



William Davis

Call 2003

Practice Profile

Ranked as a Leading Junior in Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law in the Legal 500 2018.

William Davis is an experienced criminal advocate with particular expertise in fraud and confiscation. He is in demand to prosecute for the CPS Specialist Fraud Division and the Serious Fraud Office, and is instructed by the Civil Aviation Authority, the Health and Safety Executive, the Office of Rail and Road, and Westminster City Council. He has appeared at Courts Martial and before the Parole Board, and has extensive experience of professional disciplinary work. His courtroom manner is composed and authoritative and he inspires confidence in both his professional and lay clients. He is secretary of the Criminal Bar Association Education and Training Committee, and a member of the Fraud Lawyers Association and the South Eastern Circuit.

Significant instructions for 2018 include: R v. LM and Others – Leading for the Prosecution in first ever prosecution for fraud against Redundancy Payments Service; R v. TD and Others – Leading Prosecution Counsel in multi-million pound prosecution for duty evasion; R v. Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd – Prosecution Counsel in health and safety prosecution following level crossing accident; and R v. AM and Others – Defence Counsel in £15m alleged money laundering.

Areas of Practice

- Appellate
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Cyber Crime
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- General Crime
- Homicide & Corporate Manslaughter
- Military Law
- Prosecution
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Sexual Offences

Appointments:

- CPS Panel Advocate - Grade 4
- CPS Specialist Panel - Rape & Serious Sexual Offences
- CPS Specialist Panel - Fraud
- CPS Specialist Panel - Serious Crime
- SFO Panel of Counsel - List B
- Regulatory List of Specialist Advocates in Health & Safety and Environmental Law - List C

News

Legal 500 2018

25 October 2018

Chambers are delighted to again be recognised by the Legal 500 with a record fourteen members featuring in their latest edition and again plaudits for the clerking team. Rankings include General Crime, Fraud and Regulatory & Discipline.

The 'fantastic' 5KBW has dealt with many high-profile criminal cases over the last year and is 'fast becoming a leading chambers thanks to the ability and experience of its counsel'. 'I have yet to find their weak link,' said one solicitor.

The 'highly efficient and friendly' clerks' room 'can be relied on to provide you the best barrister to suit your client's needs'. The 'inimitable' Lee Hughes-Gage 'epitomises all of these high qualities'.

[Link to 2018 edition here.](#)

Recent Cases

Operation Eric [Chelmsford] 2018

£3.6m Alcohol duty & VAT evasion fraud

William Davis led Dickon Reid in the prosecution of five defendants charged with a £3.6m alcohol duty and VAT evasion fraud. The ringleaders were importing beer, wine and spirits from Europe using sophisticated mirror loads. Evidentially, the case was complicated and comprised numerous strands including surveillance, phone evidence, CCTV, business records and expert evidence relating to cell site, handwriting and tachographs. The two leading defendants received sentences close to the statutory maximum. Instructed by CPS Special Casework.

[News Report Here](#)

R v. IH & ors [C.C.C.] 2017

Perverting the Course of Justice / Homicide

William Davis was defence Counsel for a Defendant charged with perverting the course of justice. The Defendant was accused of enabling the main suspect in a murder enquiry to evade police in the hours following the murder and to avoid arrest for a period of five months by making false witness statements and arranging accommodation for him.

R v Ruta Sperskaite & ors [Croydon] 2017

Sham Marriages Prosecution

William Davis was Instructed as Junior Defence Counsel for one of six Defendants charged with conspiracy to facilitate unlawful immigration by arranging sham marriages. The Defendants were Lithuanian and arranged for women to travel to the UK to marry non-EEA nationals.

Evening Standard report here.

Telegraph report here.

Daily Mail report here.

R v. Giang Huong Tran [Stafford] 2017

Prosecutions brought under the Modern Slavery Act 2015

William Davis was Defence Counsel in one of the first prosecutions brought under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for subjecting victims to forced or compulsory labour. The Defendants were Vietnamese and owned nail bars in Bath and Burton-upon-Trent. The police found young Vietnamese girls working there who had entered the UK illegally and were alleged to be working without pay in return for food and accommodation. The case is to be the subject of a BBC documentary series in 2018.

BBC report here.

R v Mehdi Khashi [Chelmsford] 2016

Rape, sexual activity with a child, inciting prostitution, and supplying controlled drugs.

William Davis was Junior Defence Counsel for one of a group of Defendants accused of serious sexual offences against three different complainants, including rape, sexual activity with a child, inciting prostitution, and supplying controlled drugs.

News report here.

R v Tahir Mahmood [Leeds] 2016

25 Defendants alleged to have committed serious sexual offences against young girl.

William Davis was Defence Counsel for one of 25 Defendants alleged to have committed serious sexual offences against a vulnerable young girl. The investigation resulted in a series of four trials heard in 2016, and formed part of the pilot scheme for pre-recorded cross-examination.

BBC report here.

R v Mirza Hussain & ors [Croydon] 2015

Conspiracy to facilitate a breach of immigration law

William Davis was Junior Prosecution Counsel. The Defendants were charged with conspiracy to facilitate a breach of immigration law. They conspired to provide forged Dutch passports to non-EU nationals enabling them to make false applications for Home Office residence certificates.

News report here.

R v Anthony Okoh [Woolwich] 2014

Multi-handed prosecution for conspiracy to facilitate a breach of immigration law

William Davis was Junior Prosecution Counsel in a multi-handed prosecution for conspiracy to facilitate a breach of immigration law. The Defendants established and ran a company providing security guards to the construction industry. They employed illegal immigrants to work as security guards and exploited them, requiring them to work excessively long hours for paltry wages.

News Report here.

R v Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust [Maidstone] 2014

HSE Prosecution of NHS Trust

William Davis was Prosecution Counsel instructed by the Health and Safety Executive. A patient was injured during routine surgery. He received severe burns from a warming mattress on the operating table when a saline bag was placed on the temperature sensor, causing the mattress to overheat. The subsequent investigation revealed serious failures in the procurement process for the equipment, and in the training offered to staff.

BBC report here.

N.M.C v Janice Harry [NMC] 2013

Fitness to Practice Prosecution

William Davis was Instructed by the NMC to prosecute the former Director of Nursing at Mid-Staffordshire NHS Trust at a fitness to practise hearing. The Registrant was found guilty of misconduct for, inter alia, failing to ensure adequate staffing levels and an appropriate skill mix at Stafford Hospital resulting in dangerous conditions for patients

BBC report here.