

Toby Manhire

Call: 2019



clerks@4bb.co.uk



020 7092 1900

Toby joined Chambers after completing his pupillage. He both prosecutes and defends, accepting instructions in the Crown Court, Youth Court and Magistrates' Court. He also has experience of quasi-criminal applications including Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs), Gang Injunctions, Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO), and civil committal for contempt.

Regularly appearing on behalf of the Crown in the Crown Court, Toby applies himself to fair, reasoned, and proportionate prosecuting. When defending, he deploys his array of experience in robust and rigorous defence of his clients and is a tenacious trial advocate. He has proven successes in resolving matters favourably at trial, and beforehand – taking special interest in early engagement to resolve matters before they are litigated before a jury. Unafraid to take difficult, but strategic, decisions, Toby is well-regarded for his 'common sense' style of advocacy with juries in cases of complexity or great consequence.

Before commencing Pupillage, Toby was a Senior Paralegal, and managed all manner of cases from drugs conspiracies (involving Encrochat evidence and defences of modern slavery) to homicide, firearms supply, terror offences, and indecent images. First-hand experience of handling client concerns means Toby's client manner was 'second to none'. He applies those experiences – dealing with clients, and investigatory bodies – to both prosecuting and defending cases.

Expertise

General Crime

Toby has experience of both prosecution and defence work in the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court. He has been instructed in the full spectrum of criminal offences and ancillary proceedings.

Whether prosecuting or defending, Toby engages early on and takes pragmatic and strategic steps in any case, mindful of later ramifications. Robust advice and an excellent manner with clients (or witnesses) means he is regularly instructed by the Crown and Defence alike.

Criminal Defence

Accepting instructions in all fields of criminal law, Toby brings his previous experience of pre-charge and pre-trial litigation to bear when representing

clients.

Toby engages with clients from an early stage, advising on strategic decisions in the round, whilst bringing a first-rate client service. Toby is adept at handling matters of growing complexity including cases with a mental health dimension or vulnerability, multi-handed cases, and youth defendants and witnesses (including age determinations of youths where age is disputed). He is a pragmatic, robust, and adaptive advocate.

His recent case load includes armed robbery, death by dangerous driving and drug importation. He has experience in advancing defences of modern slavery, particularly with young people.

Notable Criminal Defence cases

R v M – Snaresbrook Crown Court

Engaged early on, Toby was instructed to defend M in matters of violence over several months alleged in a domestic context. Concerns were raised regarding improper pressure placed upon the complainant by police to support a prosecution. As a result of repeated legal argument, tactical deployment of defence material, the Crown went on to Offer No Evidence.

CPS v J – Manchester Magistrates' Court

J was charged with possession of Class B drugs at a football match. Toby persuaded the Crown to review the case and J was referred back to police for a caution. The matter also concerned consideration of Football Banning Orders.

CPS v T – Willesden Magistrates' Court

T was charged with using violence to secure entry, impersonation of a police officer, and violence in a domestic context. Toby secured a not guilty verdict after a successful halftime submission, in the face of admission of the complainant's account as hearsay.

Public Prosecutions

When prosecuting, Toby places fairness and proportionality at the forefront.

He is frequently instructed by the Crown to advise on the merits of proceedings, applicability of defences as well as in relation to appeals (including judicial review).

Toby is unafraid to tackle extensive and voluminous casework or multi-handed prosecutions. He deftly distils cases for jury consideration and presents cases with a common-sense approach.

Previous case work has included sexual offending, indecent images, matters of violence, conspiracy, and coordinated acquisitive offending.

Notable Public Prosecutions cases

R v F – Peterborough Crown Court

Represented the Crown at sentence in respect of a footballer having caused serious injury by dangerous driving – for which he was sentenced to 12 months' immediate custody.

R v A – Isleworth Crown Court

Toby was engaged by the Crown to provide early-stage advice on immigration offences, where the Defendant asserted a defence under s.31 Immigration & Asylum Act 1999. Toby advised on applicability of international treaties on refugees.

R v H & S – Chelmsford Crown Court

Acting alone, Toby prosecuted a two-handed burglary spree which took place shortly before Christmas 2021.

Serious & Organised Crime

Instructed in conspiracies involving organised criminal gangs, Toby is deft at dealing with matters of considerable weight, gravity, or volume.

Toby has been instructed in multi-handed drug conspiracies, importation of drugs, and pre-planned acquisitive offending. He is capable of managing multiple Defendants as a prosecutor.

He has recent experience of dealing with organised gangs in conspiracy to steal, using sophisticated methods of theft (and investigation). He is well versed in matters affected by Public Interest Immunity, including undercover operations, covert surveillance, and 'bugged' recordings.

Notable Serious & Organised Crime cases

R v S & Ors. – Maidstone Crown Court

Instructed as junior counsel for the Crown, Toby was led by John Carmichael in a multi-handed drug conspiracy and money laundering trial. After 4 weeks, S (D1) was convicted of the conspiracy with others, and A (D2) of a separate drug supply operation, both were convicted of money laundering. More than £100,000 was said to have been obtained in a year-long supply operation.

Firearms & Explosives

Toby has experience, principally prosecuting, offences concerning firearms. He takes special interest in such offences and has dealt with matters involving converted firearms, as well as live firearms used in the commission of offences.

He has managed cases concerning firearm attribution hinging on forensic evidence, armed robbery involving serious harm, and imitation firearms used to threaten members of the public.

Defending Children & Young People

Toby Manhire has significant experience of dealing with young people and appreciates the need for bespoke, tailored, client care with youth defendants.

His client manner, ability to provide 'common sense' explanations and advice, and ability to distil vast quantities of evidence render him a capable advocate for young people. He is adept at persuading the Crown to consider alternatives to prosecution and has successfully advanced modern slavery defences.

Notable Defending Children & Young People cases

U (a youth) - London

Successfully defended a youth in two separate trials arising as part of the same investigation. Having resisted a number of applications by the Crown at trial (to adduce evidence of absent complainants) the Crown offered no evidence in a 3-handed attempted robbery. U was also charged with a county lines drug supply offence. Acting as Assigned Counsel, Toby worked closely with instructing solicitors to bring the case to a favourable conclusion: asserting modern slavery, and deploying expert psychological evidence, the Crown went on to offer no evidence at that trial.

Metropolitan Police Service v P – London

P breached a gang injunction on more than 150 occasions. Toby represented P in committal for contempt proceedings brought by the Metropolitan Police Service.

A (a youth) – London

A faced allegations of robbery, aggravated by threats of a knife. Following early engagement and service of legal argument to exclude the core evidence of the Crown's case, proceedings were discontinued.

Sexual Offences

Toby has experience of dealing with sexual offences from both a prosecution and defence perspective. He has also dealt with sexual offences involving youths (as defendants) and cases involving production of indecent images.

He is acutely aware of the sensitivities of such cases and approaches trial advocacy with care and precision. Inherently involving historic, or large scale disclosure, Toby is adept at managing the 'paper aspects' of such cases with a view to jury presentation.

Notable Sexual Offences cases

P (a youth) - Buckinghamshire

Toby successfully defended P who was alleged to have sexually assaulted a lone female as part of a group.

R v S – Isleworth Crown Court

Prosecuted S who was senior household staff to foreign ruling royals, for repeated sexual assault of hotel staff in London. S waived privilege, and simultaneously argued no waiver applied, claiming his police station representative pressured him into giving a full account of offending and he had never seen, or signed, his defence statement. The case involved careful consideration of privilege, waiver, complaint evidence, inferences from inconsistencies, and reliability of confession evidence. Prosecuted S who was senior household staff to foreign ruling royals, for repeated sexual assault of hotel staff in London. S waived privilege, and simultaneously argued no waiver applied, claiming his police station representative pressured him into giving a full account of offending and he had never seen, or signed, his defence statement. The case involved careful consideration of privilege, waiver, complaint evidence, inferences from inconsistencies, and reliability of confession evidence.

Memberships

- The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- Criminal Bar Association
- Human Rights Lawyers Association
- Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties)

Appointments

- CPS Advocates' Panel – Grade 2

Education

- 2018 Upper Second-Class (Hons) LLB Law (University of Surrey)
- 2019 Very Competent BPTC (The University of Law)
- 2019 Distinction LLM Law & Bar Practice (The University of Law)

Awards

- Exhibition Scholarship – Inner Temple