



Michael Hall

YEAR OF CALL: 1983



Michael Hall specialises in all areas of criminal work. He has particular expertise defending in serious cases such as armed robberies, manslaughter, murder, public order disturbances and large-scale importation of drugs. He also has experience of defending in complex fraud.

Michael has a special interest in all issues affecting human rights. He has particular expertise in those issues affecting minority communities. His experience to date means that he is well versed to undertake cases using the Human Rights Act 1998. Michael has led in many of the serious cases that he has been instructed in.

"He fought my corner 100%. He used all prosecution evidence and turned it back on them. It wasn't just about winning another case it was about justice to him."

LAY CLIENT

"The service my son received from Michael Hall was first class. I felt his passion and professionalism in the court room. I would highly recommend him."

L A Y C L I E N T

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CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Michael Hall specialises in all areas of criminal work. He has particular expertise defending in serious cases such as armed robberies, manslaughter, murder, public order disturbances and large-scale importation of drugs. Michael has led in many of the serious cases that he has been instructed in.

NOTABLE CASES

R v Michael Laidlaw, Woolwich Crown Court

Case involved significant quantity of drugs found in defendant's room. He was arrested with co-defendant in a local park. Drugs were recovered from a waste bin where they had both been standing by. The co-defendant pleaded guilty. Client was found not guilty by the jury.

R v Odunsi, Southwark Crown Court

Cyber gang conspiracy to commit fraud using stolen credit cards. Extent of the conspiracy was £1.25 million. Client's role was to use stolen credit card details to purchase expensive Rolex watches, passed the custody threshold and persuaded judge to impose community sentence.

R v Osborn, Sheffield Crown Court

Conspiracy to supply heroin in Sheffield. Client had a trial and was convicted due to an overwhelming case.

R v Sharma, Isleworth Crown Court

Client sort to kidnap female off the street. Evidence was overwhelming, however the client got a lenient sentence.

R v Williams, Blackfriars Crown Court

Allegation of rape. Complainant unreliable detailed DSC requesting disclosure of previous allegations complainant had made. As a result, prosecution reviewed the case and offered no evidence. The judge ordered not guilty verdict.

R v Khara, Woolwich Crown Court

Possession of cocaine with intent to supply. Drugs all over flat with money and scales. Client's case was that he was there to smoke cannabis and not involved in Class A drugs supply. He gave evidence to that effect. Jury found him not guilty.

R v Stewart, Blackfriars Crown Court

Prison mutiny case. Prisoners protesting against Government cuts that meant 24 hour 'bang up', no association, no education and no hot meals. Barricaded themselves into a cell to have a peaceful protest against new prison regime. After a two week trial the client did not give evidence, however they were found not guilty.

R v Fudumo

Somali national charged with neglect of elderly pensioner in her care. CCTV footage was the main evidence. As a result of disclosure requests, the prosecution reviewed the case and offered no evidence against her. Judge directed not guilty verdict.

R v Stewart, Inner London Crown Court (2015)

Possession of gun prohibited weapon. Client's case was that she did not know that her friends had brought a gun to her flat. Three co-defendants found guilty and were sentenced to five, six and seven years. Client gave evidence and was acquitted. Client and her family were delighted with the result.

Crown Court cases

Murder and violent offences

R v Ali, Central Criminal Court (2012)

Assisted in the conduct of the defence. The defendant was charged with murder. The defendant had a dispute with the victim over the theft and destruction of the defendant's car. A month after the theft of the car the victim was seen in a bookmakers in Old Kent. A group of about ten youths entered the bookmakers with their faces covered. He was stabbed to death in the shop. The whole incident was captured on CCTV. It was both the prosecution and one co-defendant's case that the defendant could be seen on CCTV with the knife inflicting the fatal wound. The defendant was convicted. It was a very strong prosecution case.

R v Dadd, Harrow Crown Court (2012)

The defendant had been protecting his son who had been the victim of bullying by a local gang. His case was that he had called the police who had ignored his concerns. When his son was attacked again he confronted the gang and was then attacked, but he defended himself. He was charged with robbery and GBH. After a short retirement the jury found him not guilty.

R v Garroway

Young woman charged with grievous bodily harm (GBH) of her racist violent neighbour. Her case was that she acted in self-defence. Jury did not take long to find the accused not guilty.

R v Wright, Norwich Crown Court

Conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm with intent. Represented a defendant who was charged with setting up the victim to be attacked as a result of a local feud.

R v Fletcher, Birmingham Crown Court

Murder and a series of armed robberies. High profile case. Defendant engaged in a series of armed robberies in the Midlands that culminated in the death of a young man who was merely passing at the time of the robbery. He had witnessed the armed robbery and was shot outside a building society in Birmingham City Centre.

R v Brown, Central Criminal Court

Murder. Drug-related incident, the defendant had been set up by his friend who organised an attack upon him where he had to use a knife to defend himself. This led to the death of one of his attackers.

R v Lubango, Central Criminal Court

Murder. Argument on a bus that led to the stabbing to death of a youth.

R v Watson, Birmingham Crown Court

Birmingham race riot case between members of the Afro-Caribbean and Asian community. Represented one of the main defendants, a prominent member of a local gang. He was charged with attempted murder, GBH, riot and robbery.

R v Chan, Snaresbrook Crown Court

S18 stabbing. Stabbing in the streets in broad daylight witnessed by many distressed members of the public. The incident was between rival gang members.

R v Baptiste, Harrow Crown Court

S18 assault: the defendant was charged with stabbing the victim several times in the chest.

Child cruelty

R v Nasir

A Somali mother charged with child cruelty against two young children. The defence was reasonable chastisement. Disclosure requests of the prosecution for medical, school and social service records. Those requests put the prosecution on the back foot and they eventually offered no evidence. Defendant was found not guilty on all counts.

Sexual offences

R v Wallace

18 year old defendant charged and convicted of raping a 14 year old. The issue was consent. It was a difficult case as the defendant's mother asked the girl how old she was as she was entering the defendant's bedroom. Convicted after the trial, the defendant gave evidence denying that he forced her to have sexual intercourse. He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

R v Nembar, Wood Green Crown Court

Allegation of rape. The defendant had seen the victim in the North London area and had tried to chat her up. She rebuffed his advances. It was the prosecution case that the defendant kidnapped her and took her to his friend's house where he raped her. The issue was consent. The jury found the defendant not guilty of kidnap but guilty of rape. Sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. A very strong case as the victim had reported the incident to the police several years before the defendant was arrested. On a cold case review by the police his DNA, having been taken when he was arrested, matched the sample found on the complainant years earlier. The defendant had no answer to a reason as to why she would make a false complaint.

R v Newcombe

Defendant with a long history of sexual assaults on women pleaded guilty to s18 assault on female victim who sustained horrific injuries during the attack. Broken jaw, fractured eye socket and fractured vertebra. Sentenced to a 15-year extended sentence. The evidence was overwhelming as he was seen walking with the victim shortly before she was attacked and he had the victim's blood on his training shoe.

R v Sharpe, Isleworth Crown Court (2010)

Instructed as leading junior. An historic sexual abuse allegation. The defendant faced a 22 count indictment including, rape, false imprisonment, grievous bodily harm and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

R v Lancaster, Inner London Crown Court

Sexual assault.

R v Thanabalasingham, Portsmouth Crown Court

Rape. The defendant and his co-accused's case was that the complainant had consented to sexual intercourse.

R v Cooper, Kingston Crown Court

Rape. The defendant was accused of anal rape upon a young woman that he had a casual relationship with.

R v Henderson, Salisbury Crown Court

High profile case that had occurred in 2001 and appeared on Crime Watch BBC. Two young people had been returning from a night out in Salisbury and had been walking down a footpath in the early hours of the morning. They were assaulted by a man who produced a gun hit the boyfriend over the head with the butt of the gun and ordered the female to perform oral sex on him. When he ejaculated she managed to retain some of the semen. The officers were doing a cold case review and found a DNA match. The defendant was arrested as a result of his DNA being found in semen which the complainant had retained. The defendant was charged with robbery, indecent assault, false imprisonment and possession of an imitation firearm. After a trial the defendant was convicted.

Drugs

R v Jesus, Blackfriars Crown Court (2012)

The defendant and three co-defendants charged with conspiracy to supply £2 million worth of cocaine from Rio de Janeiro Brazil, into the United Kingdom. The plan was for the courier to take a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, where they would be met by the defendant and the principal defendant. The plan was to take the Eurostar to Kings Cross. The prosecution eventually offered no evidence against the defendant and a not guilty verdict was recorded.

R v Sagir, Wolverhampton Crown Court (2012)

The defendant and co-defendant charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine with a street value of over £1.3 million. After many disclosure requests and PII hearing the judge ordered that the prosecution meet all the defence's requests. The prosecution appealed the judge's ruling to the Court of Appeal, who upheld the judge's ruling. On the first day of trial the prosecution offered no evidence and not guilty verdicts were entered.

R v Ali Preston, Crown Court

Four-week targeted police operation on Michael's client for the street dealing of Class A drugs over several years. The evidence involved an informant who gave evidence for the prosecution, seizure of drugs and covert police surveillance. The defendant gave evidence and called evidence to explain his lifestyle. However, the prosecution case was very strong. Defendant convicted sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment, based on the recent Court of Appeal case of *R v Khan* 2013.

R v Hysenlika

Operation Ninjask: Albanian defendant case concerned the importation of over 100 kilograms of cocaine from the continent into the UK with an estimated street value of £30 to £40 million. The investigation was conducted over a two year period by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The evidence against the defendant was observation of drug transaction involving kilograms of cocaine, £7,000 found on him when arrested, incriminating text messages and three kilograms of high-grade cocaine found at his home address when he was arrested. Michael persuaded the judge that he played a significant rather than a leading role and was not the main man and that therefore there should be a significant difference in sentence. Main man sentenced to 15 years on a plea. The defendant was sentenced to 10 years and nine months.

R v Thomas, Williams Harrow Crown Court

Case before HHJ Aaron and jury January 2013. The defendant was charged with possession with intent to supply heroin, crack cocaine and cannabis, total street value £20,000. Territorial Support Group (TSG) officers acting under a warrant raided a flat on the Stonebridge Estate. When they gained forced entry one man jumped out of a window on to a ledge leaving a money trail. The defendant was in the living room with another. Police found drugs scales and £8,000 cash in the flat. It was the defendant's case that it was not his flat, that he was there to purchase drugs and that he was a user not a supplier of drugs. The jury deliberated for four hours and found the defendant not guilty on all counts.

R v Hamilton, Liverpool Crown Court (2010)

Operation Greenage. Instructed as a leading junior. Multi-handed case split into several trials. Prosecution case was that it was the largest detected conspiracy to import Class A drugs and firearms into the United Kingdom from Holland to the North West of England.

'Operation Tartrate' Southwark Crown Court (2010)

Multi-handed case split into two trials. Large scale conspiracy to import cigarettes from Eastern Europe into United Kingdom leading to the evasion of £9 million of duty.

R v Wilson, Central Criminal Court

Murder and conspiracy to supply heroin. Represented principal defendant of a Jamaican gang involved in supplying heroin in west London. Case investigated by officers from Operation Trident.

R v Reid, Birmingham Crown Court

Largest organised importation of cannabis from Holland into the West Midlands (Birmingham).

R v Foa, Snaresbrook and Portsmouth Crown Court

Organised supplying of Class A drugs heroin and crack cocaine in London and Portsmouth.

Armed robbery

R v Acato Ayok, Woolwich Crown Court

Armed robbery and possession of firearms. The victim was lured to a secluded car park in South London, attacked at gunpoint and forced into the boot of his car. The victim managed to escape to raise the alarm. The case turned on mobile phone and cell site evidence placing the defendant at the scene. Stolen property of the victim was found at the defendant's address. A very strong prosecution case: defendant convicted after trial and sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment.

R v Urbanek, Isleworth Crown Court

Polish defendant charged with aggravated burglary, s18 assault, GBH and possession of firearm. Allegation was that he broke into a former flat mate's house and attacked him with a gun and hammer. Defence's case was that the alleged victim owed the defendant £3000 which he had previously stolen and that the defendant was there to buy cocaine. When the defendant asked for the money he was attacked and, at all times, was acting in self-defence. Found not guilty: the judge said he was very lucky because if he had been convicted he was looking at between nine and 12 years' imprisonment.

R v Wilkinson, Kingston Crown Court

A series of Securicor cash-in-transit robberies in South East England that were investigated by the Flying Squad.

R v Mypia, Harrow Crown Court

Possession of firearm to commit robbery.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND CONFISCATION

Michael has experience of defending in complex fraud, including banking frauds involving international agencies, mortgage frauds and DSS frauds in which he has defended both professional and lay clients. Michael has led in many of the serious cases that he has been instructed in.

NOTABLE CASES

Fraud and blackmail

R v Drewe, Norwich Crown Court (2012)

The defendant was charged with money laundering; after a three-month trial she was acquitted. The prosecution case was that the defendant's husband a notorious fraudster had conned an elderly woman out of a significant amount of money telling her that he would invest it for her. A £35,000 cheque had been paid into

the defendant's account, which was the basis of the case against her.

R v Lahuog, Reading Crown Court (2012)

Defendant charged with money laundering. There were four co-defendants, the trial lasted three weeks. The defendant allowed a £45000 cheque to be paid into his bank. The prosecution case was that the principal defendant defrauded an elderly couple out of their life savings of £360,000. The money by way of cheques and banker's drafts were then paid into individual accounts. It was a strong prosecution case. All defendants either pleaded guilty or were found guilty by the jury.

R v Purwaiz, Southwark Crown Court (2012)

The defendant was charged with mortgage fraud. The prosecution case being that he supplied false financial details to obtain a mortgage. The defence was that all the information had been filled out by the mortgage broker and that he had not supplied false financial information. The jury found him not guilty.

R v Pun, Ipswich Crown Court (2010)

Instructed as a leading junior. Multi-handed trial, large-scale conspiracy to breach Trade Mark and Copyright of the owner without consent. The prosecution case was that the defendant was involved in the importation of counterfeit goods from the Far East into the United Kingdom.

R v Gunduz, Woolwich Crown Court

Blackmail: represented a defendant who was involved in criminal activity in the Kurdish/Turkish community in Green Lanes North London. The defendant was alleged to be a member of organised crime in the Turkish/Kurdish community.

R v Braha, Wood Green Court

Conspiracy to sell counterfeit goods in breach of Trade Mark value over £300,000.

R v Short, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Conspiracy to produce counterfeit Bank of England bank notes value over £8 million the largest in the UK. Represented the principal defendant.

R v Riatt, Kingston Crown Court

Money laundering, mortgage fraud and benefit fraud.

BACKGROUND

Before joining Garden Court Chambers, Michael lectured at South Bank University in criminal procedure and

evidence. He also taught law at Erith College.

EDUCATION

- BA (Hons) Law

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit

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