

Robert Dacre

"Robert is polished and assured. His written and oral advocacy is top drawer and he has the capacity to cope with large quantities of case papers and drill down to what is actually relevant. He is a rising star of the criminal Bar."
Legal 500 UK 2024



Year of Call: 2013

020 7353 5324

Robert specialises in crime, business crime and financial services, professional discipline, inquests and regulatory law.

He is regularly instructed in complex and serious crime. His recent work has involved high profile terrorism and murder cases.

He has been involved in a number of significant cases across the spectrum of business crime, including high value and large scale fraud, corruption and misconduct in public office, cheating the public revenue and money laundering. He advises companies and individuals in complex and sensitive cases.

He also specialises in regulatory crime. His recent cases involve prosecutions by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

He also has a busy professional discipline practice. He appears before a wide variety of tribunals including the MPTS, GDC, GOC, ACCA, ICAEW and RICS.

He is frequently instructed to represent the interests of hospital trusts and individual doctors at inquests.

What others say:

"Robert is polished and assured. His written and oral advocacy is top drawer and he has the capacity to cope with large quantities of case papers and drill down to what is actually relevant. He is a rising star of the criminal Bar." – Legal 500 UK 2024

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

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Business Crime & Financial Services

Robert has developed a significant financial crime practice encompassing fraud, corruption and money laundering. His recent instructions have included factually and legally complex prosecutions brought against business professionals and companies alike.

Notable Cases:

Operation Agave

Sole counsel representing a businessman and company director who acted as introducer to a multi-million pound investment scheme. Robert's client was acquitted following successful submissions that there was no case to answer.

R v H

Sole counsel to a senior IT executive who is alleged to have embezzled more than £500,000 from a household name company, and to have thereafter agreed significant contract extension without appropriate authorization.

R v A company

Sole counsel prosecuting a company and individual in respect of a £3 million counterfeiting scheme.

R v X

Junior counsel in a very large case relating to corruption and misconduct in public office.

Operation Obi-Wan

Junior counsel in hidden income and VAT fraud.

Operation Ark

Junior counsel for the prosecution in conspiracy to defraud in respect of a group of companies with a turnover of over £46 million.

Operation Mickey

Junior counsel for a company director in a large insurance fraud.

Operation Capparis

Sole counsel prosecuting in a private prosecution of a credit card fraud in which there were 48 victims. The fraud had a value of over £100,000.

R (WRI) v NAA

Sole counsel in private prosecution brought on behalf of leading brand in respect of a counterfeiting operation with a value of over £800,000.

X v ZH and others

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Advising in a private prosecution relating to an alleged fraud with a value of over £2 million.

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 terrorism.

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

In recent years, Robert has developed significant experience both defending and prosecuting in serious fraud. His instructions have included a multi-million pound 'cash for crash' insurance fraud, one of the largest ever trading standards prosecutions for conspiracy to defraud, and a large-scale VAT fraud.

Notable Cases:

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

R v P

Sole counsel in prosecution relating to several offences under the Terrorism Act 2006.

R v W

Junior counsel in high profile murder trial.

R v LG

Junior counsel for a 17 year old defendant charged with the joint enterprise murder of a member of a rival gang.

R v JP

Junior counsel in multi-handed murder trial.

R v MM

Sole counsel for a young man charged with offences under the Terrorism Act 2006.

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.

Criminal Regulatory

Robert represents companies and individuals in criminal regulatory proceedings, particularly those brought by the HSE and the Environment Agency. He has experience of providing early advice in respect of prosecutions brought under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He accepts instructions in all matters involving alleged breaches of criminal regulations including the HSWA, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety)

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Order 2005, Housing Act 2004, Security Industry Act 2001 and Food Safety Act 1990.

He prides himself on quickly identifying the crux of complex regulatory cases, and on providing strategic and commercial advice.

His regulatory practice extends to criminal trading standards cases.

Notable Cases:

HSE v a company

Represented a construction company in respect of charges brought under the HSWA.

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 environmental protection regulations.

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.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

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

- Representing a hospital trust at a jury inquest in respect of a young man who had been sectioned under the Mental Health Act, and gained access to a ward drug cabinet.
- Representing a hospital trust at an inquest in respect of a patient who absconded from a psychiatric ward before being killed in a road traffic accident.
- 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 consultant surgeon working in a private hospital who faced criticism in respect of post-

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- operative complications;
- Representing a consultant psychiatrist in relation to a patient who committed suicide after discharge from hospital;

Private Prosecution

Robert has experience conducting private prosecutions for companies and individuals. His recent experience has included the prosecution of large scale fraud and counterfeiting cases. He is a member of the PPA.

Notable Cases:

Operation Capparis

Sole counsel prosecuting in a private prosecution of a credit card fraud in which there were 48 victims. The fraud had a value of over £100,000.

R (WRI) v NAA

Sole counsel in private prosecution brought on behalf of leading brand in respect of a counterfeiting operation with a value of over £800,000.

X v ZH and others

Advising in a private prosecution relating to an alleged fraud with a value of over £2 million.

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.

His recent cases have included:

- Representing a doctor accused of cheating during their MRCP exam
- Representing a doctor alleged to have dishonestly submitted patient details during an audit.
- Representing a doctor accused of a sexual assault during a physical examination.
- Prosecuting an accountant for dishonest conduct.
- Representing a student midwife for various matters including dishonesty before a student disciplinary committee at their university.

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Public Prosecution

Robert is a Grade 3 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 Christopher Foulkes) in a multi-handed conspiracy to murder involving a firearm.

Early in his career, Robert was 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.

Accreditations



Appointments & Memberships

- CPS Advocate Panel: Level 3
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Private Prosecutors Association

Education & Qualifications

- 2013: BPTC, City Law School
- 2012: Queen Mother Scholarship, Middle Temple
- 2012: BA (Hons) Law, Magdalene College, Cambridge

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- 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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