

Nick Beechey

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Nick is an experienced leading junior, noted for his particular ability to cut through complex issues of fact and law in order to get to the heart of the case.

Nick's practice is in defending clients in business and financial services crime as well as appearing in serious criminal trials. He has an extensive Appellate Court practice.

His attention to detail is regularly applied in defending high value, large scale fraud and other similar cases where there is a substantial amount of evidence and technical detail. He has built up considerable experience of cases involving the interrogation of computers, mobile phones and cell site analysis, and is alive to the growth of cases involving artificial intelligence.

He is regularly instructed for his comprehensive case preparation and analysis of evidence, sound tactical judgment and his ability quickly to identify key issues. He regularly works within sizeable legal teams such as professional clients, relevant experts and junior counsel, recognising the benefit of giving advice at a very early stage. The advice he provides is always clear and straightforward, in order to help achieve the best results for his lay clients.

Nick has defended in many serious criminal trials, including offences of murder (as a led junior), attempted murder, fraud, money laundering, s18 OAPA, conspiracy to import and supply drugs, conspiracy to steal and handle high value goods and firearms offences.

Nick has developed a strong and busy practice in advising on the merits of appeals against conviction and sentence where he was not the original advocate, providing clear and cogent written advice and grounds of appeal and applications to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. These have resulted in him appearing in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division on a regular basis.

Professional Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- Criminal Appeal Lawyers Association

Published Articles

- International Criminal Law Tools In Aid of Civil Asset Recovery, CDR Essential Intelligence – Fraud, Asset Tracing and Recovery, March 2020. Co-authored with Alun Jones QC and Samantha Davies. Available [here](#).

Education

- BVC, College of Law
- BA (Hons) Law, University of Sussex
- The King's School, Canterbury

Court of Appeal cases

R v Davis & Others [2026] EWCA Crim 743. Appeared on appeal only for one of five conjoined appellants before a special court presided over by the Vice President, Court of Appeal Criminal Division, convened to address IPP/DPP sentences imposed on those age 21 and under at the time of sentence. The sentences were all quashed with the court saying: youth and immaturity were critical factors; that the court should be less pessimistic in assessing future risk when dealing with a young person with a capacity for rehabilitation and reform which may not exist for an older offender; and if there is insufficient evidence that these factors were properly taken into account, then given the severity of the indeterminate sentence, the court will replace the IPP/DPP sentence with a sentence from lower down the available options, if that is appropriate. Nick's client had been convicted of a serious stranger rape. His DPP sentence was quashed and replaced with a determinate term, which had already been served.

R v Zulfqar [2025] EWCA Crim 1683. Appeared on appeal only. This was a renewed application for leave after refusal by the single judge. IPP imposed on a rape conviction quashed 14 years after sentence, on the ground that the sentencing judge had failed properly to consider the appellant's relatively young age at the time and the imposition of an extended sentence as a realistic alternative to an IPP.

R v Sillito [2025] EWCA Crim 37 & 868; [2025] Crim LR 311; CLW/25/11/13; Archbold News 19 March 2025. Appeared on appeal only. IPP quashed 15 years after the sentence was imposed, after the appellant had served 10 years over his minimum term. The sentence was quashed on the grounds that the sentencing judge had not properly considered the appellant's relatively young age and immaturity and the effect of ancillary measures when imposing the IPP. The court acknowledged the role that post-sentence reports could play in determining an appeal that would result in an IPP prisoner gaining immediate release. Sillito is one of four cases now being relied upon by the CCRC as part of their wholesale review of past and present applications regarding the imposition of IPPs on relatively young people.

R v Francesca Robinson [2023] EWCA Crim 320. Appeared on appeal only. IPP, imposed in 2012, quashed after the appellant

had served some 9 years over tariff, on the ground that the IPP was unlawful as the conditions in s225(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (2008 iteration) had not been met.

R v Tsang [2023] EWCA Crim 350. Appeared on appeal only. Established that the principles in **R v Sedden** [2009] 2 Cr App R 9 and **R v Shepherd** [2019] 2 Cr App R 26, that a Bail Act offence cannot be treated as a lesser offence disclosed by the extradition information provided by the UK authorities, applied equally to s150 of the Extradition Act 2003 as it did to ss 146 and 151A of the Act.

R v Bolton [2019] EWCA Crim 1205. Appeared on appeal only. A considerable amount of research carried out by Nick Beechey was presented to the Court to show that the complainant, who had alleged a number of counts of sexual abuse when a child, was an inveterate fraudster who had multiple motives for making a false complaint. The complainant's history had been uninvestigated by the Crown and what was known was not disclosed at trial. Convictions were quashed, no retrial was ordered and the appellant's costs were awarded against the Crown.

R v Al-Khamis [2019] EWCA Crim 1291. Appeared on appeal only, successfully arguing that an IPP imposed a number of years earlier should be quashed as the sentencing judge ought to have found that an extended sentence was sufficient to protect the public.

R v Filmer-Haynes [2018] EWCA Crim 1659. Appeared on appeal only. Sentence reduced on appeal after trial lawyers failed to lodge an appeal alongside co-defendants whose appeals against sentence were allowed.

R v Jobling [2018] EWCA Crim 117. Appeared on appeal only, successfully arguing for a reduction in the minimum term of a life sentence in a sensitive domestic murder. Points of law involved what constitutes 'domestic murder' and that lack of remorse is not an aggravating factor. "The Appeal was pursued entirely appropriately and with skill" (Macur LJ).

R v Roberts & others [2016] EWCA Crim 71; [2016] 1 WLR 3249; [2016] 2 Cr App R (S)14; [2016] Crim LR 510. Appeared on appeal only for two of thirteen conjoined appeals (Quaglia and Byrne) before the Lord Chief Justice, concerning appeals against the imposition of IPPs brought by appellants still serving a significant number of years past tariff.

R v Mottram [2015] EWCA Crim 969. Appeared on appeal only. Sentence quashed on the ground that the Crown Court had exceeded its powers under s40(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

R v Adam Ryan [2014] EWCA Crim 2147. Appeared on appeal only. Successful appeal against the imposition of a sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) where the appellant was 7 years over tariff. Sentence had been passed just weeks before the judgment in **R v Lang** [2005] EWCA Crim 2864 was handed down and no one had previously considered that the law had been misapplied in this case.

R v Junior Clarke Lopez [2013] EWCA Crim 1744; [2014] Crim LR 384; CLW/14/15/5. Appeared on appeal only. Conviction quashed where original trial counsel conceded trial in absence without arguing the point. Given the defendant's case rested almost entirely on his account that his confession in interview was false, there was in this case no justification to proceed to a trial in absence. The summing up as a whole came in for significant criticism. No retrial was sought.

R v Kirk Yarboi and others [2009] EWCA Crim 2760; [2010] Cr App R (S) 40; CLW/10/23/18. Sentencing of cash in transit robberies can be brought within the Sentencing Guidelines Council Guideline for street robbery/robbery of small businesses/less sophisticated commercial robberies. Sentence reduced.

Notable Cases

Some interesting Crown Court cases

R v MSK, Croydon Crown Court. Leading counsel in an eighteen handed £40million plus international money laundering operation, comprising 26,000 plus pages of prosecution evidence. Defendant acquitted on the direction of the judge after a successful submission of no case to answer.

R v PG, Portsmouth Crown Court. Leading counsel in a seven handed 'County Lines' conspiracy to supply drugs and money laundering trial. The prosecution case consisted of a large amount of phone and cell site data, as well as banking material. Acquitted of the drugs conspiracy.

R v JL, Manchester Crown Court. Ten handed conspiracy to manage brothels and money laundering (£10 million plus). No evidence offered against this client after 2 weeks of an abuse of process argument on legitimate expectation (involving national government, GMP and local police and health authority policies). Although no ruling was given on the abuse this case highlights the tactical advantages that can be gained from arguing an abuse in the right circumstances. This case attracted wide national media attention.

R v AL, Basildon CC. International money laundering in excess of £1 million. This case involved large scale international trading (Hong Kong and North Africa), the analysis of bank records and downloads of hard drives and mobile devices, as well as an understanding of hawala banking. 3 years after the first appearance in the Crown Court, and after numerous requests for disclosure and various issues relating to international letters of request, the prosecution offered no evidence.

R v GK, Inner London CC. For the first defendant in a large scale conspiracy to acquire criminal property and mobile phone fraud. The case involved analysis of data retrieved from digital devices, banking records and the business practices of the big mobile phone providers. Acquitted.

R v NS, Central Criminal Court. Multi-handed, large scale (c.£10 million) money laundering through international and domestic banking systems, with associated POCA. This case began with international online fraud on a very large scale and the subsequent laundering of the proceeds through banking systems, including those in the UK, before onward movement of funds to Eastern Europe. Nick represented one of the UK bankers involved in facilitating the laundering and the case required detailed analysis of the movement of monies and the defendant's alleged role in this. The evidence consisted of a mix of documentary, digital, bank records, forensic evidence and surveillance. This case is now used as a training model within domestic banking.

R v AR, Canterbury Crown Court. For the first defendant in large scale importation of Class A drugs. The evidence in this case was based on phone download and cell site material.

R v WT, Cambridge CC. Multi-handed large volume drugs conspiracy. This defendant was acquitted, ultimately as the result of detailed analysis and defence presentation of phone download and cell site material from a co-accused's phone overlooked by the prosecution.

R v MD & others, Southwark CC. For first defendant. Multi-handed very high value VAT cheat committed over 15 years, with a sophistication of the cheat after VAT inquiries began. Associated POCA. This case required detailed analysis of business records and methods employed by the defendants.

R v OM, Blackfriars CC. Conspiracy to handle £5 million of stolen mobile phones and international money laundering. Associated POCA. For first defendant. This case involved the analysis of banking records, evidence retrieved from digital devices and product of long running surveillance. Acquitted of the handling conspiracy.

R v LL, Snaresbrook CC. 12 handed conspiracy to import Class A drugs. Successfully argued midtrial that the defendant was unfit to stand trial. This case involved a large volume of mobile phone and cell site data and the product of a surveillance operation. Ultimately no evidence offered before a retrial.

R v RL, Inner London CC. Multi-handed trial in which this defendant was acquitted of s18 OAPA stabbing in the context of witness intimidation.

R v FO'D, Woolwich CC. Junior alone in a double attempted murder involving the shooting of two brothers. Pleaded to two s18 and possession of a firearm with intent. Successfully argued on sentence against a finding of dangerousness.

R v TY, Central Criminal Court. Large scale VAT fraud carried out over a 5-year period.

R v GC, Central Criminal Court. For first defendant. Conspiracy to facilitate breaches of UK immigration laws using financial data. Successfully argued for the case to be stayed as an abuse of process due to non-disclosure and negligent lack of investigation.

R v FH and others, Maidstone CC. Led Junior in multi-handed murder arising out of ethnic tensions amongst young Afghan asylum seekers. D1 was accused by the Crown of delivering the fatal stab; FH (D3) admitted delivering the fatal stab, albeit in self-defence. FH entered an accepted plea to manslaughter on the basis of loss of control after 10 weeks of the Crown's case.