

# RICHARD PRATT KC

CALL 1980 | SILK 2006



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 Nationwide

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Prosecuting and defending all types of criminal cases with particular experience in homicide, fraud and money laundering and drug trafficking.

I will also accept instructions to represent alleged perpetrators of serious criminal conduct in child care proceedings in the Family Court.

## PROFILE OVERVIEW

In the first fifteen years of my practice I was engaged in all areas of the common law, and had particular experience acting in personal injury actions on behalf of the members of the National Union of Railwaymen and the Rail Marine and Transport Union. This work included accidents on rail road and sea, ranging from minor injuries to multiple fatality cases. By way of example, I acted for the families of two railwaymen who had been killed at work in both the inquest proceedings and the actions for damages.

By the mid 1990s my practice had become almost exclusively criminal and employment work.

### **Chambers and Partners 2024 Crime – Northern Bar Band 2**

Richard Pratt KC is head of chambers and is skilled as both prosecution and defence counsel for a range of criminal matters. He is particularly experienced in crimes of violence, including manslaughter and murder. "He is vastly experienced, hard-working, great with clients and comfortable in any forum."

## DIRECTORIES

'Richard's experience is his most valuable asset. As lead counsel, he has been involved in some of the biggest cases to come before the courts in the past two decades, and he therefore has the respect of the judges, and his delivery in speeches before the jury are a work of art.'

(Legal 500 2025) Ranked Tier 2 (Crime, Leading Silks)

### Chambers and Partners 2024

Crime – Northern Bar Band 2 Richard Pratt KC is head of chambers and is skilled as both prosecution and defence counsel for a range of criminal matters. He is particularly experienced in crimes of violence, including manslaughter and murder. (Legal 500 2023) Ranked Tier 3 (Crime, Leading Silks)

'Very active in serious violent crime, including areas such as infanticide.' Ranked: Tier 3 (Legal 500) (Crime, Leading Silks)

"Very active in serious violent crime, including areas such as infanticide" (Legal 500 2020) Ranked Tier 3 (Crime, Leading Silks)

## DIRECTORIES

Chambers and Partners 2022, Crime – Northern Bar Band 2

Richard Pratt QC is head of chambers and is skilled as both prosecution and defence counsel for a range of criminal matters. He is particularly experienced in crimes of violence, including assault, manslaughter and murder.

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY TIMELINE

- 2022: Appointed King's Counsel, upon the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
- 2021: Appointed to the Panel of Deemsters in the Isle of Man
- 2016: Appointed Tutor-Judge to the Judicial College, participating in the continuing training of both full-time and part-time Judges
- 2015: Joined 3, Paper Buildings, Temple as a door tenant
- 2014: Authorised to undertake Direct Access Work
- 2012 – date: Head of 7 Harrington Street Chambers
- 2011 – 2013: Leader of the Northern Circuit
- 2010: Elected Bencher of Gray's Inn
- 2009: Approved to try serious sex cases in the Crown Court
- 2006: Appointed Queen's Counsel
- 2002 – 2006: Appointed to the Attorney General's panel (A list) authorised to prosecute the most serious cases on behalf of Government departments (appointment relinquished automatically upon taking Silk)
- 2000: Appointed Recorder authorised to sit in the Crown and County Courts
- 1999: Corn Exchange Chambers merged with Martin's Bank Buildings to become 7 Harrington Street Chambers
- 1997: Appointed Assistant Recorder
- 1989: 5 Castle Street merged with 27 Dale Street to become Corn Exchange Chambers
- 1981: Elected to the Northern Circuit and joined 5 Castle Street Chambers in Liverpool
- 1980: Called to the Bar (Gray's Inn)
- 1978: BA (Hons) degree in Business Law

## NOTABLE CASES

- Recent work: Prosecute a 17-year-old for the murder of a family friend who he thought had sexually assaulted his mother.
- **Sefton MBC v K (2019–20)**: Instructed to represent mother in case involving allegations of 'baby-shaking' and alleged NAI.
- **Knowsley MBC v H (2019–20)**: Instructed to represent mother in case involving allegations of sexual and physical abuse of children.
- **Operation Directed (2019)**: Family Division Manchester. Represented alleged perpetrator of very serious sexual offences against two early-teenaged girls. During the course of his judgment, Sir Mark Hedley specifically exonerated our client from any such behaviour.
- **Knowsley MBC v V (2019)**: Instructed to represent mother in proceedings in which issues of Police Disclosure, PII, Closed Court Procedure and Special Advocate were raised.
- **R v GA (2014)**: Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder of drug dealer involving a full-blown 'cut throat' defence.
- **R v C (2011)**: Belfast Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with terrorist murder, 37 years earlier, of Captain Robert Nairac, an undercover soldier posing as a republican militant.
- **R v MS (2010)**: Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder. Medical causation was a significant feature of the case, involving consideration of PRIS (propofol infusion syndrome) and alleged failures in the victim's medical treatment.
- **R v F (2010)**: Manchester Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder of a taxi driver who was already terminally ill, raising issues of medical causation.
- **R v B (2010)**: Liverpool Crown Court. Defendant charged with manslaughter of a baby, raising issues of 'shaken baby syndrome' and complex expert evidence.
- **R v SM (2008)**: Liverpool Crown Court. Representing 18-year-old charged with murder of 11-year-old schoolboy Rhys Jones.
- **R v O'D (2007)**: Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant, a student charged with murder of a fellow student during a brawl outside a city centre nightclub.
- **R v RG (2005)**: Court of General Gaol Delivery, Douglas, Isle of Man. Counsel for the owner of the Solway Harvester, charged with gross negligence manslaughter of seven crew members lost at sea.
- **R v Morgan Smith (2000)**: House of Lords. Junior Counsel for the defendant in a landmark case on the law of provocation.

## NOTABLE CASES

### Homicide

Over the years both as a junior and in silk I have prosecuted and defended in many cases of murder and manslaughter of which the following are a small sample.

- **R v A (2019–20)** Liverpool Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder, relying on diminished responsibility due to paranoid schizophrenia; manslaughter verdict returned.
- **R v WC – Operation Yale (2019)** Prosecuting nine-handed murder trial over several weeks involving gang and drug activity.
- **R v W (2019)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with manslaughter of his wife by gross negligence.
- **R v P (2019)** Liverpool Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder of his wife, raising the partial defence of loss of control.
- **R v B (2019)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder of his friend using a crossbow.
- **Operation Satinleaf (2018)** Leeds Crown Court. Defending one of two 15-year-old boys charged with conspiracy to murder teachers and pupils following a Counter Terrorism Unit investigation.
- **R v KK (2018)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing one of four defendants charged with murder following a failed drug importation.
- **R v JA (2018)** Lincoln Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with stabbing his friend to death.
- **R v TD (2017)** Bolton Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder by stabbing after intervening in an assault on the defendant's sister.
- **R v JM (2017)** Mold Crown Court. Representing one of four defendants charged with murder arising out of a drug 'turf war'.
- **R v CP (2017)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting defendant who murdered a female acquaintance and attempted disposal of the body by fire.
- **R v MS (2016)** Manchester Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder of his friend in Cockermouth, Cumbria.
- **R v MP (2016)** Sheffield Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder and attempted murder of two brothers.
- **R v MW (2016)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder of a prostitute.
- **R v KC (2016)** Portsmouth Crown Court. Representing one of two defendants charged with attempted murder of an alleged criminal associate.
- **R v JC (2016)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing one of three defendants charged with murder by shooting of an innocent 16-year-old boy in a gang rivalry context.
- **R v M and S (2015)** Nottingham Crown Court. Seven-week trial prosecuting guardian aunt for murder of, and child cruelty towards, a 7-year-old girl.
- **R v CD (2015)** Exeter Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murdering his mother.
- **R v JV (2015)** Bristol Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder and s.18 arising from random night-time attacks, raising diminished responsibility.
- **R v GA (2014)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder of a drug dealer involving a full-blown 'cut-throat' defence.
- **R v TW (2014)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder by shooting said to be a gangland 'contact killing'.
- **R v C (2011)** Belfast Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with terrorist murder, 37 years earlier, of Captain Robert Nairac.
- **R v MS (2010)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder; medical causation central, including PRIS and alleged failures in treatment.
- **R v F (2010)** Manchester Crown Court. Representing defendant charged with murder of a terminally ill taxi driver, raising medical causation issues.
- **R v B (2010)** Liverpool Crown Court. Defendant charged with manslaughter of a baby, raising issues of 'shaken baby syndrome'.
- **R v SM (2008)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing an 18-year-old charged with the murder of 11-year-old schoolboy Rhys Jones.
- **R v O'D (2007)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing student charged with murder during a city-centre nightclub brawl.
- **R v RG (2005)** Court of General Gaol Delivery, Douglas, IoM. Counsel for owner of the Solway Harvester charged with gross negligence manslaughter of seven crew members.
- **R v Morgan Smith (2000)** House of Lords. Junior Counsel for the defendant in a landmark case on the law of provocation.

## NOTABLE CASES

### Homicide continued

- **R.v. FC (2024)** Preston Crown Court. Representing 20 year old defendant charged with murder of 19 year old in stabbing which took place during the course of a violent disorder. Issues of secondary liability.
- **R.v. SJ (2023-24)** Manchester Crown Court. Representing 16 year old girl, one of two teenagers charged with the murder of 16 year old transgender teenager Brianna Ghey which attracted international publicity.
- **R.v. CH (2023)** Manchester Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder in broad daylight by shooting of rival drug-dealer. Case raised interesting arguments of secondary participation and bad character
- **R.v. KM (2023)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder of his much younger murder against a background of persistent violence within a controlling and coercive relationship
- **R.v. NB (2023)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting woman charged with murder of her much younger boyfriend by stabbing and beating him in her home.
- **R.v. JW (2023)** Liverpool Crown Court. Representing gunman who shot and killed popular young woman Ashley Dale in her own home. The issue was whether the killing was murder or manslaughter.
- **R.v DO'D (2022-2023)** Liverpool Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder alongside 9 other defendants said to be a revenge/ punishment killing in the belief that victim had raped the daughter of one of the defendants. Case lasted 3 months before Wall J.
- **R.v. MD (2022)** Liverpool Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder of his girlfriend. Defence of diminished responsibility.
- **R.v JC and KT (2022)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting two defendants charged with murder of man who burgled one of their homes in order (it was alleged) proceeds of drugs business
- **R.v. AF (2022)** Liverpool Crown Court. Prosecuting defendant charged with the stabbing of a popular young man at a party. Sentence upheld in Court of Appeal
- **R.v. EW (2022)** Liverpool Crown Court. Defending woman charged with the murder by stabbing of her boyfriend
- **R.v. JD (2021)** Carlisle Crown Court. Defending man charged with murder by deliberate drowning of victim. Case lasted 6 weeks with a number of defendants blaming each other for the killing
- **R.v. MU (2020)** Manchester Crown Court. Prosecuting man charged with murder against a background of drug dealing.

### Fraud and Money Laundering.

- **Operation Vex (2012)** Kingston Crown Court. Represented SH, one of five defendants on trial for conspiracy in multi million pound VAT fraud in trial lasting 5 months.
- **Operation Echogramme (2009)** Manchester Crown Court. Represented, DH, one of three defendants in trial lasting 10 weeks charged with money laundering of proceeds of MTIC fraud.
- **Operation Gelling (2005 – 2008)** Manchester Crown Court. Represented Prosecution in the trial of six alleged money launderers arising out of the V959 trial. Case was prolonged due to incapacity of principal defendant and major abuse of process arguments.
- **MTIC Operation V959 (2004)** Manchester Crown Court. Prosecuted this early MTIC fraud firstly as junior Counsel and then as Leader upon the proposed retrial. The case involved far-reaching abuse of process arguments.

### Other Frauds

- **R v JM and Others (2017)** Chester Crown Court. Prosecuting seven defendants (including company) in six week trial for conspiracy to defraud, arising out of a substantial and long-running car-ringing fraud.
- **Operation Bamburgh (2016)** Teeside Crown Court. Representing solicitor charged with large scale mortgage fraud.
- **R v RL (2014 –2015) Leeds Crown Court.** Four month regulatory fraud trial in Leeds Crown Court representing defendant charged with conspiracy to defraud the Drivers Vehicles Standards Agency (formerly VOSA). The allegation related to an alleged bogus scheme designed to circumvent the law and regulations relating to Operators Licenses in respect of large goods vehicles.
- **Operation Valgus (2013)** Mold Crown Court. Represented principal defendant in what was described as the largest mortgage fraud ever to be prosecuted in the UK. Trial lasted 5 months.
- **R v PK (2009) Leeds Crown Court.** Represented defendant PK, the lead defendant in so-called red diesel fraud in trial lasting 2 months.

## NOTABLE CASES

### Family Cases

- **Sefton MBC v K (2019 – 20)** Instructed to represent mother in case involving allegations of ‘baby-shaking’ and alleged NAI.
- **Knowsley MBC v H (2019–20)** Instructed to represent mother in case involving allegations of sexual and physical abuse of children.
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