



William Douglas-Jones

Year of Call:

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Overview

William Douglas-Jones is an established criminal barrister with a Crown Court practice which exceeds his level of call.

William is instructed both to prosecute and to defend in the full range of criminal matters. He has received praise for his meticulous attention to detail, strong client care, and forceful closing speeches.

In addition to his criminal practice, William appears in a wide range of regulatory prosecutions.

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, matters of homicide, fraud, robbery, sexual offences, drugs and violence. Will also has significant experience of POCA and cash forfeiture matters.

His recent cases include:

- A high profile alleged murder within the prison estate;
- 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; 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 3 months in September 2021. 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 Septimus [2021]

Instructed as led junior for the Defendant in a multi-handed homicide concerning a "one-punch" and "one-kick" assault which led to the death of the victim. The case concerned extensive medical evidence both of causation but also of the Defendant's state of mind.

Operation Intertwine [2021]

Instructed as led junior for the Defendant in a multi-handed homicide trial. The case involved complex issues of causation flowing from an attack on the victim in 2006 which left him in a permanent coma until his death in 2019.

R v HB [2021]

Instructed as junior alone to defend a youth accused of attempted murder.

Operation Ashfall [2021]

Will represented one Defendant in a large-scale drugs conspiracy relating to the supply of class A drugs in Stafford through a "County Lines" operation emanating from Wolverhampton.

Operation Darwin [2020]

Instructed as led junior for the Defendant in the high-profile trial for murder of the man dubbed by the media as "Britain's Worst Paedophile" whilst both were serving inmates at HMP Full Sutton. The Defendant did not deny torturing and killing the victim, but claimed that he had done so because his mind was substantially impaired by his various mental disorders, and therefore relied upon the partial defence of diminished responsibility.

R v AS (2020)

Instructed as a led junior in the successful appeal against conviction in a case concerning an historic indecent assault allegations. Will did not appear in the Crown Court and was instructed as a second-opinion appellate advocate. The case concerned the erroneous admission of multiple hearsay, purported confession evidence. The conviction was quashed and the Court of Appeal gave important guidance on adherence to the Criminal Procedure Rules.

R v AL (No.2) (2020) Ongoing

Appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning the interpretation of "reasonable living expenses" and "reasonable legal costs" in the context of restraint orders. The appeal is ongoing and has been certified by the Court of Appeal as being of substantial importance to cases of its type. It is expected that the Court of Appeal will address in its judgment a non-exhaustive list for the test of "reasonableness".

Operation Circus 2 (Ongoing, Trial due September 2021)

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.

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

William enjoys a substantial regulatory practice in both the Magistrates' and Crown Courts. He has also appeared in related Proceeds of Crime hearings.

Will has a substantial practice in both prosecuting and defending in matters including:

- Trading Standards prosecutions;
- Offences concerning Houses in Multiple Occupation ('HMO's');
- Animal Welfare offences;
- Trade marks Offences;
- Prosecutions by the Food Standards Agency and other food hygiene matters;
- Taxi and Liquor licensing.

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.

William also has experience of regulatory appeals by way of case started. He appeared in the leading case concerning the time limits for prosecutions under the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.

Notable Cases

NCC v BP (2020)

The ongoing prosecution of an alleged rogue builder who left no fewer than six complainants with substantially incomplete and deficient works.

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.

Recommendations

Chambers & Partners 2022: "Known for his meticulous preparation and fabulous manner with clients."

Legal 500 2022: "William is hard working, personable and a pleasure to instruct. He is quick to respond to requests for advice and very much gets himself involved in the defence team. Colleagues at the Birmingham branch rate him for his attention to detail and will to work hard for the client."

Chambers and Partners 2021: "He is a skilled advocate." "William carries a lot more gravitas than might be expected from his year of call."

Legal 500 2021: "A fiercely intelligent advocate, with wisdom and gravitas beyond his years."

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

Appointments

12 November 2021 – Fee Paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal, assigned to Health, Education and Social Care

Awards

Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn 2011;

Walter Wigglesworth Scholar, Lincoln's Inn 2013

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