



Alfred Underwood

Called: 2016

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Alfred Underwood specialises in criminal and regulatory law.

His criminal practice consists of being instructed by either the prosecution or defence in a range of offences including: armed robbery, arson endangering life, wounding, serious violence, threats to kill, drug conspiracies, driving offences, burglary, domestic violence, human trafficking and theft offences.

He is regularly instructed as either junior alone or led junior, whereby he has been involved in several complex matters. His practice has meant that he appears in all criminal courts from the Magistrates through to the Court of Appeal.

Alfred also has experience representing local authorities, parents for education offences, animal owners in RSCPA prosecutions, business owners in relation to trading standards prosecutions and acting in Proceeds of Crime Act proceedings.

He has built a growing Regulatory practice. Over the years he has worked on investigations into anti-money laundering compliance and tax fraud, for both HMRC and the Financial Conduct Authority.

Alfred has appeared regularly in professional misconduct matters for the Nursing and Midwifery Council. In 2020 he was instructed by several clients to provide advice at looking at opportunities to market legal cannabinoid products in the UK and EU.

Before joining Chambers, Alfred worked for Lawyers Without Borders, a US based non-profit organisation that promotes pro bono work and facilitates the training of lawyers, judges and law enforcement across the world. As part of this work, Alfred travelled to Tanzania to assist with an anti-human-trafficking training programme.

Specialist Areas

Criminal Defence

Fraud & Financial Crime

Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation

Inquests & Inquiries

Public Law

Tax Appeals

Criminal Prosecution

Private Prosecution

Professional Discipline

Regulatory Law

Courts Martial & Military Law

Sports Law



Cases

Asset Forfeiture & Confiscation

HMRC v K and U – Ipswich Magistrates' Court – Represented clients in an application by the Revenue for forfeiture of £20,000 cash seized at the airport as they were departing for Turkey.

R v PG – Isleworth Crown Court – Led as junior counsel in POCA proceedings following client's conviction at trial for conspiracy to steal plant machinery. Valuable benefit of the offences was said to be several hundred thousand pounds. Following two day hearing, the client was made subject to a confiscation order of £1.

Criminal Defence

R v CA – Inner London Crown Court – Sexual Assault – The prosecution alleged that the client, an openly gay man in his 30s, lured the complainant, a teenage college student whom he had just met, into the toilets of a busy restaurant and sexually assaulted him. The client always maintained that any touching was consensual and that he believed the complainant was fully aware he was being invited into the bathroom for sex. After a five day trial, the client was acquitted unanimously by the jury.

R v TPF & Others – Croydon Crown Court – Firearms – Client charged along with two other defendants with possession of firearms and ammunition, which were discovered in a car belonging to one of the co-defendants. Case turned on the sufficiency of the DNA evidence linking the client to the items. Following cross-examination of the prosecution's DNA expert and legal arguments at trial, the judge ruled that the client had no case to answer.

R v DK & Others – Central Criminal Court – Conspiracy to Murder – Led as junior counsel for one of three defendants jointly charged with conspiring to murder one of the masterminds of the 2006 Securitas depot robbery (The UK's largest cash robbery) while he was staying at an address in North London owned by a well-known comedian. The victim was shot twice through the kitchen window in July 2019. All three defendants were separately involved in high value cash burglaries, including the theft of Chinese antiquities from the Museum of Far Eastern Art in Geneva, Switzerland, which featured at the trial as part of the defence case for all three. The case involved substantial evidence in relation to GPS trackers and cell site data from cars with built-in SIM cards.

R v T and Others – Snaresbrook Crown Court – Attempted Murder – Led as junior counsel for one of five defendants jointly charged with attempted murder of a rival gang member in Hackney. Client along with two others attacked the victim with knives and a firearm at an overground station. Trial lasted over three months and involved complex legal argument in relation to bad character, alleged evidence of gang membership and evidence arising ex improviso during the trial.

R v AD – Snaresbrook Crown Court – GBH – Client charged with wounding and threats to kill against former partner. Prosecution case supported by complainant's evidence was that client held a knife to her throat and cut her face while threatening to kill her. Client pleaded guilty to causing her ABH at the outset of the trial. Acquitted unanimously



on all remaining counts.

R v ML and Others – Winchester Crown Court – Class A Drugs Supply – Client charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A and B drugs. Prosecution alleged he entered into an agreement with others to smuggle drugs into “Boomtown” music festival. Following a four-week trial the client was acquitted on all counts. The other two defendants were convicted of supply.

DPP v K – Highbury Corner Youth Court – Modern Slavery Defence – Represented youth client charged with possession with intent to supply Class A and dangerous driving. Following representations that the defendant was a victim of trafficking at the time, the prosecution discontinued the drugs offences. The youth court bench acquitted the defendant of the dangerous driving offences following a successfully pursued defence under s.45 Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Criminal Prosecution

R v MM – Ipswich Crown Court – Appeared for prosecution in 4 day armed robbery trial of a petrol station in rural Suffolk.

R v DE – Kingston Crown Court – Secured conviction in 3 day burglary case. Successful argument on cross-admissibility of evidence.

R v J – Reading Crown Court – Secured conviction for assaulting an emergency worker and possession of an offensive weapon.

Professional Discipline

NMC v D and D – Represented the NMC in a three-week substantive hearing against two nurses accused of dishonesty, including the production of false references. The panel found the majority of charges proved against the lead registrant.

NMC v Y – Represented the NMC in four-week substantive hearing of a nurse charged with lacking competency. The majority of charges against the nurse were found proved.

NMC v G – Represented the NMC in two-week substantive hearing of a nurse charged with dishonesty involving the theft of medication. The panel found the majority of charges proved.

Professional Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- Grade 2 CPS Counsel

Awards, Qualifications & Other

- Bar Professional Training Course, Northumbria University – Outstanding
- Graduate Diploma in Law, Northumbria University – Commendation
- BA Hons Ancient History, Newcastle University – First Class Honours

