



Matthew Sorel-Cameron

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Matthew is a robust and persuasive advocate, who brings a forensic approach to cases. His skill, tactical acumen and judgement have helped him develop a successful and diverse practice. He has significant experience in representing vulnerable clients and handling vulnerable witnesses.

Matthew defends and is also regularly instructed to represent the Crown Prosecution Service. He is on the CPS Advocate Panel (General Crime) at Level 3 and the CPS Specialist Fraud Panel at Level 3.

Crime

Fraud & Corporate Crime

Matthew is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in cases of fraud and financial crime.

- R v K, A & B (2018) International money laundering, perverting the course of justice. Prosecuted three defendants in relation to the attempted smuggling of £320k in cash out of the country. At trial the defendants claimed that the money was destined for Kurdish refugees in Syria.
- R v G & C (2017) Defended man charged with fraudulently evading of over £400k of duty on imported tobacco, and laundering £200k in cash.
- R v J (2017) Prosecuted sophisticated £130k breach of trust fraud committed by a bank employee.
- R v W (2017) Prosecuted a man charged with repeatedly defrauding the customers of his vehicle renovation business. The defendant pleaded guilty the day before the trial was due to start.
- R v F and W (2016) Defended a woman accused of receiving housing benefit of over £30k for a house which she legally owned.
- R v D and others (2016) Defended a man charged in a national conspiracy to commit fraud by using cloned fuel cards.
- R v H (2015) Defended a man charged with defrauding a dying friend of £30k.

Organised Crime

Matthew is increasingly being instructed in cases involving organised crime, and is instructed by the CPS's Complex Casework Unit

- Operation Pibera (2019) Human trafficking. Junior prosecution counsel (led by Kate Bex QC). The case represented the first time that County Lines drug dealers were convicted at trial for trafficking young and vulnerable runners to deal drugs. Complex issues of law and cell-site evidence arose at trial.
- R v P (2018) Smuggling £1.5 million of crystal meth into the UK (instructed by CPS CCU case).
- R v S (2018) Conspiring to breach immigration law and perverting the course of justice. The defendant conspired with others to arrange a sham marriage for himself, in order to bypass immigration law (instructed by CPS CCU).
- R v H and R (2017) Attempted Murder. Junior prosecution counsel (led by Gerard Pounder, now HHJ Pounder): defendants charged with attempting to murder three men in a car during a high-speed pursuit. The defendants were convicted after trial of s.18 GBH.
- Operation Dryad (2016) Child sexual exploitation. Junior prosecution counsel (led by Christopher Paxton: 9-week trial of five defendants charged with Rape, Sexual activity with children and prostitution.
- Operation Dryad (2016) Drugs conspiracy. Junior prosecution counsel (led by Christopher Paxton in a multi-handed 4-week trial Conspiracy to supply Class B drugs (mephedrone) by an Iranian gang.
- R v S and M (2016) Theft of high-end motor vehicles.

General & Violent Crime

Matthew has substantial experience in both defending and prosecuting cases of violent crime and crime generally.

- R v C (2019) Administering a stupefying drug with intent, false imprisonment, attempted child abduction. Prosecution of a man who had entered the home of his estranged wife, taped her to a chair, threatened her with an imitation firearm, poisoned her and then took their five-year old daughter. The daughter gave evidence at trial.
- R v A (2019) Attempted murder. Prosecution of a man accused of the attempted murder of two prison guards.
- R v L (2018) Defence of a man accused of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The weapon was discharged in dangerous circumstances.
- R v T (2018) Knifepoint robbery with serious injuries. Prosecution of a man who had set up an ambush robbery on an acquaintance. The acquaintance was repeatedly stabbed and left with life-changing injuries. Jogee principles were squarely engaged.
- R v S (2018) s.18 stabbing in residential street.
- R v M (2017) Robberies of convenience stores. Prosecuted a man who had committed robberies on two convenience stores in Ipswich.

- R v H (2017) Perverting the course of justice. Defended a woman charged with falsely accusing her neighbour of assaulting her. A successful submission of no case was made.
- R v L (2017) Perverting the course of justice. Prosecuted a man who had perverted the course of justice by presenting a false document to a Magistrates' Court.
- R v M (2017) Serious domestic burglary. Defended a man charged with burgling the home of his ex-partner whilst she and her children were present.
- R v O'C and others (2015) Multi-handed affray and assault with weapons. Prosecuted three defendants for a revenge attack affray and assault with weapons. One of the Crown's primary witnesses turned hostile.
- R v M and O'H (2015) Home invasion robbery. Prosecuted two defendants for a home invasion robbery where weapons were used against a vulnerable defendant.
- R v E and M (2015) s.18 GBH. Prosecuted two defendants for intentionally causing grievous bodily harm to a transgender victim.
- R v B (2013) Defended a woman charged with ABH and common assault on a store security officer and store manager who had restrained her after she had been caught shoplifting.

Sexual Offences

Matthew is increasingly being instructed in cases involving sexual offences:

- R v D (2018) Multiple sexual assault. Prosecution of the manager of a bar/restaurant who had sexually assaulted young male workers.
- R v K (2018) Child sexual exploitation. Junior prosecution counsel (led by Christopher Paxton) in the prosecution a man accused of a series of rapes, sexual assaults and robberies against strangers, on a single morning in Norwich City Centre. The defendant received a life sentence after he was convicted at trial.
- R v B (2018) Sexual assault. Prosecuted a man accused of sexually assaulting an ex-partner in her own home.
- R v G (2017) Sexual assault. Prosecuted a man accused of sexually assaulting a woman in her own home.
- Operation Dryad (2016) Child sexual exploitation. Junior prosecution counsel (led by Christopher Paxton): 9 week trial of five defendants charged with rape, sexual activity with children and prostitution.

Road Traffic

Matthew is regularly instructed to defend and prosecute complex private road traffic matters. He has extensive experience in making and resisting special reasons arguments and making arguments for exceptional hardship.

- R v M (2017) Successfully defended man accused of careless driving and failing to stop at the

scene of an accident.

- **R v T (2015)** Prosecuted causing bodily harm by wilful misconduct when in charge of a vehicle: driving a lorry at high speed the wrong way around a one-way system on private land and running someone over causing horrific injuries. Successfully resisted an application to dismiss on the interpretation of the words 'wilful misconduct', whereupon the defendant pleaded guilty.
- **C v DPP (2013)** Presented a successful special reasons argument on appeal (the appellant only drove whilst over the limit because he had been assaulted, and was in fear of further assault). 3year ban imposed below avoided and licence retained.
- **C v DPP (2012)** Successfully resisted a drink driving appeal based on back calculation supported by UK's leading expert on alcohol consumption and absorption.
- **R v C (2010)** Defended a school bus driver (also a local councillor) of driving carelessly and causing injury to schoolchildren passengers: successful submission of no case.

Proceeds of Crime (POCA)

Matthew has substantial experience in conducting confiscation proceedings on behalf of both prosecution and defence. He recently successfully prosecuted a complex confiscation application under the old Criminal Justice Act 1988 legislation.

Inquiries & Appellate Work

Appellate

- **R v Loveday (2016)** Successful appeal against sentence arguing misapplication of the sentencing guidelines: sentence reduced from 12 to 6 months imprisonment.
- **R v Evans [2015]** EWCA Crim 871 Represented the appellant where his sentence was reduced from 16 to 10 months imprisonment.
- **Taffs v Chelmsford Crown Court [2014]** EWHC 899 (Admin) Represented the prosecutor in a judicial review challenging the Crown Court's reasoning in dismissing the Claimant's appeal.

Publications, Lectures and Training

Publications

Lexis PSL Corporate Crime – Contributing Author

Education

University College London – BA (Hons) Philosophy (2.1)

University of East Anglia – Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies (Commendation)

City Law School – Bar Vocational Course (Outstanding)

Memberships

East Anglian Bar Mess junior

Criminal Bar Association

South Eastern Circuit

Middle Temple