

Barrister: James Thacker

Overview:

James prosecutes and defends a broad spectrum of serious offences with specialisms in:

- Financial Crime
- Organised and Complex Crime
- Rape and Child Abuse
- Disciplinary Proceedings
- Health & Safety
- Road Traffic prosecutions involving serious injury or death
- Inquests
- Appeals

He is known for his thorough preparation, calm collected approach, devastatingly good cross-examination and his natural ability to connect with juries.

James has prosecuted and defended in several high profile, multi-handed, cases. He has significant experience of leading the team to successful outcomes and appearing against Queen's Counsel.

James is a grade 4 prosecutor, is approved to prosecute serious and organised crime, [fraud](#), rape cases, and other serious sexual offences and has been appointed to the Regulatory List enabling him to prosecute on behalf of the HSE and the Environment Agency. James also prosecutes on behalf of executive agencies of the Department of Health such as NHS Protect and the MHRA (Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulation Authority) in complex and high profile cases of [fraud](#) and [regulatory](#) offences involving leading consultants, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and pharmaceuticals.

James is knowledgeable and experienced in defending road traffic prosecutions especially where death or serious injury has occurred and accepts instructions directly or through insurers. His expertise also extends to representation before the Coroner's Court in Inquests.

What the directories say:

- "Detailed and focused preparation leading to a very strong grasp of all areas of the complicated case in which we were involved. Was strong in every area of the case and his advocacy was thorough, clear and persuasive. Reliable, friendly and excellent at working within a team and leading it. He is unshakeable in court." Fraud: **Legal 500 2021**
- "A thoroughly prepared, calm, hardworking and assured criminal advocate, James is meticulous in every area of his preparation. He leaves no stone unturned and is a strong advocate and negotiates robustly with opponents." Crime: **Legal 500 2021**
- "He's measured, analytical and devastating. His overall manner, his preparation and his general ability distinguish him. He doesn't lose his calm ever." - **Chambers and Partner 2020**
- "A very robust advocate who knows when to pick his fights." - **Legal 500 2020**
- "He combines a good intellect and a calm approach." **Legal 500 2019**
- "He's an incredibly committed and diligent lawyer." **Chambers and Partners 2019**
- "James is a fantastic advocate who is particularly good at paper-heavy cases. He will always be sure to leave no stone unturned." **Chambers and Partners 2018**
- "A clever advocate who is highly strategic and always eyeing the opportunity to trap his opponent." **Chambers and Partners 2017**
- "Fantastically well prepared, hardworking and great to deal with." **Legal 500 2017**
- "He combines a strong knowledge of fraud with a collaborative approach and a confident courtroom presence". **Legal 500 2017**
- "Extremely knowledgeable, efficient and concise, and his advocacy is very measured." **Chambers and Partners 2016**
- "His reputation goes before him." **Legal 500 2016**
- "Very thorough, has good attention to detail and is very approachable." **Chambers and Partners 2015**

Privacy Notice

[Click here](#) to download.

Fraud

Fraud:

James represents defendants and prosecuting agencies in major business crime cases; multi-handed, high value financial crime perpetrated against multinationals, banking institutions, government and Trusts. James regularly acts as leading counsel and is used to appearing against Queen's Counsel.

He is also experienced in highly specialised areas of [fraud](#) such as benefit [fraud](#), NHS prosecutions and MHRA (Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulation Authority) prosecutions.



Call: 2001

Appointments:

Grade 4 prosecutor; CPS specialist Rape list; Grade 4 specialist Fraud prosecutor; Grade A SFO prosecution panel; Appointed to Level 4 on Serious Crime Group Panel; Panel B Regulatory list; Pupil supervisor; Central London Bar Mess junior; Committee member of South Eastern Circuit; Recorder of Seniors in Hall at Gray's Inn

Education:

LLB (Hons), Birmingham University

Practice areas

- Crime and Fraud
- Inquests
- Local Government
- Police Law
- Professional Disciplinary Proceedings
- Regulatory and Disciplinary

Recent Cases

- R. v. Fitch and Turney (2020)

Recent News

- James Thacker, Jennifer Newcomb and Kyah Mufti successfully prosecute Organised Criminal Network.
- James Thacker represents the Appropriate Authority in Met Police Disciplinary proceedings
- James Thacker instructed in first case to be charged in Operation Venetic
- James Thacker and William Dean Secure First Ever Conviction for Knowingly Furnishing False Information in £2.7m Rural Development Grant Fraud
- James Thacker persuades court to dismiss charge of Causing Death by Careless Driving
- Seven leading members of an organised crime group sentenced to 111 years' imprisonment for conspiring to supply at least 1 tonne of cocaine
- Leading members of Organised Criminal Group successfully prosecuted for Conspiring to Supply Cocaine.
- Parole Board Asked to Reconsider Decision to Release Killer of Helen McCourt
- 'Dangerous' offenders in 'premeditated' attack sentenced to 25 years
- James Thacker and Jennie Osborne successfully prosecute "vicious, shameful and premeditated" attack
- Court of Appeal uphold 6 year sentence for money laundering
- James Thacker prosecutes Social Media Torture Case
- James Thacker and Jennifer Newcomb successfully prosecute evasion of over £1 million in customs duty
- James Thacker and Thom Dyke: £7½ million fraudsters sentenced to 33 years' imprisonment
- 'Evil' scoutmaster sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment for grooming and sexually abusing cubs and scouts
- James Thacker secures Confiscation Order in excess of £3.3million in 'Britain's largest Educational fraud'
- James Thacker and Thom Dyke: Convictions secured in £7½ million frauds
- James Thacker successfully prosecutes

He is a grade 4 specialist [fraud](#) prosecutor.

Crime

Crime:

James prosecutes and defends in complex cases of Serious and Organised Crime. He is a grade 4 prosecutor on both the CPS General Panel and CPS Serious Crime Panel. He is regularly instructed to lead other juniors in cases of factual and legal complexity and multi-handed cases.

James is approved to prosecute rape, child abuse and other serious sexual offences.

He is experienced in dealing with expert evidence: providing advice, leading evidence and cross examining. Examples include: dealing with evidence from a number of leading paediatricians when defending in an alleged assault upon a prematurely born baby, examining chartered, management and forensic accountants, and examining scientists in respect of GSR, DNA, and fibre transfer.

James is also experienced in dealing with children (both as witnesses and defendants) and vulnerable witnesses. He has specific expertise with witnesses suffering from Asperger's syndrome, witnesses diagnosed with PTSD, witnesses with low IQs and deaf witnesses, all of which involved a number of special measures including intermediaries.

He has significant experience and expertise in dealing with telephone and cell site data. He is knowledgeable about Encrochat enabled devices and dealt with one of the first prosecutions in which they featured. He is instructed by CPS London and the CCU in a number of 'Venetic' cases.

Notable Cases

Notable Cases:

Fraud

- **R v SF, RT and AW, Canterbury Crown Court, 2020:** Leading William Dean in £2.7m Government grant aid fraud under the Countryside Productivity Scheme administered by the Rural Payments Agency at DEFRA. The case involved what is understood to be the first conviction under regulation 16 of the Common Agricultural Policy (Control and Enforcement, Cross-Compliance, Scrutiny of Transactions and Appeals) Regulations 2014. Case available here <http://www.9goughchambers.co.uk/news/1716/>
- **R (Operation Veil nos.1 and 3) v MF, AJ, DI and HC, CW, Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2018:** Leading Jennifer Newcomb on behalf of HMRC in combined £2.3m fraudulent evasion of duty. Story available [here](#)
- **R (Operations Amaryllis and Ensete) v VS, US, AS, VS & SG, Wood Green Crown Court, 2018:** Leading Thom Dyke in £7 ½ million multiple global banking conspiracies.
- **R v AA, CR and SJC, Wood Green Crown Court, 2017:** Insider fraud at Barclays Bank plc.
- **R (Operation Dinghy, no. 2) v RF, TH, MD, KR & SJ, Southwark Crown Court, 2017:** Leading Dominic Hockley in Wine Investment Fraud.
- **R (Operation Radome) v AT & 6 Others, Maidstone Crown Court, 2017:** Leading Frederick Hookway in fraudulent evasion of duty by smuggling tobacco.
- **R v MC, Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2016:** Prosecuted lawyer with law firms in UK, Portugal and Brazil for fraud.
- **R v SK, Woolwich Crown Court, 2016:** Multi-million Education Trust fraud. National newspapers refer to the case as 'Britain's biggest Education Fraud'. £3.3million Confiscation Order made. Story available [here](#).
- **R (Operation Anchorage) v AD, AA, DB & JM, Southwark Crown Court, 2016:** Fraud and Money Laundering case perpetrated against Genesis Housing Association.
- **R v KA, Woodgreen Crown Court, 2016:** Investment fraud involving multiple victims.
- **R v BB, Southwark Crown Court, 2016:** £3.1million fraud perpetrated against HSBC Invoice Finance UK Limited in biggest ever loss suffered by them. News article [here](#).

Crime

- **R (Op Edge) v MH and 8 others, Woolwich CC, 2020:** Leading Jennifer Newcomb and Kyah Mufti in substantial conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs by an Organised Criminal Group. All defendants convicted and sentenced to substantial terms of imprisonment.
- **R (Op Labootan) v DB, PD, GP, GL, JH, MO and CD, Kingston Crown Court, 2018-2020:** First junior to Christopher Donnellan QC in substantial (1 tonne plus) conspiracy to supply high purity cocaine (£32m wholesale) that spanned December 2016 to January 2018. The investigation resulted in over 120,000 pages of evidence including ½ million rows of telephone data and was presented in court electronically with iPads. First case prosecuted where defendants used Encrochat devices. Trial one stopped in 2018 with two further trials, each lasting three months, in 2019. Defendants sentenced to a total of 111 years' imprisonment with principal organiser sentenced to 27 years'.
- **R (Op Packetstone) v H, A and L, Central Criminal Court, 2019:** Junior to Treasury Counsel, Tom Little QC in Murder case.
- **R v HP, KM and AS, Harrow Crown Court, 2019 before Simler LJ (sitting as a judge of the High Court):** Leading Jennifer Osborne in premeditated and sustained assault to abort the foetus of a pregnant teenager. Complicated issues relating to the Modern Slavery Act arose. All three defendants successfully prosecuted and received combined sentences of 25 years with two defendants deemed 'dangerous' and sentenced to extended terms of imprisonment.
- **R v SG, Central Criminal Court, 2019:** Successfully defended HGV driver accused of causing a death by dangerous driving. Proceedings stayed as an abuse of process following

- landlord who raped intoxicated tenant
- 25 years' imprisonment for most depraved and horrific sex offender
- James Thacker has been appointed as a Senior in Hall by the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
- Serial West London attacker convicted
- 7 tobacco smugglers successfully prosecuted and sentenced to immediate terms of imprisonment
- Fine Wine Fraudsters convicted
- James Thacker prosecutes New Earth Solutions Group in Health and Safety case after worker dies
- James Thacker successfully prosecutes rapist to a total of 19 years' imprisonment
- Fraud successfully prosecuted by James Thacker
- Confiscation orders worth in excess of £700,000 secured
- Twenty five years for cocaine conspirators
- James Thacker prosecutes non-fatal shooting at Central Criminal Court
- 9 years imprisonment for Britain's biggest education fraudster
- James Thacker prosecutes £4.1million Education Fraud
- £3.1million company fraudster sentenced in biggest ever loss suffered by HSBC Invoice Finance (UK) Limited
- 77 year old grandfather sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment for abusing his two granddaughters aged between 8 and 10 years
- 6 Deaf defendants successfully prosecuted for their part in a £750,000 Access to Work Fraud
- James Thacker instructed by CPS for appeal against sentence in the Court of Appeal
- James Thacker and Jennifer Newcomb give training on Gang Injunctions
- Deaf conman jailed for 9 years for his part in a £900,000 benefit fraud

legal argument and after s8 disclosure requests unearthed police corruption during the investigation that tainted evidence from various eye witnesses and caused exhibits not to be retained.

- **R (Op. Tarori) v RB, Wood Green Crown Court, 2018:** Leading Laura Kenyon in class A county lines case.
- **R (Op Alora) v AR, Southwark Crown Court, 2018:** Attempted Murder in Walthamstow, E17 where victim was shot at close range.

Rape, Sexual Offences & Child Abuse

- **R v WT, Croydon Crown Court, 2020:** Led by Tom Little QC, Senior Treasury Counsel. Successfully prosecuted serial rapist sentenced to life imprisonment.
- **R v AA, Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2018:** Prosecuted Scoutmaster who groomed and sexually abused at least 7 young cubs and scouts, aged between 9 and 13 years. He carried out his 'appalling and evil' pattern of offences at campsites and at the children's' homes whilst their parents were present. His actions were predatory, blatant and in abuse of trust. He also had inappropriate chats with young scouts via messaging sites and social media and requested sexually explicit photographs and had made indecent photographs of some cubs and scouts and was in possession of many more. Sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment and made subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for life.
- **R v GS, Woolwich Crown Court, 2017:** Successfully prosecuted non-recent inter-familial rape and child abuse (sexual, physical and physiological) case which spanned 4 decades and involved multiple complainants. Defendant sentenced to 26 years' imprisonment.
- **R v PO, Isleworth Crown Court, 2017:** Dubbed 'Ripper of Ravenscourt' the defendant attacked eight women including one schoolgirl over the course of three days around the Ravenscourt Park area of London.
- **R v CP, Isleworth Crown Court, 2017:** Prosecuted Head of Great British Martial Arts Association and Vice-Chair of British Kick Boxing Council for historic sexual offences.
- **R v NS, Inner London Crown Court, 2016:** Prosecuted 77 year old grandfather for abusing grandchildren.

Regulatory & Disciplinary

- **Commissioner of Metropolis v MM and SC, 2020:** Advised and represented Appropriate Authority in Professional Misconduct Proceedings where operational dishonesty proved that led to dismissal without notice.
- **GDC v NO, GDC Professional Conduct Committee, 2014:** Advised GDC on appropriate charges and evidence in respect of sixteen complainants and thereafter represented the GDC in this multiple complainant, multiple expert, factually complex case. The Registrant's fitness to practice was found to be impaired by reason of his misconduct and he was sanctioned with appropriate conditions.

Health & Safety

- **HSE v New Earth Solutions Group, Maidstone Crown Court, 2016:** Prosecuted company for breaching Health & Safety at Work Act, which resulted in the death of an employee.
- **HSE v Mahle Powertrain Ltd, Birmingham Crown Court, 2016:** Prosecuted company for significant and substantial breaches of Manual Handling at Work.

Recommendations



For more information please call our clerks on **020 7832 0500**

© 2021, Chambers of Jacob Levy QC, 9 Gough Chambers