

# NIGEL POWER KC

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 Nationwide

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

### Crime

- Fraud
- Murder & Manslaughter
- Confiscation
- Regulatory
- Terrorism
- Firearms
- Appeals
- Baby Shaking
- Motoring
- Drugs conspiracies
- Sexual Offences
- Cybercrime and Digital Currencies
- Courts Martia

### Family

Nigel has expertise in both Children and money cases.

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Most recently in May 2018 he appeared for the Maternal Grandmother in a two-week contested finding of fact hearing involving allegations by the local authority that the child had suffered deliberately inflicted injuries to the brain, as well as a number of rib fractures and other injuries.

## PROFILE OVERVIEW

Nigel Power KC practises in criminal and family law. He is a member of the Bar of England and Wales but has been licensed to conduct a number of cases in the Isle of Man and has been called to the bar of Northern Ireland for specific cases.

Nigel recently represented the first of 11 defendants in the longest completed jury trial in history in Manchester (R v Paul Green and others), and also represented the first defendant in a 7-month VAT fraud trial at Southwark (R v Neil Pursell and others). In the summer of 2025 he successfully defended a man charged with murder (Ian Scott) and also represented Shay Walker who was acquitted of murder and manslaughter, having admitted shooting a drug dealer at point-blank range. In the autumn of 2025 he secured a "time served" sentence for Shaun Kent at the Old Bailey; Mr Kent admitted to conspiring to possess guns and ammunition which were offered up to the NCA in the hope of securing a reduced sentence in a drugs case involving Thomas Kavanagh.

In June 2023 Nigel prosecuted Connor Chapman for the murder of Elle Edwards on Christmas Eve 2022 at the Lighthouse Pub in Wallasey, Wirral. His other current workload involves advising a number of clients, pre and post-charge in cases involving Encrochat evidence, and he has successfully resisted a number of applications for production orders made by the police investigating alleged fraud at Liverpool City Council. He is currently representing the first defendant in a pension liberation fraud in Leeds.

In 2022 he represented two young defendants separately in murder trials and in 2021 he appeared for the first defendant, Kyle Sanders, in an eight-handed murder trial where the deceased was shot dead. Despite Mr Sanders being first named on the indictment and alleged to be the organiser of a robbery which led to the fatal shooting, Mr Sanders was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. He prosecuted Christopher Guest More for the drug-related torture and murder of Brian Waters in 2003 (convicted after a retrial) and represented a 17 year-old-defendant tried for s18 assault, murder and robbery in a cut-throat defence; he was acquitted of murder but convicted of s20 assault and manslaughter.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

His client was completely exonerated of all allegations and the child was returned to his parents after a delay of 18 months.

## PROFILE OVERVIEW

In 2020 he appeared in a number of murder trials and successfully resisted a prosecution appeal against a successful submission of no case in a murder trial in Preston. In 2019 he secured the acquittal of Lee Blowes, who was alleged to have conspired to kill Blake Brown in a gangland execution and represented Lorraine Khan, who was acquitted of gross negligence manslaughter. A criminal and family specialist, in 2018 he appeared in two high-profile murder trials in Liverpool and successfully prosecuted Darren McKie, an inspector in the Greater Manchester Police, for the murder of his wife, also a police officer (see here).

In family work, he appeared for the Maternal Grandmother who was exonerated entirely in the two-week "finding of fact" hearing in *Medway CC v K* and more recently he appeared for an Albanian mother in a finding of fact hearing involving allegations of modern slavery and forced prostitution.

He has a proven track record in the most serious of criminal cases and for many years has been involved in many high-profile criminal cases, including having the case against his client dismissed in the "Millennium Dome Fraud" and representing the only defendant to be acquitted of conspiracy to defraud and fraudulent trading in the "Lord of Fraud" Boiler Room Fraud. He appeared in the trials of the racist killing of Anthony Walker in Huyton, the "Gangland" shooting of Michael Wright at the East Lancashire Road Retail Park and the murder of mother-of-three Lucy Hargreaves.

More details about Nigel's practice and his most recent and notable cases can be found at [nigelpower.com](http://nigelpower.com).

## DIRECTORIES

### Chambers and Partners 2024

Crime -Northern Bar Band 3

Knowledgeable across the full spectrum of serious crime, Nigel Power KC exhibits notable strength in homicide cases, as well as large-scale fraud and criminal confiscations. He regularly appears at trial and in appellate proceedings.

Strengths

"He is a powerhouse, relentless in pursuing his strategy and he leaves no stone unturned in his preparation of cases."

"Nigel is a superb advocate, thoroughly prepared, knowledgeable and eloquent" (Legal 500 2023) Ranked Tier 2 (Crime, Leading Silks)

'A superb advocate with a real attention to detail.' Ranked: Tier 2

(Legal 500 2021) (Crime, Leading Silk)

"A superb advocate with a real attention to detail" (Legal 500 2020) Ranked Tier 2 (Crime, Leading Silks)

### Chambers and Partners 2022

Crime -Northern Bar Band 3

Knowledgeable across the full spectrum of serious crime, Nigel Power QC exhibits notable strength in homicide cases, as well as large-scale fraud and criminal confiscations. He regularly appears at trial and in appellate proceedings.

Recent work: Defended a man accused of two arsons, one of which led to a fatality.

### Chambers and Partners 2020

Crime - Northern Bar Band 3

Knowledgeable across the full spectrum of serious crime, Nigel Power QC exhibits notable strength in homicide cases, as well as large-scale fraud and criminal confiscations. He also acts in serious sexual offences cases.

Strengths: "An excellent and genuinely fearless advocate. He has a strong belief in his own judgement, allied with a remarkable capacity for hard work" "He is extremely pugnacious in his approach to defending prosecutions of all types, and is just as skilful in general crime as he is in complex fraud investigations. His client service and document preparation are at the highest level"

Recent work: Represented the lead defendant in the drug-based kidnapping, torture and murder of Joseph McKeever, whose body was found completely burnt in a car in Everton.

"A very hardworking silk" (Legal 500 2018) Ranked tier 1

"Knowledgeable across the full spectrum of serious crime, Nigel Power QC exhibits notable strength in homicide cases, as well as large-scale fraud and criminal confiscations."

Strengths: "Nigel is an excellent trial QC and, due to his speedy analysis of evidence, he runs the trial effectively and controls the impact of the prosecution evidence well." "He is extremely conscientious, prompt with his advice and a tireless force when it comes to preparation."

Recent work: Successfully acted for a defendant charged with kidnapping, blackmail, assault and perverting the course of justice.

**(Chambers 2018)**

## DIRECTORIES

"Knowledgeable across the full spectrum of criminal law, Nigel Power QC exhibits notable strength in homicide cases, as well as large-scale fraud and criminal confiscations."

Recent work: Successfully represented the defendant in R v Erskine against charges of murder, manslaughter and death by dangerous driving.

**(Chambers 2017)**

"Impressive technical ability" (Legal 500 2016)

"An experienced criminal advocate with a broad practice covering matters such as homicide, fraud and confiscations. He is noted for his niche expertise in cases concerning cybercrime and digital currencies.

Strengths: "He is an excellent barrister, he's massively experienced and also thoroughly likeable, which is important to making client relationships work"

**(Chambers and Partners 2016)**

"Has an extensive practice covering all areas of serious crime. He is highly regarded for his expertise on complex and high-profile cases such as gangland murders" **(Chambers and Partners 2014)**

"Admired for his busy practice that covers all areas of serious crime. He is described as hard-working. His distinguished track record includes acting in gangland shootings, serious fraud and drug trafficking offences." **(Chambers and Partners 2013)**

"Nigel Power QC excels in cases involving complex technical, medical or scientific evidence" (Legal 500 2013)

"Nigel Power QC experienced in cases involving complex DNA evidence" (Legal 500 2014)

"Always brings a new dimension to any conversation about strategy in a complex case" (Legal 500 2015) Ranked: Tier 1

"Impressive technical ability" (Legal 500 2016) Ranked: Tier 1

## NOTABLE CASES

Fraud, Money Laundering and Confiscation:

### **R v A M (2015)**

Non-custodial sentence obtained for Company Director who arranged a large number of high value false invoices in order to inflate his salary and bonuses.

### **R v E R (2014)**

Non-custodial sentence obtained for a mother who failed to reveal that she co-habited with a wealthy businessman and was an active horse-rider and claimed benefits over a protracted period on a false basis.

### **v J C (2013)**

Confiscation following an enormous MTIC fraud known as Operation Divert. The prosecution alleged benefit and assets of £90m, ultimately the order made was for £200,000.

### **R v A L - H (2013)**

Five month mortgage fraud trial involving than 320,00 pages of served material. (Defending)

### **R v P D (2012)**

Ten week boiler-room fraud where shares worth more than £14m were sold in companies that did not trade in any meaningful sense. (Defending)

### **R v B M (2010)**

The Defendant was first on the indictment and said to be the leading organiser of a multi-million pound VAT and Duty fraud. The ten week trial involved the enquiry into multiple shell companies and a complex audit trail of monies over a 6-year period. (Defending)

## NOTABLE CASES

### Murder / Manslaughter:

#### **R v D and S (2017)**

Two young defendants were alleged to have stabbed to death a 63-year-old man who had caused trouble for one of their mothers. The case involved the marshalling of bad character evidence from 12 witnesses. (Prosecuting)

#### **R v B (2017)**

Represented defendant alleged to have been part of a 4-man team who shot dead a rival drug dealer. The case involved complex mixed profile and gun shot residue evidence. (Defending)

#### **R v X (2016)**

Represented a 15 year-old defendant who when drug dealing was charged with the murder of a customer but was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. (Defending)

#### **R v J M (2016)**

Represented a defendant charged with the point blank shotgun shooting of 16-year-old Lewis Dunne by the canal in the Eldonian Village in Liverpool. (Defending)

#### **R v C D (2016)**

Represented a defendant who drowned his friend at a fishing lake near Bebbington, Wirral after his cannabis pipe was spiked with the psychoactive drugs known as "spice". His plea to manslaughter through loss of control was accepted and he was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment. (Defending)

#### **R v D T and K D (2016)**

Defendants pleaded guilty to manslaughter of a defenceless man in Leigh Town Centre in May 2016

#### **R v R B and L K (2016)**

Defendants were convicted of the shooting of Vincent Waddington in Garston in July 2014 (Prosecuting)

#### **R v K D (2016)**

Defendant was convicted of the murder of an 18-month-old baby to whom she had become Special Guardian (Prosecuting)

#### **R v I G (2016)**

Defendant was convicted of murdering his partner in their flat in Southport, pleading guilty to murder after 4 days of the trial. (Prosecuting)

#### **R v W E (2015)**

Defendant was accused of the murder of Vincent Holligan, with related alternative charges of manslaughter and causing death by dangerous driving. He was acquitted of all charges. (Defending)

#### **R v C S (2015)**

Defendant was accused of murdering an off-duty police officer and seriously assaulting his two colleagues. The defendant, a professional football coach in the USA, was acquitted of all charges. (Defending)

#### **R v J H (2015)**

Defendant was accused of luring a drug dealer to an ambush where he was stabbed to death by other drug dealers. The case involved complex arguments about withdrawal from joint enterprise and bad character. (Defending)

#### **R v M H (2015)**

Defendant drove a 4.7 litre Jeep Cherokee at his friend after an argument over obtaining the telephone number for a "bent" vet to treat a dog injured when badger baiting. The defendant pleaded guilty to manslaughter but was convicted of murder after trial. (Prosecuting)

#### **R v J D (2015)**

Defendant stabbed his friend to death outside a relative's house. Successful opposition to the reading of the statement of an eyewitness despite the live evidence of two consultants who said that she was unfit to attend court. (Defending)

#### **R v J H (2015)**

Defendant killed his friend in his own home. He had a complicated psychiatric background but diminished responsibility was defeated and he was convicted of murder. (Prosecuting)

## NOTABLE CASES

### **R v A K (2015)**

Defendant alleged to have killed a 64-year-old man in her flat. There were complicated difficulties with causation, a consultant having missed the fatal injury when the deceased first went to hospital. She was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment. (Prosecuting)

### **R v W S (2014)**

Defendant alleged to have killed his wife's new lover by stabbing him to death in his own home then creating a false alibi. (Defending)

### **R v D D (2014)**

Defendant alleged to have stabbed to death a pensioner in his own home in order to steal his money for drugs. The defendant was convicted following a retrial in October 2014. (Prosecuting)

### **R v R O'S (2014)**

Defendant was one of six teenagers (some as young as 13) alleged to have murdered Sean McHugh in the back room of the Liver Launderette, Anfield, with a sword-stick. (Defending)

### **R v M C (2014)**

Defendant pleaded guilty to assaulting and murdering Linzi Ashton, in a high-profile Manchester case of domestic violence. (Defending)

### **R v C C (2013)**

Defendant acquitted of murder and manslaughter of a 65-year-old pensioner despite planning a professional burglary at her house and entering to remove the safe. (Defending)

### **R v K J (2013)**

Defendant convicted of murdering a man he had met for the first time on the day of the fatal incident, both were alcoholics. (Prosecuting)

### **R v I L - M (2013)**

Defendant alleged to be part of a wide-ranging gangland joint enterprise to kill four men in a car on a night-club car park in Nottingham. He was acquitted of the single murder and three attempted murder charges that he faced. (Defending)

### **R v M S (2012/2013)**

12 -week murder trial in which this first defendant on the indictment was alleged to have organised the robbery and killing of her partner in order to take £40,000 of his drug trafficking proceeds. (Defending)

### **R v D B (2012)**

The 20-year-old defendant was convicted of the murder of a 71-year-old man who had made sexual advances towards him. (Prosecuting)

### **R v A W (2012)**

The defendant was convicted of manslaughter through loss of control rather than murder after using a pickaxe handle to cause massive head injuries to his friend who was attacking his brother. (Defending)

### **R v P H (2012)**

The defendant was charged with the murder of his wife after breaking into her house and inflicting multiple injuries with a kitchen knife. (Defending)

### **R v N J (2012)**

The defendant was convicted of murder after attacking his wife with a hammer, using a screwdriver to cause neck injuries and trying to suffocate her with a tea towel. (Prosecuting)

### **R v S T (2012)**

The defendant was charged with the murder of a former inmate of a Salvation Army Hostel but ultimately was convicted of manslaughter by virtue of lack of intent to cause really serious harm. (Defending)

## NOTABLE CASES

### **R v D B (2012)**

The Defendant was charged with the murder of a sex worker in 2005 in Liverpool. The case involved live evidence from 6 experts and involved standard SGM+, Low Template, SenCE, Y-STR and Identifiler DNA and the statistical analysis of the evidence by David Balding, Professor of Genetical Statistics at UCL. (Prosecuting)

### **R v D L (2011)**

The Defendant was a drug user and alcoholic who suffered schizophrenia and personality disorders. He was charged with the murder by strangulation of his former best friend. The case involved expert evidence from three consultant psychiatrists and was one of the first cases to be tried involving defence of diminished responsibility and loss of control. (Prosecuting)

### **R v G H (2011)**

The Defendant was charged with murdering his girlfriend's father by stabbing him to death in his own home, following arguments over missing jewellery. The co-accused were his girlfriend, her sister and her sister's boyfriend, all of whom blamed Mr Harding. The case involved controversial pathology and scientific evidence about the number of knives used and the mechanism of the fatal struggle. (Defending)

### **R v K W (2010)**

The case involved a "cut throat" murder in the Benchill area of Wythenshawe, Manchester between two friends who were involved in gang related incidents. The main witnesses had all been extensively interviewed as suspects and witnesses, resulting in extensive cross examination of each. (Defending)

### **R v B M (2010)**

The Defendant, a nurse in Southport, raped then murdered his wife on the eve of their final ancillary relief hearing. He then staged a car accident and pretended that the deceased was still alive, and made concerned phone calls to friends and family. There was a very large amount of controversial bad character evidence adduced through hearsay. The case attracted considerable local and national press interest. (Prosecuting)

### **Firearms:**

#### **R v C (2012)**

The Defendant was charged with conspiracies to import and distribute more than 60 firearms which came in luggage hold suitcases from the USA. The case involved a very large amount of phone, Skype and cell site evidence and detailed financial evidence, together with evidence relating to the Defendant's alternative scenario of cannabis cultivation and supply. (Defending)

#### **R v C R (2011)**

This case raised considerable publicity when, ten weeks into the trial, two of the defendants escaped from a prison van when travelling to court from HMP Manchester. The case itself alleged two conspiracies which suggested that the defendants had orchestrated more than 20 shooting and 4 military grenade attacks in Merseyside over a 2-year period. The case involved Dutch intercept evidence, detailed firearms and controversial fingerprint evidence and complex phone evidence. (Defending)

### **Sexual Offences:**

#### **R v K**

Serious allegations of rape were made by an escort against a prominent Liverpool Businessman. The complainant sought anonymity; a number of technical objections were made to the application, and whilst the prosecution sought unsuccessfully to remedy them the complainant withdrew her support for the prosecution and the defendant was acquitted.

#### **R v N J (2012)**

The defendant was convicted of murder after attacking his wife with a hammer, using a screwdriver to cause neck injuries and trying to suffocate her with a tea towel. (Prosecuting)

#### **R v S T (2012)**

The defendant was charged with the murder of a former inmate of a Salvation Army Hostel but ultimately was convicted of manslaughter by virtue of lack of intent to cause really serious harm. (Defending)

## NOTABLE CASES

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### **G N**

This notorious case involved an allegation by the Defendant's best friend that she disguised herself as a man and used a strap-on dildo to penetrate her a number of times.

### **M B**

This defendant was tried for the rape of his sister, the so-called "Queen of the Selfies" Karen Danczuk, wife of the Rochdale MP and two other women. The defendant was acquitted of the majority of the charges against him including the most serious "multiple offending" count.

### **Other:**

### **R v R C (2015)**

Successful appeal from large drugs conspiracy in which 15 years' imprisonment was reduced to 12.

### **R v H (2012)**

Two day appeal in the Staff of Government Division in the Isle of Man seeking to overturn sentencing policy; involved the consideration of sentencing policy in 13 jurisdictions. (For the Appellant)

### **R v Z (2011)**

The Defendant was charged with a series of serious rapes, the complainant and witnesses from her family all claiming anonymity. Ultimately the prosecution offered no evidence after flaws in their anonymity applications were exposed and the complainant withdrew her complaint. (Defending)

### **R v W H (2011)**

The criminal prosecution of a solicitor for perverting the course of justice alleged to have persuaded a prosecution witness not to give evidence at a murder trial. Difficult issues of legal professional privilege involved. (Prosecuting)

### **R v L I (2010)**

The Defendant was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent of his 4-month-old daughter by shaking. The case involved expert evidence of the conventional "triad" of injuries i.e. encephalopathy, sub-dural haematoma and bi-lateral retinal haemorrhages, but was unusual because the baby had prominent extracerebral/ subarachnoid spaces which on rare occasions have been reported to predispose a child to sub-dural haematoma even with minor trauma, and because her retinal haemorrhages were subsequently found to have resolved. (Defending)

### **R v P S (2010)**

The Defendant, acquitted of murder in Liverpool, moved to South Wales where he was alleged to have carried out a large number of very serious armed robberies, the majority of which were organised "cash-in-transit" offences but two of which involved the planned robbery in their own homes of prominent local businessmen. The case involved a very large amount of cell-site and other telecommunication evidence (Defending).