

ANDREW LANGDON QC

CALL: 1986

SILK: 2006

"He has unparalleled court presence and is a genuine orator."
Chambers UK 2019

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Andrew has recently returned to his practice after a successful tenure as Chair of the Bar (2017).

Andrew is a criminal silk who regularly appears in cases of homicide, complex fraud and regulatory crime. He has appeared in some of the most notable cases on the Western Circuit including the Bristol trial concerning the murder of Becky Watts.

Ranked as a 'Star Silk' in Chambers 2018 Guide he is reported by them as having "*..all the gravitas, demeanour and intellect that one would hope for in a QC. There is no case that he could not handle. He is passionate, persuasive, forensic and delivers in a way that most barristers can only dream of emulating.*"

The Legal 500 reports that *Juries visibly enjoy his submissions, and he is as engaging as he is persuasive* and *'He has a great judgement, and is a very persuasive advocate and a fantastic team player.'*

A recent Court of Appeal Judgment made reference to his *conspicuous skill.*

A passionate believer in trial by jury, Andrew regards appearing as a barrister in the criminal courts of England and Wales *as an immense privilege that brings with it a heavy responsibility. The only recipe is hard work.*

PRACTICE AREAS

- Crime
 - Environment
 - Health & Safety
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CRIME

Over the years, Andrew has won a reputation for his ability to handle heavy and complex cases. For both defence and prosecution, he leads in mainstream serious crime, involving murder, drugs and fraud; but aspects of his career are outside the mainstream. He has prosecuted and defended some of the most serious Health and Safety fatality cases in recent years.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

- **R v CDFP (2019)** - Andrew defended a partnership against Corporate Manslaughter and H&S offences following a fatality on a farm in a four-week trial in Exeter Crown Court.
- **HSE v TJ Morris Ltd (2019)** - Andrew defended the Home Bargains superstore chain in relation to proceedings concerning a fatality at work.
- **HSE v Valero (UK) Ltd and B&A Contracts Ltd (2019)** - This was a prosecution arising out of a quadruple fatality following an explosion at Pembroke Oil Refinery.
- **R v Eaton and Others 2018** - Andrew prosecuted four men for murder in Bristol Crown Court in a case involving drugs and county-lines.
- **R v Walker and Henry 2018** - A prosecution of manslaughter in relation to Gloucester baby killing.
- **R v Jones 2018** - The prosecution of drug-related murder.
- **R v Lomax 2018** - The defence of a manslaughter.
- **[2017 Andrew was effectively on sabbatical as fulltime Chair of the Bar]**
- **R v Barclay & Others Bristol 2016** - Andrew led for the defence in an eight handed murder trial involving a fatal stabbing in Gloucester.
- **R v Hewitt & Others Bristol 2016** - A prosecution of senior staff and care workers concerning the care of residents with learning disabilities.
- **R v Barclay & Others Bristol 2016** - Andrew led for the defence in an eight handed murder trial involving a fatal stabbing in Gloucester.
- **R v Matthews & Hoare Bristol 2015** - This case involved a five week trial concerned with the killing and dismemberment of teenager Becky Watts. Andrew defended Ms Hoare who was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter and other offences.
- **R v Timothy Crook Bristol 2015** - This case related to the prosecution of a defendant who killed his parents many years ago but had until recently been unfit to be tried.
- **R v NMSL 2015** - The defence of a company charged (together with Balfour Beatty Engineering Services) with Health and Safety Offences arising from a fatal accident at Heathrow Data Centre.
- **R v Gould 2014** - The defence of a contractor involved in the construction of a new stand at the Rose Bowl Stadium, Hampshire.
- **R v Nowak & Others Bristol 2013** - This case involved the premeditated murder for financial gain of the partner of one of the three defendants. The victim was subsequently left in a burning car as part of an attempt to set a false alibi. Andrew defended one of the three Polish nationals on trial. The case was comprised of a complex body of circumstantial evidence.
- **R v Anderson & Adams: Bristol 2012** - This case involved the prosecution of gun crime - a murder and three other gunshot victims of a shooting during the St Pauls Carnival in Bristol. The witnesses and participants emanated from two groups who had travelled from London. Andrew led for the Prosecution It was an early application of the law relating to liability attaching to both parties involved in a mutual 'shoot-out' when a bystander is killed (as opposed to liability only attaching to the firer of the weapon causing the injury. The case is currently pending before the Court of Appeal.
- **R v Sandra Clinch: Truro 2012** - Andrew defended Mrs Clinch who was eventually convicted of manslaughter following the fatal stabbing of her husband with a pair of scissors.
- **R v Mayers; R v Glasgow; R v Costelloe; R v Bahmanzadeh; R v P & Others [2008]EWCA Crim 1418; [2008] WLR (D) 390, [2009] 1 Cr. App** - The guideline case on Anonymous Witness Evidence following the Witness Anonymity Act 2008.

ENVIRONMENT

Andrew's environmental expertise includes the prosecution of the oil companies responsible for the Buncefield explosion and consequent pollution at the Hertfordshire Oil Depot, resulting in record fines and costs orders. He was instructed by the

Environment Agency in relation to this prosecution. He has also defended prosecutions brought by the Environment Agency in relation to alleged unlawful deposits of waste.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

- **R v Total (UK) Ltd & Others** - Andrew led the prosecution of five companies involved in the Buncefield disaster. Two companies pleaded guilty and the remaining three were convicted after a three month trial. This was the culmination of three years work analysing, advising and shaping the case and guiding the proceedings to their conclusion. Amongst other reactions following the trial the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA) issued a joint statement: 'This was the biggest and most complex criminal inquiry we have worked on together - the product of many hundreds of hours of painstaking forensic investigation. When companies put workers and members of the public at risk and cause environmental damage we will prosecute.'

HEALTH & SAFETY

Andrew has defended and prosecuted cases brought by the HSE and the Environment Agency, for many years. These have included fatalities and high profile cases - for example, the Port Talbot Steels Work explosion in 2005 and the Buncefield explosion in 2010 and the Pembroke Oil refinery explosion in 2019.

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 - **Operation J (2011/2012)** - Andrew led a joint CPS/HSE prosecution being the culmination of a five-year investigation by the police/HSE into deaths and injuries caused by pressure damage, suffered by elderly/mentally inform residents in care homes. A limited company, a director and a chief executive faced allegations concerning systematic failures in relation thereto. The volume of evidence/material generated during the investigation presented considerable logistical challenges.
 - **R v Draper (2012)** - Andrew defended a Landlord in relation to a fire at rented premises which resulted in a prosecution under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
 - **R v B&Q (2012)** - Andrew acted for B&Q in relation to two accidents occurring at separate premises.
 - **R v Total (UK) Ltd & Others** - Andrew led the prosecution of five companies involved in the Buncefield disaster. Two companies pleaded guilty and the remaining three were convicted after a three month trial. This was the culmination of three years work analysing, advising and shaping the case and guiding the proceedings to their conclusion. Amongst other reactions following the trial the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA) issued a joint statement:- "This was the biggest and most complex criminal inquiry we have worked on together – the product of many hundreds of hours of painstaking forensic investigation. When companies put workers and members of the public at risk and cause environmental damage we will prosecute."
 - **R v S Ltd** - The defence of prosecution brought by the Environment Agency in relation to waste management
 - **HSE v R (2007)** - Defending a farmer (two week trial) in relation to a prosecution by the HSE of a fatality occasioned by a fall from height.
 - **HSE v Corus UK (2005/2006)** - Concerning the Port Talbot Blast Furnace explosion resulting in the death of 3 workers and injuries to 17 others in November 2001, resulting in a fine and costs of £3m.
 - **R v Smith-Keary & Rudkin (2003/2004)** - This was a DEFRA prosecution of a 2 million pound fraud on the EEC Flax Fibre Scheme, tried in Exeter before HHJ Griggs September -December 2003. I was involved from an early stage (i.e. prior to commencement of proceedings) The case involves over 150 witnesses, and centred around the interpretation of EEC regulations, the availability of grants, and fraudulent records created by directors of the two Companies involved.
 - **R v Imery Ltd & Aggregate Industries UK Ltd (2003)** - Litigation involving two large Companies involving a china clay quarry fatality, resulting in financial penalties of £½ million.
 - **R v Polestar Purnell Bristol Crown Court (2003)** - The prosecution of a printing Company for an explosion in the printing works.
 - **R v St Meryn Meat (2003)** - A trial in which Andrew defended a prestigious slaughter house /meat packaging business against Regulatory offences concerning the running of a slaughter house.
 - **R v Littlejohn Bathrooms (2002)** -Defending breach of asbestos regulations.
 - **R v Economic Insulations Ltd (2002)** - Defending a company whose business was the removal of asbestos.
 - **R v Suffex Services Limited & RMC Surfacing Limited (2001)**- A prosecution involving a fatality resulting from a reversing truck during road works on the motorway. The issues raised include attempts made by each defendant company to pass blame to each other.
 - **R v Rocdan Sea Limited (2002)** - Concerning a fatality and serious injuries to others when trawler rigging collapsed though a pulley/block failure. It involved challenging the accepted cultures operating within the industry.
 - **R v Walter Lawrence (2002)** - A prosecution of a Water Company involving serious injuries to a child in the street upon the displacement of a water bowser.
 - **R v Western Power Distribution & Others (2001)**- This was case Andrew defended for SWEB (WPD) instructed by Osborne Clarke (Bristol) where an apprentice had been badly burned following absence of proper systems/training & supervision in a SWEB substation in Plymouth. WPD were fined £50,000.
 - **R v Peeble Services (2001)** - A case Andrew defended involving allegations relating to electrical failures in a factory.
 - **R v Devonport Royal Dockyard (2001)** - A case defended involving serious breaches of asbestos regulations in the Plymouth Docks.
 - **R v Marshall Mono (2001)** - This was a case Andrew prosecuted involving an accident at work when a work cage carrying a workman fell off a forklift.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Chambers UK 2014
 - Chambers UK 2013
 - Chambers UK 2012
 - Legal 500 2012
 - Chambers UK 2011
 - Chambers UK 2010
 - Legal 500 2010
 - Chambers UK 2009
 - Legal 500 2009
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APPOINTMENTS:

- Recorder
 - Bencher, Middle Temple
 - Chairman of Bar Council (Jan 2017)
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- CBA
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EDUCATION:

- LLB, University of Bristol
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RECENT NEWS

- Andrew Langdon QC & Alistair Haggerty are speaking at the upcoming Bristol HSLA event
 - Corporate manslaughter and the hand of senior management
 - Andrew Langdon QC honoured by the BLS awarding him with the "President's Outstanding Achievement Award"
 - Andrew Langdon QC appears on Radio 4's "Unreliable Evidence" discussing Digital Courts
 - "The Bar: independent advocacy operating in the Public interest." Lecture: Andrew Langdon QC
 - Andrew Langdon QC discusses cuts to legal aid in The Times
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