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## Practice Profile

***James Brown is a senior junior who combines meticulous preparation with a good manner and sound judgement. He is an extremely effective advocate, on both sides of the courtroom.***

James is instructed in long multi-handed trials and other serious cases. The vast majority of his practice is leading junior work. He both prosecutes and defends.

On the prosecution side, James has a strong practice in financial crime. In the recent past he has prosecuted complex immigration frauds, plant machinery frauds, as well as allegations of money laundering and “car ringing.” James has for many years also been instructed to prosecute murders, police corruption (both being led by Queen’s Counsel), attempted murders and other cases of serious violence. These have included the successful prosecution of two attempted murders involving complex psychiatric evidence. James has also prosecuted three manslaughter trials, appearing alone. In other prosecution work, James also frequently leads in “county lines” drugs conspiracies, large scale importations and kidnaps for ransom.

On the defence side, James has a growing practice, particularly in financial crime. He has been instructed by a range of professional clients in the recent past to represent individuals charged with complex money laundering, attempted murder, child abduction, sexual assault, drugs supply and firearms offences and cigarettes importation.

James's Privacy Policy can be downloaded [here](#).

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## Areas of Practice

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

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## CPS Panels:

- General Crime- Grade 4
- Serious Crime- Grade 4
- RASSO- Grade 4
- Fraud- Grade 4

## 2019 Cases Include:

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- R v PT. Attempted murder trial. Leading junior. (2019)
- R v PG and 4 others. Conversion of Criminal Property. Leading junior. (2019)
- R v LG and 5 others. "County lines" drugs conspiracy. Leading junior. (2019)
- R v BA. Class A drugs conspiracy. Leading junior. (2019)
- R v KM. Sexual assault by custody staff. (2019)

## News

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### 5KBW wins "Crime Set of the Year 2024" at the prestigious Chambers UK Bar Awards

15 November 2024

We are absolutely delighted to announce that 5 King's Bench Walk was awarded "Crime Set of the Year Award 2024" at the Chambers UK Bar Awards held at Old Billingsgate on 15 November. This is Chambers' 5th nomination for the prestigious Chambers UK Bar Awards in the field of Crime. We are very proud to have won this award for the second time in 5 years.

Commenting on the awards, Heads of Chambers at 5 King's Bench Walk, Sarah Forshaw KC and Mark Heywood KC said:

*"We are absolutely delighted that 5KBW has been recognised once again as the UK's pre-eminent Crime Set. It is testament to the outstanding ability of every member of our Chambers, to our excellent clerking services and to our administrative staff. The shortlists and ultimate awards are the result of extensive research by Chambers and Partners. We could not be more proud.*

*That our own Louise Oakley also carried away the award for 'Crime Junior of the Year' is the icing on the cake. She is, quite simply, a star."*



### Semi-pro Footballers Jailed for Drug Conspiracy

6 June 2024

Six former semi-professional football players have been jailed for their parts in a conspiracy to supply over 2.7

tonnes of cocaine. The organised criminal gang, headed by Adam Pepera, used encrypted messaging and a network of storage units to supply cocaine worth in excess of £200m. One of the gang members, Luke Skeete, was initially stopped by police in possession of 8 kilos of cocaine. Analysis of his phone, and extensive investigation, led to police uncovering the wider network involved in the enterprise. Pepera received a sentence of 24 years, reduced from 29 years for his guilty plea, with sentences for the others ranging from 13 years to 18 years 9 months.

James Brown, leading Phoebe Bragg, appeared on behalf of the Crown. The case was investigated by the Metropolitan Police's Specialist Crime Unit and prosecuted by the CPS.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/footballers-cocaine-luke-skeete-acton-chiswick-london-metropolitan-police-b1160439.html>

<https://news.sky.com/story/six-semi-pro-footballers-jailed-for-over-100-years-after-selling-cocaine-worth-up-to-260m-13144324>

## Nightclub Murder

11 November 2023

Danny Robinson KC and James Brown prosecuted three defendants for the murder of a man outside a nightclub in Ilford, East London.

After an 8-week trial at the Central Criminal Court, two defendants were convicted of murder and the third was found guilty of manslaughter.

The two defendants were sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 25 years. The third defendant will be sentenced on the 22nd November.

Read more here:

[Two jailed for life over Ilford nightclub killing - BBC News](#)

## National Health Service Fraud & Bribery

9 March 2023

After a three month trial, James Brown and Rupert Kent secured convictions in a National Health Service fraud and bribery case involving dishonest procurement practices operated by an employee of, and suppliers to, an NHS Trust. Instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service's Serious Economic Organised Crime and International Directorate.'

## Recent Cases

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### R v AT & Ors [Central Criminal Court] 2022

Unlawful killing following mass brawl in south – East London

Charlotte Newell QC led James Brown in this trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Mum's life 'shattered into pieces' after Chilsehurst plumber Frankie Bulbrook chased and killed in mass brawl (msn.com)

### **Operation Hillside [CCC] 2020**

Attempted Murder of Police Officers

James Brown led Ben Holt for the Crown in this high profile trial involving the attempted murder of Police Officers during a gun fight following an armed 'car jacking'. The defendant was convicted by a jury and received a life sentence.

News report here.

Link to Met Police report.

### **R v. OH [Isleworth] 2018**

Manslaughter of homeless man at Westminster Shelter

James Brown acted for the Crown in this trial involving the the killing of a homeless man at Westminster Shelter following a drunken argument.

News report here.

### **R v. O & ors [Wood Green] 2018**

"County Lines" Drugs Conspiracy

James Brown was lead Counsel for the Crown in this "County lines" drugs conspiracy, 5 week trial in August 2018.

News report here.

### **R v. F & ors [Southwark] 2018**

Importation of 100 kilos of cocaine by helicopter

James Brown was leading Counsel for the Crown in this case involving the Importation of 100 kilos of cocaine by helicopter, landing at luxury hotels in Kent.

News report here.

### **R v. K & ors [Snaresbrook] 2018**

Multi Kilo class A Drugs conspiracy

James Brown prosecuted this East London organised crime network for a Multi-kilo class A drugs conspiracy at a 5 week trial at Snaresbrook CC in January 2018.