

Benjamin Brown

Call 2013



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Ben is instructed as a led junior and junior alone. He has a wide-ranging practice encompassing organised crime, serious violence, sexual offences, regulatory offences, financial crime and general crime.

His attention to detail and assertive advocacy wins the trust of clients, whilst his pragmatic and comprehensive approach regularly leads to repeat instructions.

Ben is a passionate, highly experienced and polished orator having debated for the United Kingdom at an international level.

Before joining Chambers, Ben spent two years working at a leading American law firm in both the complex Commercial Litigation and Disputes Department and the White Collar Crime team. In particular, he worked heavily in a £110 million civil fraud claim against seventeen Defendants on behalf of the Receivers of a Cayman SPC.

Expertise

Crime

Ben has a particular expertise in cases involving serious violence and general crime and has developed a very broad practice in all areas of criminal defence.

Notable Crime cases

R v Earle [2022] EWCA Crim 881

Successfully opposed an Attorney General's Reference for a Suspended Sentence Order imposed for a client involved in an operation that involved smuggling an estimated 500kg of cocaine with a street value of £17.25m into the UK.

Acosta [2022] EWCA Crim 1641

Successfully appealed a sentence for ABH. A sentence of 33-months' custody was quashed and replaced with one of 27-months' custody.

Operation Adria, Southwark Crown Court

Led junior in a 10-week trial that resulted in the unanimous acquittal for a client accused of assisting two others charged with murder and attempted murder

Operation Wealcrest, The Central Criminal Court

Currently instructed as a led junior to King's Counsel in a murder trial, involving youth defendants.

R v JE, Guildford Crown Court

Instructed to represent a client charged with attempted murder following a stabbing at the victim's address; extensive representations were made resulting in a plea to s.18 GBH being accepted and a 6-year custodial sentence.

Operation Spoonbill, Teesside Crown Court

Secured a Suspended Sentence Order for a client involved in a Conspiracy to Supply Class A Drugs. The operation involved smuggling of an estimate 500kg of cocaine with a street value of £17.25m into the UK.

Operation Pennard, Ipswich Crown Court

Currently instructed as a led junior in a case involving large-scale supply and distribution of multiple kilograms of cocaine and cannabis. This case involves detailed analysis of 'EncroChat' Communications

R v SC, Reading Crown Court

Secured the acquittal of a client charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The defendant was alleged to have fired a rifle upon his neighbours. The Crown's case relied on CCTV and ballistic forensic evidence which required detailed analysis.

R v IZ, Winchester Crown Court

Secured the acquittal of a client charged with s.18 GBH. The attack involving several people in an alleyway in the early hours of the morning. The case involved the consideration of complex hearsay evidence following numerous witnesses leaving the country.

R v MR, Isleworth Crown Court

Secured Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity verdicts for a client charged with kidnapping a 4-year-old girl and causing serious injuries to a parent. The case involved complex considerations of the client's initial fitness to plead and detailed evidence from three consultant forensic psychiatrists.

R v DM, Woolwich Crown Court

Secured the acquittal of a man accused of committing a burglary against his severely disabled brother who suffered from learning difficulties.

R v ST, Lincoln Crown Court

Secured an acquittal for a loft insulator accused of stealing £10,000 from two elderly and vulnerable pensioners. The case involved the cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses.

R v TD, Woolwich Crown Court

Currently instructed to represent a client charged with two counts of rape alongside several co-Defendants.

R v JE, Oxford Crown Court

Represented a client charged with two counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The trial involved detailed and lengthy cross-examination of neurological experts.

R v SO, Inner London Crown Court

Following extensive written representations, the Crown were persuaded to Offer No Evidence on the day of trial for a client charged with two offences under the Data Protection Act 2018.

R v KT, Winchester Crown Court

Instructed to represent a client charged with a malicious communications offence. The case was dropped pre-trial following extensive written representations critically undermining the case brought.

R v SW, Guildford Crown Court

Secured a suspended sentence for a client charged with an affray involving the use of a knife and an attack on a

vulnerable victim with terminal cancer.

R v TC, St Albans Crown Court

Instructed to represent a client charged with multiple counts of controlling and coercive behaviour over several years.

R v LA, Harrow Crown Court

Successfully secured a Suspended Sentence Order for a client who had handled stolen goods of a very high monetary and sentimental value.

R v SK, Luton Crown Court

Represented a paranoid schizophrenic facing a three-count ABH indictment.

R v JW, Preston Crown Court

Represented a Defendant charged with possession with intent to supply large amounts of Class B drugs having been stopped driving a van from London to Preston.

R v RA, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Successfully secured a Suspended Sentence Order for a client charged with possession with intent to supply a large amount of Class A and B drugs. The case involved challenging s.73 SOCPA 2005 considerations.

R v JO, Highbury Corner Youth Court

Successfully secured the acquittal of a schoolboy charged with GBH following an attack at school. The case involved the cross-examination of numerous vulnerable youth witnesses.

Business Crime & Fraud

Ben has a broad range of experience in dealing with complex fraud cases. He was seconded to the Serious Fraud Office and assisted in several large-scale prosecutions regarding bribery and corruption across several jurisdictions.

Ben has extensive experience regarding disclosure, LPP, investigatory powers and cross-border prosecutions involving complex areas of international law.

Notable Business Crime & Fraud cases

Operation Electron, Wood Green Crown Court

Led junior representing a company director in relation to a multi-million pound VAT and Excise duty fraud. Prosecution brought by HMRC and Trading Standards relating to the supply of biodiesel in a trial lasting 6 months.

R v G, Southwark Crown Court

Instructed as disclosure counsel on large scale prosecution concerning a conspiracy to make corrupt payments to a South Korean public official. The case involved a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with an international company accepting charges of conspiracy to make corrupt payments and a failure to prevent bribery by employees.

R v WS, Reading Crown Court

Secured an acquittal for a Defendant charged with a high value fraud, where thousands of pounds worth of rare and unique jewellery was said to have been stolen and then sold on.

R v RR, Inner London Crown Court

Secured an acquittal for a Defendant charged with using thousands of pounds of counterfeit currency across numerous London establishments.

R v EA, Inner London Crown Court

Represented a Defendant at trial accused of money laundering following a large dating website scam. The case involved converting criminal property to Nigeria.

R v SI, City of London Magistrates Court

Represented a Company at an application for Further Cash Detention and was successful in greatly reducing the detention period.

R v AW, St Albans Magistrates Court

Secured a Suspended Sentence Order for a female client who had committed both Council Tax Benefit and Income Support fraud over a number of years.

Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery

Ben has been involved in a number of complex contested POCA hearings and has developed a strong skill set in analysing, processing and utilising novel points of law to challenge and reduce alleged benefit figures.

Notable Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery cases

R v PR, Croydon Crown Court

Successfully secured an extension of time for payment following a technical s.11 POCA 2002 application.

R v JN, Guildford Crown Court

Instructed in a contested POCA hearing following the Defendant's conviction for multiple high value domestic burglaries in excess of £1 million.

R v RS, Cambridge Crown Court

Instructed in a contested POCA hearing, managing to successfully reduce the available benefit figure from in excess of £70,000.

The Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis v BH (Westminster MC)

Represented the respondent in a contested cash forfeiture amounting to in excess of £230,000.

Public Law

Ben regularly accepts instructions to appear in the County Court to advise, apply for and contest applications relating to Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunctions and has experience in both applying for and defending in any subsequent contempt hearings for breach of orders made.

Notable Public Law cases

Thames Valley Police v BR, Oxford County Court

Represented the Claimant in a successful contempt application for breach of an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunction made without notice.

Thames Valley Police v BR, Oxford County Court

Successful in applying for an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunction order made without notice to be made final with the added inclusions of exclusion prohibitions.

Thames Valley Police v SS, Slough County Court

Successfully opposed an application to vary a condition of an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunction.

London Borough of Ealing v JR, Brentford County Court

Successfully represented a Defendant in response to a contempt application for breaching a prohibition of an Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunction.

Education

- Bernard Sunley Prize, Awarded by the Inner Temple (2016)
- Inner Temple Advocacy Prize, Finalist (2016)
- Oxford University Press Mooting Competition, Semi Finalist (2011)
- Durham University Mooting Cup Champion (2010)
- Bar National Mock Trial Competition, National Champion (2009)

Memberships

- Ben is a member of the Inner Temple and has sat on the Qualifying Sessions Sub-Committee.
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association (YFLA)
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)
- Thought Leaders 4 FIRE
- Member of Sport Resolutions' Legal Advice Panel
- Certified Inner Temple Advocacy Trainer
- Member of the Sport Resolutions, Safeguarding Case Management Panel (SCMP)