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## Practice Profile

***Paul Walker specialises in all areas of criminal law, especially serious fraud involving VAT, diversion, Inland Revenue, mortgage, advance fee and other commercial fraud activities, drug offences, sexual offences, confiscation hearings and crimes of violence (including murder, GBH and violent disorder). He has particular expertise in dealing with young defendants and the cross-examination of young and vulnerable witnesses.***

Amongst Paul's attributes is his analysis of CCTV footage and he has been singled out for praise on a number of occasions by Judges, for his close scrutiny of this type of evidence.

Road traffic allegations are an area in which Paul excels and he successfully defended in cases of causing death by both dangerous and careless driving. Successful arguments in respect of special reasons and exceptional hardship have enabled clients of Paul's to retain their driving licences.

Paul has represented a number of professional and semi-professional footballers.

He has expertise in the Coroners Court having represented both the family of the deceased and witnesses called to give evidence.

Paul has appeared in Prison Disciplinary hearings on behalf of prison inmates and made applications at the High Court for certificates of inadequacy under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

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## Areas of Practice

- Serious & Organised Crime
- Sexual Offences
- Road Traffic
- Inquests
- General Crime
- Appellate
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- Homicide & Corporate Manslaughter
- Military Law
- Cyber Crime
- Public Access

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## Recent Cases

### **R v. I [Huntingdon] 2017**

Conspiracy to obtain criminal property

Paul Walker led Jonathan Reuben in this complex conspiracy to obtain criminal property. A £300,000 fraud which bore remarkable similarities to the film 'Catch me if you can'.

### **R v. Gutteridge [Portsmouth] 2016**

Possession of Class A drugs

Paul Walker acted for this defendant, cleared of possession with intent to supply cocaine. Mr Gutteridge was found in possession of £5,000 worth of 87% pure cocaine. On his mobile telephone were messages relating to drugs supply. The Crown's drug's expert, Michael Ellis, was convinced that Mr Gutteridge was involved in the supply of drugs and told the jury so. Paul suggested a number of alternative theories to the expert in his cross-examination. The defence was that he was about to throw away the drugs and the messages related to his management of an escort agency. Mr Ellis rubbished any suggestion that his conclusions were wrong. Mr Gutteridge was unanimously acquitted.

### **R v. B [Guildford YC] 2016**

Rape of 6 year old boy

Paul Walker defended in this rape of a 6 year old boy. The defendant was a 15 year old boy. The case was particularly challenging as the defendant suffered from extreme learning difficulties. Paul successfully argued that he should benefit from an intermediary. Although convicted, Paul was able to persuade the District Judge to impose a non-custodial sentence.

### **R v. Walker [Lewes] 2016**

Violent Disorder

Paul Walker defended in this Violent Disorder. Mr Walker was said to have been at the heart of an "orgy of violence" that followed a March for England in Brighton. The CCTV showed Mr Walker hitting people with an umbrella and charging across The Lanes at a rival group. Once the CCTV had been scrutinised by Paul and re-presented to the jury from the defence perspective Mr Walker was acquitted.

### **R v. Searle [Lewes] 2015**

Gangland Double Murder

Paul Walker was led by Peter Rouch QC in this Gangland double murder case, the notorious Hastings murders dating back to 2001. Trial involved the consideration of thousands of pages of evidence collated over a period of 14 years.

### **R v. Traynor [Taunton] 2015**

Rape

Paul Walker successfully represented this man charged with rape. The defendant accepted entering the bedroom of a woman and touching her leg as she slept. The complainant had alleged that Mr Traynor had demanded to have sex. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty less than 30 minutes after retiring.

### **R v. Ymeraj & ors [Portsmouth] 2015**

Paul Walker acted as eading junior for the "Albanian connection" in a 14 handed conspiracy to supply cocaine trial. The case concerned a "multi million pound" drugs operation and lasted for 8 weeks. Instructed by Edward Hayes LLP, junior Hannah Smith.

### **R v. Spruhan [Chichester] 2015**

Arson with Intent to Endanger Life

Paul Walker successfully represented this defendant charged with Arson with intent to endanger life. Mr Spruhan had poured petrol over his sister-in-law in a busy Waitrose store. He had then lit the petrol, which burned until a brave shopper somehow put out the fire. Following a trial and detailed analysis of the CCTV, Mr Spruhan (who did not give evidence) was found not guilty of arson with intent to endanger life.

### **R v. Carella [Hove] 2015**

Child Prostitution

Paul Walker represented this defendant who was cleared after a Multi-handed child prostitution trial. Mr Carella was D2, his case necessitated a cut-throat defence with D1, who was represented by a QC. Mr Carella was found Not Guilty, whilst all the other main defendants, including D1 were convicted.

### **R v. Zharra & ors [Portsmouth] 2014**

Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs

Paul Walker led Charlotte Hole for the 2nd defendant in this large-scale conspiracy to supply cocaine, an 8 week "*professional drug dealing*" case. Paul Walker persuaded the crown to serve the full telephonic evidence totalling 20,000 pages. Despite his conviction and the crown's allegation that he was a "major player" Mr Zharra received a sentence of only 8 years imprisonment following Paul's plea in mitigation. The 1st defendant received a sentence of 15 years.

### **R v. Miller [Portsmouth] 2014**

Attempted Murder

Paul Walker defended Mr Miller a 76 year old retired businessman who had plunged a kitchen knife into his wife's back. He had said "you will die now". When the police arrived Mr Miller had told them that he had tried to kill his wife. Mr Miller was acquitted of attempted murder.

### **R v. CC [Southampton] 2013**

Child Abuse

Paul Walker led Charlotte Hole in this trial involving multiple counts of sexual and physical abuse of 7 children. Defendant had significant learning difficulties. Analysis of large volumes of social services and school records was necessary.

## Notable Cases

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### R v. Noon [Portsmouth] 2011

International Paedophile Ring

Paul Walker led Rishi Nathwani for the main defendant in this 6 week international paedophile ring trial. Their client was the mother of the abused children and the case attracted worldwide publicity. The Crown's suggested starting point upon sentence was 13 years imprisonment. The Recorder of Portsmouth's sentence, following mitigation, was 4 years imprisonment.

Following an Attorney General's reference, the Court of Appeal in March 2012 increased the Sentence of this defendant to 8 years.