

David Webster

A persuasive, highly experienced advocate who will prosecute or defend serious criminal cases including murder, sexual offences, fraud, human trafficking, and drugs-related offences.



Clerk: Wayne Digby

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Overview

David Webster is an accomplished academic lawyer and a creative, persuasive advocate. A former solicitor advocate, he was called to the Bar in 1998.

He prosecutes or defends in serious crime cases including murder, rape and other serious sexual offences, fraud and money laundering, modern slavery and human trafficking, and drugs and related offences. He is a member of the CPS RASSO panel.

His practice is largely on the Midlands Circuit, including Derby, Nottingham and Lincoln. He also receives instructions in his native city of Sheffield.

Called: 1998

Appointments:

CPS General Crime and Rape Panel
Pupil supervisor, Middle Temple
Former external tutor in criminal law and procedure, Institute of Legal Executives

David is a trusted expert on all aspects of criminal advocacy. His smooth and uncompromising style makes him a firm favourite with juries and judges alike. A fierce proponent of his clients' cause, David is a just the sort of barrister you want in your corner.

Instructing solicitor

Crime

David Webster specialises in criminal advocacy and will act for the prosecution or the defence in a wide range of criminal matters including murder, rape and other serious sexual offences, fraud, money laundering and similar offences, modern slavery and human trafficking, drugs and related offences, and football violence and disorder.

He is well-known for his imaginative approach to cross-examination and highly effective conversational closing speeches. He argues points of law in an elegant and eloquent style; focused, well-researched and effective.

He adopts a teamwork approach with the client right at the heart of decision-making. He is highly valued by his lay clients and generates a substantial amount of repeat business.

David has acted as junior counsel to Mr Justice Jeremy Baker; the Recorder of Sheffield, HHJ

Richardson QC; HHJ Kelson QC; and HHJ Shaun Smith QC. As junior counsel, he has prosecuted or defended in several murder cases, and acted as sole counsel in cases of attempted murder. He has appeared as leading junior in cases of fraud and modern slavery.

David regularly handles historical cases of rape and other serious sexual offences, including cases involving child witnesses. He has extensive experience with vulnerable witnesses, having worked with intermediaries for both Crown witnesses and defendants. He has also taken instructions in a number of rape cases featuring issues of incapacity through intoxication.

He is frequently instructed in multi-defendant drugs conspiracy cases, notably in Derby, Nottingham and Stafford. He is experienced in the cross-examination of police drug experts and forensic scientists. He has conducted numerous Proceeds of Crime Act enquiries and acted for defendants in opposition to the making of serious crime orders.

David was instructed on behalf of the youngest defendant in South Yorkshire's 'largest-ever football disorder case' (*The Sportsman*). His client was acquitted by the jury following a trial lasting several months.

He has also made successful legal submissions in opposition to football banning order applications.

His skill as an advocate, legal knowledge and courtroom presence are first class. He always goes the extra mile with all briefs sent to him and assists his instructing lawyers with advice and assistance in case preparation.

Instructing solicitor

Significant Cases

Murder, violence and public order offences

R v Simmonds, Nottingham Crown Court [2011] – The defendant originally denied murder, but changed his plea to guilty. This was reported by the BBC.

R v Griffiths (and Lockhart), Nottingham Crown Court [2014] – Defending a vulnerable female charged with murder as an accomplice to the primary offender. Achieved a not guilty verdict following a plea to the lesser offence of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

R v Andrewatha and Others, Sheffield Crown Court [2016] – Defence counsel for one of four defendants indicted with arson with intent to endanger life; client and one other acquitted, two convicted. This was reported by the BBC.

Further information

How much will David Webster's services cost?

David mostly works on a fixed-fee basis for the main hearing, with a daily refresher rate for any subsequent date of hearing, although this depends on the type of work you request. If you'd like a quotation for his legal services in a particular matter, please contact our clerk using the details below and we'll be very happy to help. Please also refer to Bank House Chambers' standard terms & conditions.

What might influence the timescales of the services David offers?

David would normally expect to arrange a preliminary conference with your client within 7 days of first contact from you. After that, despite our best intentions, we can't always control timescales or the amount of time we spend on a case. These can be affected by factors such as urgency; complexity; your own (or your client's) availability; David's availability and that of any third parties; the volume of documents he needs to review or must request; and the court's availability.

Can you have confidence in David's work?

He is regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

How can you contact David Webster?

In the first instance, please contact our senior clerk, Wayne Digby, on 0114 275 1223 or email him at w.digby@bankhousechambers.co.uk.