

Robert Dacre



Year of Call: 2013

020 7353 5324

Robert specialises in crime, professional discipline, regulatory law, inquests, extradition and sports law.

His recent criminal instructions have included cases at levels of seriousness and complexity that are unusual for his call: from large drugs conspiracies to terrorism. He has appeared in his own right in the Court of Appeal and the High Court on a number of occasions.

He also accepts instructions in regulatory crime. His recent cases involve prosecutions by the Environment Agency and various local authorities for regulatory offences.

In the fields of professional discipline and inquests, Robert has a busy practice representing medical professionals. He has a wealth of experience acting for doctors and nurses at inquests. He has prosecuted and defended at cases brought by a wide range of regulators including the GMC, NMC, ACCA and RICS.

Early in his career, Robert's understanding of the needs of professional clients was developed during secondments across his practice areas: at the Environment Agency, a top-tier Sports Law firm, and working directly with the Director of the Criminal Division in Jersey.

Criminal Defence

Robert has a substantial criminal practice. He has represented clients at trial in the Crown Court across a wide spectrum of offences: from fraud, to sexual assault, to terrorism.

Robert has appeared in the Court of Appeal and High Court in his own right.

Location

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Robert also has substantial experience defending in both criminal and civil confiscation hearings.

Notable Cases:

Robert has been instructed as junior counsel in a number of significant cases. These include:

R v J

Junior counsel for a 16 year old defendant charged with attempted murder. The case arose from a gang-related shooting in East London and involved complex argument as to bad character and gang association.

R v D

Junior counsel for a young man alleged to have attempted to travel to Syria to join so-called Islamic State. His client had been discovered in the back of a lorry with a man who later pleaded guilty to an offence under s. 5 of the Terrorism Act. The case involved allegations of torture at the behest of the British Secret Service, and involved a number of ex-parte applications by the Crown. Robert appeared alone at the Court of Appeal during the case when the Crown appealed a terminatory that had been made by the trial judge. His client was acquitted following a six week trial at the Central Criminal Court.

R v H

Junior to Naeem Mian QC in a trial involving a Kurdish national alleged to have intended to join Islamic State. The case involved analysis of substantial phone evidence, and expert evidence in relation to Kurdish politics. Robert cross-examined an expert in Middle-Eastern politics.

R v S

Instructed as junior in a major trial at the Central Criminal Court involving allegations of conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office.

R v S

Junior counsel to Martin Heslop QC in a trial concerning historic allegations of cruelty and sexual assault against children.

R v K

Junior counsel in a major drugs trial, involving the importation of around 200 kilograms of cocaine.

Robert's cases as sole counsel include the following:

R v K

Sole counsel for a man charged with several offences under the Terrorism Act 2006 relating to encouragement of terrorism and dissemination of terrorist publications.

R v C

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Robert represented a man charged with an attempted s. 18 wounding. Following Robert's cross-examination of five independent witnesses, he made a successful submission of no case to answer.

Criminal Regulatory

Robert represents companies and individuals in criminal regulatory proceedings.

Early on in his practice he undertook a secondment at the Environment Agency as external counsel. He appeared on behalf of the Agency in the Magistrates' and Crown Courts, and was involved in prosecution casework across a broad range of environmental offences. He developed a detailed knowledge of environmental law, and of Environment Agency prosecutions.

His regulatory practice extends to criminal trading standards cases. He is currently instructed as prosecution junior counsel in a major trading standards case brought by Oxfordshire County Council.

Notable Cases:

GCC v a company

Represented a biomass company for several offences arising from alleged breaches of planning permission.

RBC v a company

Represented a major supermarket for breach of a tree protection order.

UU v JEM

Advised and represented a company faced with 5 offences under the Water Industry Act 1991. The case involved complex and conflicting expert evidence in relation to the risk of environmental harm.

EA v J

Instructed to defend in an Environment Agency prosecution under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

EA v M

Instructed to prosecute an individual on behalf of the Environment Agency for pollution offences.

Extradition

Robert has developed substantial experience defending and prosecuting in extradition proceedings.

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He regularly prosecutes Extradition matters at Westminster Magistrates Court, and is a member of the specialist Extradition Panel at Grade 2.

He has represented requested persons at first instance at the Magistrates' Court and at appeal hearings at the High Court. He has acted in cases involving a broad range of issues: from Article 8, to Romanian prison conditions, to abuse of process.

Notable Cases:

Estonian Judicial Authority v R

Represented an Estonian national in relation to an alleged importation of 'khat' shoots into Europe from London. The judge discharged the request on Article 8 grounds, and found that 'this is one of the rare cases where the balancing exercise should tilt towards discharging the requested person'.

Romanian Judicial Authority v R

Client discharged following appeal to the High Court in a case involving Article 8 and Article 3 of the ECHR.

Spanish Judicial Authority v M

Represented a British national requested by the Spanish authorities in relation to a credit card fraud. The Spanish Judicial Authority withdrew the warrant.

Italian Judicial Authority v K

Represented an Algerian national convicted of a number of serious drug offences in Italy a number of years ago. His warrant was discharged.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Robert has a wealth of experience representing medical professionals at inquests, including Article 2 type inquests and inquests before a jury. His recent experience includes:

- Representing a consultant obstetrician who faced criticism from an expert for her interpretation of fetal heart rate in a case involving a baby who died shortly after birth. The case involved cross-examination of two experts, and of other involved professionals. The Coroner made no criticism of Robert's client;
- Representing a general practitioner who had prescribed the combined oral contraceptive pill to a woman who subsequently died of a pulmonary embolism;
- Representing a general practitioner who agreed to the granting of a firearms license to a man with historic depression who later committed suicide;
- Representing a consultant surgeon working in a private hospital who faced criticism in respect of post-operative complications;

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- Representing a consultant psychiatrist in relation to a patient who committed suicide after discharge from hospital;
- Representing a nurse who faced criticism for failure to perform CPR on a patient who was in cardiac arrest.

Private Prosecution

Robert has experience conducting private prosecutions for companies and individuals. His recent experience includes prosecuting a range of cases for the Royal Mail Group. He is currently instructed to prosecute a series of conspiracies to steal in a case involving the large scale theft of financial mail by Royal Mail employees and its supply to criminal third parties.

Professional Discipline

Robert has substantial experience defending medical professionals before their regulators. He has represented doctors and nurses before the MPTS and the NMC in cases across the spectrum of seriousness.

His work has included appealing against decisions by the GMC to issue warnings to doctors.

He has also been instructed to prosecute cases for a number of regulators: including the NMC, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the National Council for Teaching and Leadership.

Public Prosecution

Robert is a Grade 2 Prosecutor.

He has been instructed in a number of trials across the full spectrum of criminal offences. His most recent instruction was as prosecution junior (to Sarah Przybylska) in a multi-handed stabbing in Ipswich.

He was also recently seconded to the Law Officers Department in Jersey, where he directly advised the Director of the Criminal Division (the Jersey equivalent of the Director of Public Prosecutions). His work there including the drafting of advices on complex criminal cases, reviewing disclosure and preparing matters for trial. It also included advisory work in relation to prosecutions brought in relation to Health and Safety and other regulatory offences.

He has also previously been instructed by the CPS HQ's Specialist Fraud Division as disclosure junior in a major fraud prosecution.

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Sports Law

Robert has experience acting in sports related matters, particularly where they involve disciplinary proceedings.

He has been instructed to prosecute for the FA.

Last year he was seconded to a top-tier Sports law firm. His experience there has included work with a number of sports governing bodies, from the French Rugby Federation to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. It has also involved cases at a range of tribunals including the FIFA DRC and CAS.

Appointments & Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers
- Health & Safety Lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers

Education & Qualifications

- 2013: BPTC, City Law School
- 2012: Queen Mother Scholarship, Middle Temple
- 2012: BA (Hons) Law, Magdalene College, Cambridge
- 2011: Astbury Scholarship, Middle Temple
- 2010: BA (Hons) History (First), Exeter College, Oxford
- 2009: Simon Pointer Prize for History
- 2008: Ellison Scholarship

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