

# Tony Ventham

Call 1990



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Tony came to the Bar after spending twelve years as a front-line ambulanceman, working from Willesden Ambulance Station.

At the time he left, he was the senior shop-steward for the North-West Division of the London Ambulance Service. It was his experience representing union members, both in negotiations with management and at disciplinary hearings, that showed he had an aptitude for persuasive arguments and winning cases. This led to him being encouraged to join the Bar as a criminal practitioner. Lessons learnt in dealing with patients, as well as the public, during countless 999 calls, has stood him in good stead in the criminal courts.

Tony always defends, and goes the extra mile for his clients, both lay and professional. His medical background allows him to relate with empathy and understanding with those defendants who have mental or other health issues, whilst his strong sense of justice means he defends all with both compassion and vigor. His experiences in dealing with people means he is excellent at communicating with juries, which is reflected by the high number of acquittals he achieves.

## Expertise

### Crime

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Acts exclusively for the defence in multi-handed drug and violent crime cases.

Tony is a specialist in criminal defence. He combines compelling and persuasive advocacy with excellent judgment and a down-to-earth manner which is very successful with juries. A charismatic trial advocate with a significant courtroom presence, he is much sought after by both solicitors and clients.

Tony has acted as both leading junior and led junior.

## Notable Crime cases

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R v Rhys Bob [2018] Wood Green Crown Court.

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Operation Tarori, which was a multi-handed county lines Class A drug conspiracy. At the first trial, Tony achieved a hung jury, as was the case in the subsequent retrial, forcing the prosecution to finally offer no evidence and not guilty verdicts to be entered.

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R v P [2018] Southwark Crown Court.

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This was a major Class A drug “Chemsex” case which operated from a flat in Bayswater.

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R v. Olival and ors. [2019/20]

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Operation Radar involved some 21 defendants in three OCG’s that were in a conspiracy to supply and distribute high purity class A controlled drugs, namely Cocaine and Heroin, into the Lincolnshire area from South Yorkshire and Essex. Tony’s client was the only one to be acquitted after trial.

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R v Hassan Nazir [2019] Luton Crown Court.

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Possession of firearm and drugs

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R v MM [2019] Snaresbrook Crown Court.

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Gang stabbing of a fifteen-year-old, who fortunately escaped serious injury. Although the defendant, who was a youth himself, was convicted after trial, Tony managed to persuade the judge to pass a non-custodial sentence.

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R v Marlon Dale [2019] Wood Green Crown Court.

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Gang related stabbing of a schoolboy as he left school. Evidence involved “Drill videos”.

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R v Louis Adherne [2020] Maidstone Crown Court.

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Aggravated Burglary of a gated luxury apartment block, where the defendants were disguised as police officers in order to gain entry.

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## Education

- B.Sc.(Hons) Economics, London School of Economics.

## Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Haldane Society