



William Douglas-Jones

Year of Call: 2011

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Overview

William Douglas-Jones is a Barrister specialising in Criminal, Regulatory and Housing law.

Will has a busy criminal practice. His practice includes, inter alia, matters of fraud, robbery, burglary, sexual offences, drugs and violence. Will has, at an early stage of his career, been instructed in his own name in trials concerning serious sexual offences.

Since joining Chambers as a tenant, Will has been instructed in a number of regulatory trials and hearings, in both the Magistrates' and Crown Courts. He has also appeared in related Proceeds of Crime hearings.

Will enjoys a busy housing practice. He regularly appears for both landlord and tenants in both the private and social sectors. He is adept at appearing in all hearings from the first possession hearing, to trials. Will has appeared in possession claims in a wide range of both landlord and tenant claims, mortgage matters and regularly considers matters of anti-social behaviour, disrepair, and rent arrears in addition to defences in public law and under the Equality Act 2010.

Practice Areas

Criminal

Will has a strong criminal practice in the Crown Court and enjoys a practice beyond his level of call. His experience includes, inter alia, matters of fraud, robbery, sexual offences, drugs and violence. Will has, at an early stage of his career, been instructed in his own name in trials concerning serious sexual offences and fraud. Will also has significant experience of POCA and cash forfeiture matters.

His recent cases include:

- A wounding trial following a rush hour machete attack;
- A robbery trial in which the victim's car brakes were cut before she crashed and was robbed at knife point;
- A multi-handed rape trial where consent was the issue;
- A conspiracy to commit arson and fraud;
- An intra-familial sexual assault of two girls under the age of 13;
- Committal to prison for breach of a restraint order in POCA proceedings;
- A firearms trial following the discharge of a gun in the street;
- Appeals by way of case stated;
- and the successful opposition of a cash forfeiture application after over £75,000 cash was found following a search of his client's home.

Will has experience as a led-junior, and is instructed to appear in a significant trial listed for 4-6 months in January 2020. The case concerns allegations of a series of connected "Ponzi schemes" based on high-yield investment into European Medium-Term Notes. The total value of the alleged fraud is in excess of £25m.

Will has also gained experience in assisting leading counsel concerning matters of disclosure in both a domestic and international setting following the consideration of over two terabytes of data in a multi-handed drugs conspiracy conducted over the dark web.

In addition to his defence practice, Will enjoys a busy prosecution practice in the Crown Court. Will also welcomes advisory work of all kinds and prides himself on the early consideration of papers on their receipt and the provision of early advice to instructing solicitors. Will is also available to accept instructions on motoring matters.

Notable Cases

Operation Circus 2 (January 2020)

Instructed to appear as a led junior in a multi-handed fraud trial of an alleged value in excess of £25m. The case concerns high-yield investments into European Medium-Term Notes which the Crown allege were fraudulent in nature. The matter is listed in January 2020 with a time estimate of between 4 and 6 months.

Operation Joy (2019)

Led Junior in a multi-handed confiscation case following an application by the Crown to reconsider the available amount under section 22 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

R v AI (2018)

Defence Counsel in multi-handed money laundering trial. Will's client was one of only two defendants acquitted from the nine who stood trial.

R v AL (2018)

Led Junior in an appeal to the Court of Appeal of a decision of the Crown Court not to vary a restraint order.

R (On the Application of Ceredigion CC) v Clarke & Ors (2018)

Appeared for the Respondent in an appeal to the High Court by way of case stated concerning whether there had been an unequivocal representation not to prosecute alleged breaches of a planning enforcement notice such that the subsequent prosecution amounted to an abuse of process.

R v AOG (2018)

Defence Counsel in trial concerning multiple allegations of historic rape and buggery. Secured acquittals on 6 of 9 counts at the first trial, and acquittals on the remaining counts at a re-trial.

HMRC v SP (2017)

Successfully opposed an application by HMRC for the forfeiture of over £70,000 in cash seized after a search of his client's home: including £15,000 hidden under a cat litter tray.

R v VS & Ors (2017)

Led Junior in alleged large-scale conspiracy to commit fraud: concerning approximately £1.13m and over 120,000 pages of material.

R v DH (2017)

Defence Counsel in two-handed rape case where consent was the issue. Defendant acquitted unanimously.

R v GM (2017)

Represented the wife of the defendant to POCA proceedings. Successfully insulated the wife's interest in the matrimonial home from the confiscation order.

R v SH-P (2016)

Defence Counsel in cash forfeiture proceedings concerning £90,000 cash found in the Defendant's drawer.

R v KE (2016)

Defence Counsel in case of alleged intra-familial assault by penetration of child under 13. Required delicate cross-examination of two child complainants. Defendant acquitted unanimously.

Regulatory

Since joining Chambers as a tenant, Will has been instructed in a number of regulatory trials and hearings in both the Magistrates' and Crown Courts. He has also appeared in related Proceeds of Crime hearings.

Will has recently been instructed in cases involving:

- Offences concerning Houses in Multiple Occupation ('HMO's)
- Animal Welfare offences
- Trade marks Offences
- Prosecutions by the Food Standards Agency.

Will has also been instructed on a number of occasions to act in mock trials and conferences in order to train new Health & Safety Executive inspectors in the preparation and execution of their prosecutions surrounding the Work at Height Regulations.

Further, Will has experience of conducting both Education Act and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills prosecutions. William has developed a busy practice in both the Magistrates' and Crown Courts, and is keen to develop his regulatory practice.

Will undertook a regulatory second-six pupillage under the guidance of the then Head of Chambers, Nicholas Cole. He was required to draft advices and case summaries in a wide range of Environmental and Animal Health prosecutions. During his pupillage, Will also spent a month with Kevin Saunders and gained experience in a range of regulatory matters in the Crown Court.

Notable Cases

WCC v MM (2019)

Successful prosecution of a restaurant owner for breaching a Hygiene Prohibition Order.

SCC v S&S (2019)

Represented the Applicant in an appeal by way of case stated to determine whether the time limit for bringing a prosecution under the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 was the 3 years under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 or 6 months under section 127 Magistrates' Court Act 1980.

JR (2018)

Appeared for the owner of a building site at the inquest into the death of a workman in anticipation of a HSE prosecution.

SSC v AT (2018)

Defence Counsel in POCA proceedings following the conviction for breach of a planning enforcement notice of a scrapyards owner. Will successfully limited the confiscation order to £150,000 at a final hearing where the prosecuting authority sought in excess of £0.5 million.

WCC v ZS (2018)

Instructed to prosecute a large-scale case of the unauthorised use of trade marks in a counterfeit tobacco case involving a series of huge seizures of tobacco.

Housing

Will enjoys a busy housing practice. He regularly appears for both landlord and tenants in both the private and social sectors. Will is adept at appearing in all hearings from the first possession hearing to trials.

Will is regularly instructed at all stages of cases involving:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Drug cultivation and other offences within the property
- Injunctions and committal
- Disrepair
- Mental Capacity Act and Mental Health Act considerations
- Equality Act Act and public law defences.

Will has recently advised on matters regarding the Tenancy Deposit Scheme and the effect on section 21 proceedings. He has also appeared on behalf of a social landlord in appeal proceedings concerning the applicability of the notice requirements under section 21 to probationary tenancies.

To find out more, email civilclerks@stiveschambers.co.uk.

Qualifications

University of Liverpool: BSc. Physiology, 2:1 (Hons) 2008

College of Law, Birmingham: Graduate Diploma in Law, Distinction 2010

College of Law, Birmingham: BPTC, Outstanding 2011

Memberships

The Midland Circuit

Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Criminal Bar Association

The Social Housing Law Association

Appointments

Winner of College of Law Plea in Mitigation Competition 2011;

Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn 2011;

Walter Wigglesworth Scholar, Lincoln's Inn 2013

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