

Kuljeet Singh Dobe

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Kuljeet is an experienced criminal barrister specialising in serious crime, fraud, and financial crime.

He represents clients in a wide range of criminal matters, including serious violence, sexual offences, homicide, rape, and drug-related matters. Kuljeet frequently works as a leading or led junior but is also trusted to handle complex cases independently.

In the field of fraud and financial crime, he is instructed by individuals, corporates, and government agencies, including the CPS, on cases involving fraud, money laundering, and bribery. His expertise extends to navigating complex legal and jurisdictional issues, particularly in cases requiring international disclosure.

From 2020 to 2023, Kuljeet served as a specialist prosecutor in the Rape & Serious Sexual Offences Unit at CPS London North, where he charged, advised on, and prosecuted some of the most serious sexual offences. His experience includes handling challenging disclosure requests and complex legal issues.

Kuljeet also sits as a First Tier Tribunal Judge in the Immigration & Asylum Chamber, further demonstrating his broad and varied legal expertise.

Specialist Areas	
Criminal Defence	Criminal Prosecution
Fraud & Financial Crime	Private Prosecution
Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation	Public Law

Cases

Notable Cases

R v SA – The defendant and complainant had been in a relationship for 2 years. That relationship ended acrimoniously in 2019. 12 months later, the complainant reported the defendant to the police for coercive and controlling behaviour during the relationship and one instance of assault occasioning ABH. The defendant denied both. D was acquitted on both counts.

R v KD – The D was alleged to have been part of a robbery with a knife with 2 others as well as criminal damage. Unanimous Not Guilty

R v JNM – Stranger rape. D was convicted of rape.

R v JM – D was a 15 year old boy who was alleged to have sexually assaulted a 15 year old girl (C) on the way home after school. D was convicted on all four counts of sexual assault.

R v RPAA – RP was alleged to have organised the passage of asylum seekers from Calais to Dover on boats across the English Channel during summer 2020. The defence case was that she was not involved and that she was in fact herself a vulnerable asylum seeker fleeing religious persecution in Iran. There was extensive WhatsApp evidence in the form of messages and voice notes which heavily implicated RP. The defence used material from her phone to paint a picture of her life as a refugee fleeing persecution from Iran who faced serious sexual violence during her passage to the UK. Acquitted. Led by Dr Andreas O'Shea.

R v JG – Care-worker ill-treat vulnerable person, D was charged with a more experienced colleague of rough handling of a 100-year old care home resident who had a shoulder injury. The defence relied on care home cctv footage. Defence: not informed of injury, handling was not rough.

The prosecution expert reached highly damaging conclusions about the defendants' handling of the resident. Her testimony was challenged and undermined in cross examination. Acquitted.

R v DS – DS was charged with assault by penetration and rape. He was tried in December 2020 and was found Not Guilty of assault by penetration but the jury was unable to reach a verdict on the rape.

At the end of the 5 day retrial, the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty of rape. The Crown had relied on WhatsApp messages in which DS told the complainant that he knew that she "said no a million times, but (he) genuinely thought she was playing hard to get". In the messages he also told her not to go to the police as he would be sent back to prison to serve the remainder of his 8 year 6 month sentence.

R v ZM – ZM was tried for possession with intent to supply heroin, cocaine and cannabis with 3 others. He was alleged to hae drive from Acton, London to Crawley and then the Brighton area in order to sell class A and B drugs. The Crown relied on WhatsApp messages, a care hire agreement and hotel bookings in ZM's name and observation evidence.

ZM's defence was that he was scouting out new locations in order to film for videos for his songs as a recording artist in "drill" music. The jury returned unanimous verdicts of Not Guilty.

R v AM – Murder, joint enterprise, issue: whether D intended to cause GBH by stabbing man with screwdriver 11 times, causation of death and possible novus actus interveniens by victim neglecting himself by not following medical advice & taking medication (died 15 days after attack and 8 days after release from hospital and failure to take medicines).

R v MB – D, a taxi driver charged with sexual assault x 2. He had picked up three friends from a taxi rank. V sat in the front, other 2 in back. Alleged that D groped V's

breast and then stroked her leg as one of the passengers was alighting from the back.

D's defence – he may have inadvertently touched V's breast when he turned back to take money and at the same time V was turning back to say goodbye to her friend so she and D were momentarily face to face – contact occurred then as he brushed her. She was wearing a very skimpy top such that even accidental contact could result in 'skin on skin' contact. D was found Not Guilty on all counts (sexual assault).

R v BK – Conspiracy to money launder. D, 15 years old at the time of the alleged offending picked up parcels of money from old people. Crown alleged that he knew that they had been defrauded by telephone. BK's defence, he did not know of the fraud, asked by a friend to pick up parcels for extra cash. Acquitted of 4 of out of 6 of the counts.

R v KM – Historical rape and sexual assaults on step-daughter. KM alleged to have sexually assaulted (fingered & kissed) his step-daughter when she was 11. KM alleged to have raped her from aged 15 to 18. GP records of her dysuria at age 16, social services records of her breakdown at age 18, social services records for her aged 8 when he would come into her bedroom at night to talk about his marital problems to his step-daughter (admitted). Defence: sexual incidents did not happen & V is angry and upset at KM because he got involved in the reunion of victim and biological dad and ended up sabotaging that new relationship.

ON – Complex fraud involving dissipation of criminal money through 20 plus bank accounts. D was alleged, along with his two sisters and niece, to have accepted £750,000 over 6 years into his various bank accounts and then withdrawn it and/or transferred the money to numerous other bank accounts. 178,000 pages of served evidence.

HTN – Conspiracy to smuggle illegal immigrants & money laundering. Crown's case: HTN was the organiser of the enterprise, that she liaised with contacts in China, Thailand, Russia, Greece, France to smuggle people into the UK and then use them in the cannabis cultivation trade. WhatsApp messages contained copies of ID cards from each person to be smuggled which she would send to agents at each stage of the journey. The agent would check the ID before letting a person onto the lorry, boat, vessel – ie those with ID will have had their journey paid for. The final leg of the journey was the English Channel from Northern France. Led by Peter Guest.

SR – Money laundering £130,000, 6 defendants. £130K was half the proceeds of a fraudulent house sale. Y falsely claimed to own a house, which was sold to X. X paid £260K to a bank account. X then discovered that the seller did not have title and X had paid the money to a fraudster. SR agreed to accept £130K (out of the £260K) into a bank account on behalf of a Mr H, a friend. SR used the bank account of a friend, ZAIDI, to receive the £130K. He then dissipated the £130K to accounts directed by H. £3K of that money was paid by SR into his own bank account and then from there to a friend A. SR was indicted only for transferring £3K to A's account. SR's defence was that he did not know that the £3K was fraudulent money. SR insisted that a DCS be served setting out his full involvement in taking the entire £130K and having control of Z's account, though he acted innocently at all times.

MIK – Conspiracy to supply class A (cocaine) drugs. Telephone, WhatsApp,

observation, cell site evidence relating to several event days. Led by Warwick Aleeson.

MA – MA, baggage handler at Terminal 5 Heathrow Airport, charged with conspiracy to import heroin. Drugs would be brought into the UK in baggage from Brazil. At Heathrow, MA was alleged to have diverted the relevant drug baggage from the International Baggage belt to the Domestic Baggage belt. Key evidence included CCTV of MA driving baggage tugs; payroll records of him clocking in on days off to retrieve bags; WhatsApp messages relating to the arrests of others.

Professional memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Society of Asian Lawyers

Awards, Qualifications & Other

- University of Southampton (LLB 1991)
- External Examiner, Bar Standards Board on the BPTC (since 2013)
- Hardwicke Scholar (Lincoln's Inn)
- Pupil Supervisor
- CPS RASSO panel counsel
- Grade 3 CPS Counsel
- CPS General Crime Panel – Grade 3
- CPS Serious Crime Panel – Grade 2
- CPS Fraud Panel – Grade 2

Publications

- KS Dobe & SS Chhokar,
- Muslims, Ethnicity & the Law*(2000) 4 International Journal of Discrimination and the Law 369*

Languages

- Fluent Punjabi
- Functional Hindi
- Functional Urdu

Direct Access

Kuljeet Dobe is qualified to accept instructions directly from clients and is registered under the Bar Council's Public Access Scheme, meaning that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come directly to him. In addition, he welcomes instructions from solicitors, in-house law departments, qualified foreign lawyers, and clients licensed by the Bar Council to give instructions directly to barristers under the Bar Council's Licensed Access Scheme. For more information please visit our Direct Access page here.