



John Crawford

Call: 2016
Specialisms: Crime, Regulatory

John Crawford

TEL 0191 232 1927

EMAIL J.Crawford@trinitychambers.co.uk

John practices in all areas of criminal law, and has been instructed in cases of robbery, rape, sexual assault and burglary. He has experience acting for a range of different bodies in criminal proceedings ranging from local authorities, government bodies, and also private prosecutors. John joined Chambers in January 2021 having previously practiced in London and the South East.

SPECIALISMS

Crime

John has been instructed in a range of Crown Court and Magistrates Court matters for the defence and prosecution. He has been instructed in cases involving vulnerable witnesses and issues relating to insanity and fitness to plea. He has also acted on behalf of clients facing a range of violent, drug related or fraud charges either at trial or for sentencing. John has developed expertise in serious youth court cases, representing youths accused of rape, sexual assault, robbery and fraud.

In addition, John has acted for local authorities in relation to a range of criminal prosecutions concerning housing and planning law and enforcement. This included prosecuting cases in the Crown court and Magistrates Court on their behalf as well as pre-charge advice on cases.

John also has experience of dealing with POCA proceedings included contested hearings. He has also dealt with other post-conviction matters including applications for football banning orders.

John has a variety of experience in disclosure matters, he has conducted LLP reviews on behalf of the Police and has also been instructed as a disclosure junior in a large county lines case and was responsible for reviewing numerous phone downloads.

Private Prosecutions

John has experience in conducting various stages of a private prosecution. He has acted as a disclosure officer to review material to comply with initial, and ongoing, disclosure obligations. As a result, John is aware of the significant burden that disclosure obligations place on a private prosecutor and the importance of ensure the process is carried out effectively.

He has also been instructed in numerous trademark and fraud prosecutions from first appearances through to trials and sentencing hearings. John is comfortable with the legal and practical hurdles that can arise when bringing a private prosecution and presenting the case to the Court. He also has significant experience of costs applications following successful prosecutions, both against Defendants personally and from Central Funds.

Regulatory

Alongside his Criminal practice, John has been instructed in a number of related regulatory matters. This has included a prosecution on behalf of the Forestry Commission, as well as extensive experience of breach of trademark offences.

John has also been involved in prosecutions on behalf of local authorities for breaches of health and safety at work regulations, HMO conditions and licensing cases. This has included drafting advices for clients' pre-charge as well as representation at hearings.

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CASES

R v SG (2021)

John secured three acquittals on an indictment with counts of s18, s20 and s47 after a four day trial arising out of an alleged unprovoked assault at a party, causing substantial facial injuries. Cross examination of the complainant and the OiC led to further disclosure coming to light significantly undermining the Crown's case. As a result, the Crown offered no evidence on counts 1 and 2 at half time and John's client was acquitted by the jury on count 3.

R v BA (2020) Defending a client on a bladed article charge who maintained that he had committed a robbery using a pair of glasses rather than a knife, despite CCTV of the incident. John's client was convicted by a majority after the jury deliberated for 2 days.

MCS v JS (2020) A private prosecution for fraud against a pub owner who had kept the proceeds of a charity fundraiser for themselves and falsely created a thank you certificate. The Defendant was convicted following trial, having maintained that he had sent the cheque in the post. The case was reported in the local press.

R v ZB (2020) Defending a youth accused of 4 knife point robberies against young complainants. Notwithstanding numerous positive ID parades John's client was acquitted on two of the four charges and received a non custodial sentence.

R v SD (2020) Prosecution of a woman who pleaded guilty to offences under the Communications Act involving hundreds of calls to the police over a several years. The cost to the emergency services of responding was over £500,000. The case attracted national press attention.

LBBD v AB (2020) Representing a client charged with breaching an enforcement notice following building work he had carried out in his own home. Following cross examination of the local council officers a successful application of no case to answer was made.

R v AK (2020) John's client was facing an indictment of ABH, harassment and several assaults in a domestic context. Following the serving of an application to dismiss the Crown dropped the ABH from the indictment. After further submissions on the case generally, focusing on flaws in the Crown's evidence and the Defendant's mental health a plea to a single common assault was accepted leading to a conditional discharge.

LBL v RE & FG (2019) Acting on behalf of a local authority John secured convictions against both Defendants in a case relating to illegally renting a HMO following a multiple day trial in the Magistrates Court.

R v MO (2019) Prosecution of Defendant facing a charge of affray which took place within a court building. The Defendant was convicted after a 6 day trial including 11 live prosecution witnesses.

CFC v LA (2019) A licencing case arising out of an investigation into s18 GBH. Appearing on behalf of the Local Authority John successfully argued against the premises being allowed to keep their licence in a 2 day hearing.

R v TR (2019) A combined sentencing for 3 Crown Court cases where John's client ultimately pleaded to offences of s20, PWITS class B and x2 possession of bladed article along with other associated matters. Following numerous psychiatric reports and a 3 hour sentencing hearing, a sentence totalling 2y 10m was imposed for all offences.

R v RM (2018) Youth Court case where the Defendant, an 11y.o boy, faced charges of a rape, attempted rape and sexual assault against a 12y.o boy. D was acquitted on count 1 and convicted on count 2 but received a non-custodial sentence.



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R v JA (2018) John's client was stopped in a car where he was the only person and a knife was found in the back pocket of the drivers seat. The Defendant argued a lack of knowledge. The case resulted in a hung jury and the prosecution offering no evidence rather than pursue a retrial.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

These are the views of some of the solicitors who have instructed John:

'John has on all occasions been diligent and conscientious, demonstrating an assiduous attention to detail. John is strong technically and applies a very high standard of skill and care to all the cases in which I have instructed him.'

'John's style is very effective and persuasive. He is measured, logical and has a natural instinct to sense the way the case is going.'

'I have always been very impressed by Mr Crawford's knowledge and Court craft as well as his client handling skills. I have had no hesitation in sending him to represent clients who I have known for years in the sure knowledge that they will be skilfully represented and well looked after.'

'he has all the qualities that both solicitors and lay clients expect in a modern day barrister'

'John is unflappable and responsive when under pressure either in court or from other parties in litigation'

APPOINTMENTS

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Grade 2 Prosecutor

EDUCATION

- BPTC: University of Law: Outstanding
- BA Law (Cantab): Cambridge: First

AWARDS

- Gray's Inn Reid Scholarship
- University of Law Employment Law award (BPTC)
- Lamb Building Advanced Criminal Procedure award (BPTC)
- Ng Law award (Jesus College Cambridge)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

John is direct access qualified and is able to accept instructions from the public or businesses directly.

John is a door tenant at 5 St Andrew's Hill where he maintains a practice in extradition law.