



## Practice

James is a highly experienced Leading Junior with a wealth of experience in Defending cases of gravity across a broad spectrum of criminal work. He is instructed regularly as Leading Counsel in cases of murder, armed robbery, multi-handed conspiracies involving the importation and supplying of Class A drugs and fraud.

James has extensive experience in defending cases alleging sexual offences, including rape, serious sexual offences against children and the mentally vulnerable. This includes a large scale paedophile inquiry concerning children's homes in the 1980's and sex offenders using the internet.

He has substantial experience in the Court of Appeal whether with leave or on a pro bono basis. He has appeared at inquests and before Court Martials in Germany and Northern Ireland.

Examples of serious and complex cases where James has been instructed as Leading Counsel:

### Murder:

**R v Hutchinson and others:** (Central Criminal Court) Leading Counsel. Seven handed gang land shooting in Streatham High Road resulting in one death and another victim seriously wounded. Defendant acquitted after submissions of no case to answer at close of prosecution case.

**R v Graham and others:** (Chelmsford) Leading Counsel. Four handed murder/robbery case where the victim was elderly. "Honey trap" lured victim to scene of robbery where he was kicked to death.

**R v Stoker Williams and others:** (Bristol Crown Court). Defendant joined on double murder indictment in Bristol and Croydon on the same date. Defendant avoided trial after successful written argument to dismiss case against him. Case went to trial on remaining defendants.

**R v Ramsey and others:** (Central Criminal Court) Multi-handed murder involving competing South London gangs of teenagers.

**R v Girmay and others:** (Central Criminal Court) Multi-handed murder/robberies trial where the victims were sex workers.

**R v Harrison:** (Central Criminal Court) Murder/Attempted Murder. Brixton Road shootings where female survivor was key trial witness in gang shooting.

**R v Rogers:** (Central Criminal Court) Off duty prison officer accused of stabbing unarmed teenage victim.

**R v Morris:** (Central Criminal Court) Street stabbing case with background of drug dealing.

**R v Ajei:** (Central Criminal Court) Planned shooting of victim in murder/robbery shooting with drug dealing background.

**R v Shafi and others:** (Birmingham Crown Court) Multi-handed Murder/Attempted Murder in knife attacks in crowded street after closing time.

### Year of Call

1984

### Email Address

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### Telephone

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### Queen's Counsel

2010

### Education

BA (Hons), Diploma in Law

### Practice Areas:

James Scobie is a member of the following Practice Areas:

- Claims Against The Police & Public Authorities
- Crime
- Fraud & Regulatory

### Garden Court Chambers

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London WC2A 3LS  
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**R v Huggett:** (Lewes Crown Court) Disabled Defendant stabs mother's partner. Mother main witness for the Crown.

**Murder:** (instructed as Junior Counsel)

**R v Francis and others:** (Central Criminal Court) Nationally publicised shooting of "bouncer" at Fulham nightclub over smoking a cigarette. Defendant acquitted.

**R v Michael Peters and others:** (Central Criminal Court). Principal in murder of victim alleged to have raped girlfriend of the accused. Forensic and cell site evidence critical to case.

**R v Kunasekarum and others** (Central Criminal Court). Double murder. Tamil gangland feud involving two separate killings on the same day in different parts of London. Cell site evidence/CCTV material. Defendant acquitted.

#### Attempted Murder

**R v Sutton:** (Central Criminal Court). Leading counsel. Defendant identified as being one of two gunmen who fired 14 bullets into the victim (3 to the head). Victim miraculously survived but was paralysed from the neck down. Defendants case was that he was deliberately mis-identified by the complainant to shield his multi-kilo drug dealing background and the real shooters. Defendant acquitted.

**R v Williams:** (Central Criminal Court). Defendant alleged to have shot stepfather in the face over argument concerning relationship with stepdaughter. Defendant ran deliberate misidentification defence, albeit cell site linked him to scene of crime and identification supported by a further civilian witness. Acquitted.

**R v Kamran Khan:** (Reading Crown Court). Leading Junior. Defendant extradited to UK after 6 years on the run in Spain following shooting of victim outside a Slough mosque after Friday prayers. Defendant ran self-defence stating firearm was taken from the victim who was then shot by the accused, as he was attacked with a knife. Acquitted.

**R v Lemuel Robinson and Another:** (Central Criminal Court). Leading Junior. Victim shot twice on the Myatts Field Estate in Brixton. Defendant alleged to have lured victim to scene to be shot by co-accused. Cellsite/phone records linked Defendant's phone to victim just before shooting. Defendant himself hit in the ankle by bullet that went through the victim. Defence was that he was at the scene by chance and was struck accidentally by unknown gunman. Acquitted.

**R v Doherty and others:** (Croydon Crown Court). Attempted murder involving travelling community when shotgun and machete were used. Acquitted of attempted murder.

#### Armed Robberies

**R v Goldner/Caballo and others:** (Kingston Crown Court). Part of gang alleged to have committed over 25 armed robberies in South East of England, mainly of betting shops. Both had substantial records of similar offences. Both pleaded guilty. Neither received IPPs.

**R v Priestley and other:** (Kingston Crown Court). Armed raid on Richmond jewellers where two of the Defendants were on day release from prison. Flying squad waiting for the accused after probe evidence installed in their vehicle.



**R v Bailey and others:** (Woolwich Crown Court). Professional and experienced armed robbers with history of discharging weapons at scene. Cash-in-transit officer shot in vehicle. Flying squad waiting for the Defendants. Surveillance/video operation.

**R v Crabtree:** (Central Criminal Court) Multiple armed robberies case involving attacks on railway station safes in South East.

**R v Hameed:** (Central Criminal Court) Attempted murder/armed robberies involving shooting of Securicor Guard.

#### Drug Conspiracies

**R v Abrahamson:** (Southwark Crown Court) Class A Drugs Importation on large scale. Professionally organised with Customs Officer one of those convicted.

**R v Smith and others:** (Winchester Crown Court). Leading Junior. Multi kilo cannabis importation from Southern Spain. Defendant ran fruit storage business in Spalding. SOCA case involving years of probe and surveillance evidence.

**R v Beaver and others:** (Kingston Crown Court). Leading Junior. Multi kilo importation of Class A drugs from South America involving cell site and surveillance evidence.

**R v Monk and others:** Leading Junior. Principal in double, multi kilo importation of cannabis case from Spain. The two importations were divided by several years but the Defendant was forensically linked to both. Complex financial investigation.

**R v Taylor:** (Canterbury Crown Court) Customs Investigation of Major Class A Drugs Importation involving Haulage Industry.

**R v Bassi:** (Woolwich Crown Court) Multi-handed drugs/guns/explosives case involving informers in Southall.

#### Kidnapping

**R v Khakh and others:** (Southwark Crown Court). Principal in Southall gangland kidnapping. Case against this Defendant centred on complex phone investigation covering many years.

**R v Sany and others:** (Inner London): Woman kidnapped in Brighton street allegedly over unpaid drug debt involving her boyfriend. Put in a van and driven away taser weapon used on her. Police alerted. Defendant caught red handed. Defendant acquitted after Judge refused to allow victim's statement to be read in her absence.

#### People Trafficking/Facilitation Cases

**R v Demarku:** (Southwark Crown Court) Conspiracy to Traffic for Sexual Exploitation. Albanian gang control young women from Lithuania in large scale sex worker case.

**R v Cheema:** (Canterbury Crown Court) Large scale organised Facilitation case involving the trafficking of people from Punjab into the UK.

**R v Abrahamson:** (Southwark Crown Court) Class A Drugs Importation on large scale. Professionally organised with Customs Officer one of those convicted.



### Firearms Trafficking

**R v Ndikanwu and others:** (Croydon Crown Court). Defendant acquitted of supplying handguns, ammunition and silencers, in spite of gang being caught with firearms outside his premises, following a lengthy surveillance operation. Defendants linked to the nightclub scene in London as well as Eastern Europe.

### Firearms/Shooting

**R v Balogun:** (Inner London). Shooting down fire escape packed with the people at the Fridge nightclub in Brixton. Whole incident caught on CCTV. Avoided IPP.

**R v Johnson and Payne:** (Inner London). Transfer of loaded gun amongst Brixton gang caught on CCTV. Avoided IPP.

**R v Harrison:** (Inner London Crown Court) Defendant charged with gang land possession of firearms with intent to endanger life committed on Brixton Estate. Police officers sought to identify him from CCTV footage having known him from the area for many years. Facial mapping and reconstruction part of the defence case. Acquitted at the close of prosecution case after submission of no case to answer was upheld.

**R v O'Sullivan:** (Kingston Crown Court) Defendant driver of get-away vehicle in Sutton shooting, his defence was lack of knowledge that his passenger had a firearm. The defendant at the time was on licence for a firearm offence. Acquitted.

### Fraud

**R v Kokabzadeh and others:** (Northampton Crown Court) Large scale carousel fraud involving multi-millions of VAT. Multi-handed. Defendant successfully applied to dismiss the case. Co-accused were tried and convicted.

**R v Anderson:** (Cardiff Crown Court/Cambridge Crown Court) Fraud on Welsh National Assembly and Medical Research Council in Cambridge.

**R v Smajlovic:** (Southwark Crown Court) Accountants firm involved in allegation of defrauding Inland Revenue with false claims of on behalf of workers in the building and construction industry.

**R v Saunders:** (Guildford Crown Court) Outsourcing VAT Fraud.

### Sexual Offences

**R v Dr L:** (Blackfriars Crown Court). Dr accused of serious sexual assault on gay suicidal patient in his NHS surgery. Initially denied any sexual contact had occurred. Forensics showed there had been sexual contact between them. Complainant made allegations immediately after the incident. Dr ran consent before the jury. Acquitted.

**R v Rowe:** (Inner London). Stepfather accused of 25 count indictment of rape, sexual assault on stepdaughter covering eight years. Acquitted.

**R v A and others:** (Inner London): Gang of schoolboys falsely imprisoned and sexually assaulted schoolgirl on school premises. Originally indicted on attempted rape. Guilty pleas on lesser charges for all accused and all successfully appealed their sentences before the Court of Appeal.



**R v Sterling:** (Central Criminal Court). Third sexual offence for offender aged 25. This offence concerned an underage schoolgirl. Successfully avoided IPP sentence notwithstanding his appalling record for sexual offences of the gravest kind.

**R v Hazelton:** (Blackfriars Crown Court). Historical case involving multi count indictment of sado-masochistic child abuse on single child on Pimlico housing estate by seemingly respectable man. Offence came to light after Defendant refused to prosecute victim who had tried to stab him as an adult, many years after the offences on him had taken place. Extremely emotive jury trial.

**Societies**

Criminal Bar Association and South Eastern Circuit.

**Other activities**

Lifelong Manchester United and Surrey County Cricket supporter. Actively plays both football and cricket.