day trial. The client was charged on the basis of messages found on a mobile telephone said to belong to the defendant. Anthony ran a two-fold defence, namely that there was insufficient evidence of the supply of either drug and that the attribution evidence linking the defendant to the device was unreliable.

R v K [2022] Central Criminal Court

Anthony's client was charged with handling stolen goods. Having taken Anthony's advice not to give evidence in his defence and following Anthony's speech, the defendant was unanimously acquitted by the jury.

R v N [2022] Kingston CC

Anthony won a complex legal argument on reverse burdens of proof for an offence which has never before been dealt with in case law. The relevant statute required the defendant 'to prove a reasonable excuse'. Anthony successfully argued that this express statutory exception should be read down under the Human Rights Act 1998 to impose only an evidential burden and therefore not contravene the defendant's right to a fair trial under Article 6 of the ECHR.

The Insolvency Service v R [2021] Luton MC

Prosecuted a defendant charged with re-using a prohibited company name under section 216, Insolvency Act 1986.

R v T [2021] Westminster MC

Client charged with possession of an offensive weapon and trespassing into Buckingham Palace.

Coverage

The Sun

The Daily Mail

The Guardian

R v B [2021] Maidstone CC

Secured a suspended sentence for a client charged multiple shoplifting offences and assault occasioning actual bodily harm, described by the judge as 'at the highest level of ABH, on the cusp of GBH and wounding

R v S [2021] Isleworth CC

Client received a sentence of 16 months' custody for possession of a razor blade melted into a toothbrush in prison. The sentence was below the starting point for such an offence. The judge was persuaded to grant the client 20% credit for a guilty plea entered on the first day of trial as the client had not had the opportunity to view the CCTV prior to that date.

R v H [2021] Willesden MC

Successfully persuaded the court not to order the destruction of his client's pitbull. The complex hearing involved the cross-examination of police officers and two canine experts. The client then received a fine for the offence despite significant injuries caused to both humans and dogs at the scene.

Regulation

Anthony has considerable experience representing parties before fitness to practise tribunals. Anthony undertook a 6-month secondment with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, where he gained experience in all stages of proceedings, having advised on case preparation and also presenting cases at the interim and substantive stages. Anthony's experience in the criminal courts has proved invaluable in cases involving extensive cross-examination and allegations comprising criminal convictions and dishonesty.

Notable Regulation cases

GPhC v K [2025]

Presenting on behalf of the General Pharmaceutical Council in a case of sexual assault of a subordinate.

NMC v P [2025]

Presenting on behalf of the NMC. Anthony is instructed as sole counsel in a long and complex multi-handed case involving care home mismanagement with over 70,000 pages of evidence.

NMC v C [2025]

Anthony is representing a registrant accused of sexual harassment.

GPhC v N [2025]

Anthony was instructed to represent the regulator in a private prosecution in the criminal courts for offences under the Pharmacy Order 2010.

GOC v I [2024]

Presenting on behalf of the General Optical Council. The Registrant was accused of various allegations of failing to maintain appropriate boundaries with patients and colleagues. The Panel found all allegations proved and imposed a suspension order.

HCPC v S [2023]

Successfully argued that there was no case to answer in respect of allegations relating to a psychologist failing to maintain appropriate professional boundaries. The Panel concluded that there was no case to answer on the facts in respect of three of the five allegations, due to concessions elicited by Anthony during his cross-examination of three witnesses for the HCPC. The Panel further agreed with Anthony that there was no prospect of the Panel's finding misconduct in respect of the remaining allegations.

SWE v T [2023]

The Panel dismissed the allegations of sexually inappropriate behaviour following Anthony's submissions on hearsay.

HCPC v K [2023]

Despite the panel's finding that Anthony's client had dishonestly misled others to believe he was a doctor, the registrant was given a suspension in lieu of strike off.

NMC v C

Presenting on behalf of the NMC. The Registrant was struck off having been convicted of child abduction offences. Despite the registrant's attempts to relitigate the matter, Anthony extensive cross-examination at the impairment stage led to the panel's decision to strike the registrant off the register.

Coverage:

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/ftpoutcomes/2022/august-2022/reasons-cherian-ftpesh-71329-20220803.pdf>

NMC v A

Novel case where Anthony applied to the Committee to exercise its powers to require the attendance of a reluctant witness under rule 22(5) of the Nursing and Midwifery (Fitness to Practise) Rules 2004.

NMC v M

Complex case involving the cross-over between upper tribunal findings at an appeal against a DBS barring

decision and related regulatory proceedings.

NMC v T

Case involving allegations of sexual assault, bullying and unprofessional use of social media.

Education

Bar Professional Training Course – Outstanding

University of Law, London Bloomsbury

LLM – Distinction

University of Law, London Bloomsbury

LLB Law (with German Law) – First Class Honours

University of Sheffield

Memberships

Executive Committee member of the Criminal Bar Association

Amicus ALJ

Publications

“I cannot reveal my sources”: R (LXP) v Central Criminal Court, Barrister Magazine (November 2023)

The HCPC’s New Standards, Mountford Chambers Blog (October 2023)

Case Note on R v Watson and Ors [2023] EWCA Crim 960, Lexis Nexis (October 2023)

Daniel Khalife: Sentencing Cases of Escape – The Expert Witness – Issue 51 (October 2023)

“You might very well think that...”: Opinion Evidence in Regulatory Proceedings, Mountford Chambers Blog (June

2023)

R v Cook [2023] EWCA Crim 452: A Rejection of a Harm-Based Approach, Mountford Chambers Blog (May 2023)

The collateral use of documents disclosed in civil proceedings in criminal proceedings, Young Fraud Lawyers Association Spring Newsletter (June 2022)

Perpetuating Myths: the Need for Review in the Right Areas, Carmelite Briefing (August 2021)

Tell me Lies to Tell me Why: Revisiting the Confidentiality of Jury Deliberations, Carmelite Briefing (April 2021)

BLOG: A Code to Joy: the Sentencing Act 2020 – Carmelite Briefing (December 2020)

Scholarships and Awards

Buchanan Prize (The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn)

Kennedy Scholarship (The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn)

Advocacy Scholarship (University of Law)

David Hoath Memorial Prize (University of Sheffield)

Winner of the Lincoln's Inn Moot 2020