

Peter Woodall

Called to Bar (Middle Temple) **1983**
Pupil Supervisor **2004-2006**
Accredited Facilitator of the Vulnerable Witness Programme
Casework advice for the Criminal Case Review Commission

Education

Philosophy, University of Lancaster **1979**
LLB (Hons), University of Leeds **1982**
QAA Pilot Scheme, Cardiff Law School **2010**



Profile

Peter Woodall is a specialist defence advocate and is an extremely experienced Leading Junior with a particular specialism in defending defendants charged with offences of rape, including historic rape, grooming, possession of unlawful images, child abuse, and Police and vigilante sting operations.

He has represented clients charged with Complex Fraud offences and organised crime.

He has acted as a Court Appointed Advocate under the provisions of section 38 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 where defendant have no legal representation.

Peter Woodall has specialised in Contracted Cases since the inception of the VHCC scheme as both Leading and Junior Counsel and has been instructed in some of the largest frauds prosecuted in recent years such as Operation Vaulter and Operation Eraser.

So far as cases of defending general criminal cases is concerned, Peter has vast experience in multi handed drug conspiracies, murders, money laundering and serious organised crime, as well as offences of Violence, Drugs and Dishonesty.



0203-334-4253



pdsclerks@justice.gov.uk

Notable Cases

Sexual Offences

R v M, Bradford Crown Court

Multi handed historic grooming case going back many years. Peter was involved in the original trial and retrial. This was one of six trials arising from a single police operation.

R v S, Cardiff Crown Court

Rape of brother and sister under 10 years of age by persons in loco parentis with the associated creation of video and unlawful class A images.

R v W, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Vigilante sting operation trapping a defendant who had set out to meet a child for sex.

R v M, Guildford Crown Court

Inciting child to engage in sexual activity arising from vigilante hunters.

R v G, Central Criminal Court

Inciting child to engage in sexual activity arising from vigilante hunters.

R v S, Ipswich Crown Court

A case involving a large download and storage of category 'A' images of rape and torture of infants.

R v O, Cardiff Crown Court

A trial involving multiple counts of Indecency, within an on-going relationship, with associated allegations of violence, strangulation, and control.

R v O, Harrow Crown Court

Stranger Rape focused on clubs in the West end of London.

R v A, Stoke on Trent Crown Court

Multiple allegations of child abuse and grievous bodily harm. The defendants at trial ran a cut-throat defence.

R v C, Gloucester Crown Court

The defendant was an adult Autistic Spectrum Disorder sufferer charged with sexual assault on a six-year-old child and possession of unlawful images. Intermediaries were instructed on both sides and a psychologist was instructed by the defence. The defendant was acquitted.

R v X, Gloucester Crown Court

The defendant was an asylum seeker charged with sexual assault upon a young woman in a secluded car park whom he had initially met in a local night club. The defence was one of consent. CCTV evidence was critical to the defence. The defendant was acquitted.

R v M, Lewes Crown Court

Led by Greg Bull QC. The defendant and one other faced a twenty-count indictment alleging historical multiple rapes and sexual assaults. The allegations focused upon schoolgirls from a local Sussex college. The trial lasted four weeks and involved an expert witness in the transmission of HIV and anti-terror drugs.

R v X, Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court

The defendant was charged with multiple offences of historic sexual assault against members of his family and a young babysitter. The matters went back approximately thirty years. The defendant was acquitted of all counts.

Notable Cases

Fraud

R v U, Southwark Crown Court

Junior to QC in an immigration fraud 8-month trial.

R v P, Manchester Crown Court

Leading Junior Counsel in a multi handed mortgage fraud involving the raising of false charges and identity theft. Value of fraud £4 million. Trial lasted forty days.

R v S, Liverpool Crown Court

Leading Junior Counsel in a multi handed VHCC trial. One of a sequence of three Missing Trader VAT frauds. The case lasted approximately three months. The served evidence was in excess of 200k pages. Value over £30 million. This was the first of three trials involving one of the largest Carousel Frauds of its type. The allegation centred upon a network of companies purporting to trade in high cost, high volume merchandise from the UK to the UAE over a period of years.

R v W, Derby Crown Court

This was a multi handed tobacco excise evasion conspiracy that was one of the largest of its kind. The contraband was imported and sold on wholesale. The monies were then laundered through a number of outlets including property fraud and gambling. The total benefit figure was said to be £26 million.

R v P, Liverpool Crown Court

Leading Junior Counsel in a multi handed VHCC trial (plea negotiated). One of a sequence of three Missing Trader VAT frauds. Sentence successfully reduced on appeal.

R v T, Middlesbrough Crown Court

Leading Junior Counsel in a multi handed VHCC trial. A Missing Trader VAT fraud and money laundering. The case lasted approximately six weeks.

R v C, Southwark Crown Court

Conspiracy to defraud and money laundering. This was a multi handed conspiracy involving frauds upon the MOD and the DSS throughout the country. The case took almost two years to come to trial and the fraud amounted to over £1 million. The defendant was acquitted after two days of jury deliberation.

R v M, Middlesbrough Crown Court

This large fraud investigation was broken down into three trials. The defendant was in the principal trial. The conspiracy involved a scheme of multiple mortgage applications and identity theft. The defendant was said to be a primary associate to the main organiser of the fraud.

R v S & Others (Operation Anaconda)

Instructed as Leading Counsel for the first defendant in the largest in a series of Department of Education frauds, following a tabloid expose. The case involved the alleged defrauding of over 80,000 students, several qualification bodies, the Post Office, and the consequent ruination of the Government's ILA scheme in 2002. Over £16 million was said to have been obtained. Trial commenced on 9 June 2008 and lasted over 5 months. The consequent Appeal is a reported case. The confiscation proceedings were set at £13 million. Reduced after a hearing in 2012 to under £300,000.

Notable Cases

Fraud cont'd

R v M & Others, Worcester Crown Court

VHCC case. Instructed as Junior Counsel in a Serious Fraud Office prosecution alleging the fraudulent incorporation, marketing, and trading of an investment company to British ex-patriot citizens abroad. The fraud amounted to over £1 million worth of investment over a ten-month period, principally in Cyprus, Czech Republic, and the Far East. The trial commenced on 28 September 2009 and ran for just under three months. Peter was led by a QC.

Homicide and Serious Violence

R v R, Bristol Crown Court

Murder trial led by Kings Counsel. Murder of highly vulnerable victim involving psychiatric expertise going to diminished responsibility and fitness to plead.

R v S, Preston Crown Court

This was a multi handed torture case. The defendants were charged with taking prisoner a drug addict in a revenge attack, because the alleged victim was said to have abused a young woman. The Crown case was that the victim was beaten, falsely imprisoned, threatened with rape and had his head set alight with accelerant. The victim was found injured and bleeding in the street with burn marks. The first trial was discharged due to the defence discovering critical disclosure failings. The retrial lasted three weeks and the defendant was acquitted. Pivotal to the case was my cross examination of the Crown expert witness on blood staining.

R v K, Liverpool Crown Court

Leading Junior in the Reese Jones murder trial. This was a VHCC case. Represented the principal defendant charged with assisting the first defendant in escaping the murder scene and concealment of the firearm.

R v C, Central Criminal Court

Assisting a murderer to escape the scene of a multiple stabbing targeted gang attack.

R v K, Cardiff Crown Court

Led by David Aubrey QC. The defendant, a young woman, was one of three charged with Murder. The victim was killed during a violent disorder outside of a public house. At the end of the Crown's case during the trial the Crown the Judge dismissed the charge against this defendant and the remaining defendants pleaded guilty to offences of Manslaughter.

General Crime

R v K, Ipswich Crown Court

Blackmail and conspiracy to supply drugs.

R v T, Liverpool CC

Three cases concerning Multiple Firearms and drugs conspiracy trials involving several organised crime groups.

R v F, Gloucester Crown Court

Three cases concerning Cocaine supply conspiracies covering the west country Birmingham and the Southeast.

Notable Cases

General Crime cont'd

R v C, Preston CC

Multi handed Slavery case based upon a series of Brothels and prostitution rings from the Northwest to the Southeast.

R v B, Bristol Crown Court

Multi handed conspiracy to move drugs from the west Midlands and Southeast to Gloucester.

R v F, Birmingham Crown Court

This was a 10,000 page plus multi handed Class A drugs conspiracy that was listed for a six-week trial. The Crown alleged that wholesale amounts of Cocaine were being moved from the West Midlands to Sussex. At the close of the Crown case the jury were discharged against all defendants save for F. The trial continued against him alone. He was duly acquitted.