



ST. PAULS CHAMBERS

Jonathan Devlin



Born: 15th April 1955
Education: LL.B. (Hons) Leeds 1977
Call: November 1978 Inner Temple
CPS Grade 4 and RASSO monitored and approved.
Member of North Eastern Circuit.

Field Of Practice:

General Common Law with particular emphasis on Crime, Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence.

Crime: In the field of criminal litigation, regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in cases of homicide, serious fraud, sexual allegations, kidnapping, robbery and offences involving drugs. Expertise in cases involving similar fact evidence, joint enterprise, bad character, Public Interest Immunity and mental health.

Licensing: Represented local authorities and commercial organisations in off and on sale applications/ appeals.

Regulatory Work: Food Safety – defended principal defendant in 4 month trial concerning sale of unfit meat (chicken and turkey) into the human food chain – R v Boid & others.

Trade Descriptions/ Copyright: Prosecuted retired police superintendent and others for “pirating” 1000s of CDs – R v Stewart & others (8 week trial).

Road Traffic: Dealt with a number of cases involving vehicle licensing/ drivers’ hours/ overloading

Nature of Practice

Jonathan Devlin has been a trial advocate in practice from Chambers in Leeds since 1979, having been called to the Bar in 1978. He has developed a mainly criminal practice, although he has had considerable experience in civil litigation (personal injury, clinical negligence and professional negligence) and licensing. He is said to have an ability to communicate well with defence clients. He is able to put the victims of crime, particularly those who have been the victims of sexual offences, at ease when explaining the Court process.

His criminal practice is divided between prosecution and defence instructions. He has been instructed by both prosecution and defence in cases of different levels of gravity up to and including homicide. In prosecuting cases of homicide and serial rape, he has borne the responsibility of assessing large quantities of unused material for the purposes of disclosure and public interest immunity applications. In one case in particular (allegations of serial rape, murder and attempted murder), the offences covered a period of some 15 years, the investigations into which had generated tens of thousands of actions, messages, officers' reports and other documents.

With a medical upbringing (both of his parents having been doctors in general practice), he has a particular interest in criminal and civil cases involving medical issues and causation.

He has particular expertise in cases involving allegations of child sex abuse (both current and historic) and cases involving the possession, making and distribution of indecent images of children.

He has both prosecuted and defended cases of infant homicide involving issues relating to the causation of brain injuries suffered by the victims.

Over the past few years, he has both prosecuted or participated in the prosecution of the following offences:-

- *R v Shanks & 8 Others*, Teesside Crown Court, 1996: A 9 week fraud trial.
- *R v Blackburn*, Leeds Crown Court, 1998: Double Murder.
- *R v Barwell*, Teesside Crown Court, 1999: Allegations of Serial Rape, Kidnapping and Attempted Murder between 1982 and 1995.
- *R v Kershaw*, Leeds Crown Court, 2000: Murder, "Shaken Baby Syndrome".
- *R v Pang & Hoang*, Leeds Crown Court, 2001: Murder.
- *R v Hargreaves*, Leeds Crown Court, 2002: 6 week Murder Trial.
- *Operation Ashford*, Leeds Crown Court, 2002: The Prosecution of 26 Defendants, charged in relation to Public Disorder in Leeds in June 2001. (Junior alone)
- *R v Thompson*, Leeds Crown Court, 2003: 5 week trial for series of robberies. (Junior alone).
- *R v Bieber*, Newcastle Crown Court, 2004: Murder of Police Constable Ian Broadhurst.

- *R v Howden & Barrett*, Leeds Crown Court, 2005: Murder of 3 year old Lakeeta Barrett.
- *R v Burns*, Leeds Crown Court, 2005: Murder of prostitute, followed by dismemberment and burial of victim. (Leading Junior).
- *R v Brough & Others*, Hull Crown Court, 2006: Conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. (Junior alone).
- *R v Shah & Others*, Newcastle Crown Court, 2006: Murder of Police Constable Sharon Beshenivsky.
- *R v Singh*, Bradford Crown Court, 2007: Murder. (Junior alone).
- *R v Hewitson & Others*, Grimsby Crown Court, 2008: Rape, false imprisonment and Section 18 grievous bodily harm with intent. Vulnerable female held captive by four defendants, one of whom raped her, and all of whom participated in forcing her to drink urine and eat contaminated food, attacked her physically and forced a bottle up her vagina. (Leading Junior).
- *R v Mills*, Sheffield Crown Court, 2008: Murder. (Junior alone).

Over a similar period of time, he has defended or participated in the defence of the following offences:-

- *R v Gaffney & Others*, Sheffield Crown Court, 1996: Murder, described as the “execution by shooting of a police informer”.
- *R v D’Amato & Others*, Bradford Crown Court, 1997: Conspiracy to Import Class A Drugs.
- *R v Cooper*, Sheffield Crown Court, 2000: Conspiracy to Evade the Duty on the Importation of Cigarettes, value £1m+ (Junior alone).
- *R v Boid & Others*, Kingston upon Hull Crown Court, 2000: Conspiracy to defraud and to Contravene Food Safety Legislation – a 4 month trial involving the wholesale distribution of unfit meat into the human food chain, the defendant being acquitted.
- *R v Southwart & Others*, Leeds Crown Court, 2002: Commercial Fraud, the defendant being acquitted on the Judge’s direction at the conclusion of the prosecution case.
- *R v Wood*, Leeds Crown Court, 2003: Manslaughter by injection of heroin. (Junior alone).
- *R v Turner*, Kingston upon Hull Crown Court, 2003: Conspiracy to defraud financial institutions and customers by garage proprietor over 8 year period and involving over £8 million. (Junior alone).
- *R v Beckett*, Kingston upon Hull Crown Court, 2004: Murder plea, the murder of teenager Laura Torn.
- *R v Beardmore*, Sheffield Crown Court, 2006: Murder of prostitute, followed by concealment of body.

With particular reference to confiscation proceedings, he has been instructed in the following cases, amongst others, by the defence:-

- *R v Boid & Others* – (as above).
- *R v D'Amato & Others* – (as above).

And by the prosecution:-

- *R v Brown & Others* – (as above).
- *R v Brough & Others* – (as above).
- *R v Daniels*, Grimsby Crown Court, 2009: Money laundering to extent of £300,000 plus.

Forthcoming cases:-

- *R v CKB Builders & Others*, Sheffield Crown Court: Prosecution of owners, managers and nurses at home for elderly mentally ill, the allegations being breaches of health and safety legislation and neglect/ ill-treatment of residents. (Leading Junior).
- *R v Skudder*, Bradford Crown Court: Murder. (Junior alone).