

NICHOLAS LEE

Call 2018

✉	nicholas.lee@guildhallchambers.co.uk
☎	0117 930 9000



Nicholas is a specialist criminal practitioner. He is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in serious cases involving violence, weapons, drugs, fraud and related dishonesty, public disorder and sexual offences.

Nicholas understands that persuasive advocacy is built on careful and diligent preparation.

He engages with cases at an early stage to provide strategic and legal advice to instructing solicitors. When advising lay clients, Nicholas is sensitive to their needs and concerns and can explain complicated legal and evidential issues in simple language.

Nicholas particularly enjoys cases involving multiple sources of circumstantial and expert evidence. He has conducted cases involving cell site analysis, voice comparison evidence and DNA/fingerprints.

Nicholas regularly conducts cases involving vulnerable defendants and witnesses. He has presented and challenged expert psychiatric evidence in various contexts, including 'fitness to plead' and 'did he do the act' hearings.

Nicholas is a CPS Grade 3 prosecutor and has been instructed as a led prosecution junior in large-scale conspiracies. Nicholas has a thorough understanding of the CPIA disclosure regime and has been instructed as disclosure junior in serious cases involving covert investigations, agreements under Section 74 of the Sentencing Act 2020, modern day slavery defences and joint enterprise murder.

Nicholas previously worked in financial services and has a particular interest in fraud and financial crime. He made and responded to applications under various sections of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Nicholas is a contributing author to Practical Advocacy in the Crown Court (2020) and A Practical Approach to Road Traffic Law (2023).

Expertise

Crime

Nicholas joined the crime team in 2019 following pupillage under the supervision of Mary Cowe.

He is a contributing author to *Practical Advocacy in the Crown Court* (2020) and *A Practical Approach to Road Traffic Law* (2023).

Featured Crime cases

R v ** (ongoing)**

Led prosecution junior in a large-scale conspiracy to evade import duty on tobacco. Investigated by HMRC.

R v ** (2025)**

Prosecution of serious sexual offending in the youth court.

R v AS et al (2024)

Disclosure junior in prosecution of one adult and four youth defendants for a joint enterprise murder of two teenagers

R v CM et al (2024)

Prosecution of three defendants for kidnap, robbery and blackmail.

R v MH (2024)

Defence of a robbery trial. Successful submission of no case to answer.

R v AH (2024)

Prosecution of defendant for Section 18 GBH.

R v MB (2024)

Successfully argued for a suspended sentence following prosecution for offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations. The defendant had caused losses of over £100K to three households.

R v AK (2024)

Instructed to defend a man accused of defrauding the Covid Bounce Back Loan scheme.

R v ** (2024)**

Successfully argued for a suspended sentence for a man convicted of numerous voyeurism and indecent images offences.

R v HH et al (2023)

Led prosecution junior in a four-handed conspiracy to handle stolen farm and construction machinery. The defendants' business model involved shipping the stolen machinery to Poland. POCA ongoing.

R v TL (2023)

successfully argued for a suspended sentence for a man with mental disorders who threatened railway workers and police with an axe.

R v ** (2023)**

Prosecution of two youths for Section 18 wounding following a stabbing.

R v AC (2023)

Successfully argued for a suspended sentence for offences of dwelling burglary and arson reckless as to whether life endangered.

R v DR (2023)

Prosecution of a man for Section 18 GBH following a stabbing.

R v BM (2023)

Successfully argued there were exceptional reasons not to impose the mandatory minimum term for a 'third strike' burglar. Suspended sentence imposed instead.

R v BB et al (2023)

Disclosure junior in prosecution of 23 defendants accused of involvement in a conspiracy trafficking drugs from Liverpool to Devon and Cornwall.

R v LF (2023)

Successfully argued for a suspended sentence for a relapsed drug addict who stole from a vulnerable family member.

R v TJ and EP (2022)

Prosecution of a conspiracy to commit dwelling burglaries and 'ram-raid' non-dwelling burglaries.

R v ** (2022)**

Disclosure junior in prosecution of multiple youths who were involved in drugs supply and relied on modern day slavery defences.

R v KC (2022)

Defence of a man charged with aggravated burglary. Successful application to dismiss the charge of aggravated burglary and acquitted of burglary at trial.

R v MC et al (2022)

Successfully argued that the case should be stayed as an abuse of process due to the prosecution's delay in bringing proceedings.

R v JW (2022)

Prosecution of a man for attempted Section 18 GBH for gouging a police officer's eye.

R v LG (2021)

Prosecution of a robbery which led to a fitness to plead determination and a 'did he do the act' hearing, followed by the imposition of a hospital order with a Section 41 restriction.

R v AH et al (2021)

Disclosure junior in multi-handed shotgun assassination linked to drugs supply.

R v ** (2021)**

Defending a mentally disordered young woman charged with public nuisance after threatening to jump from a multi-storey car park.

Appointments

- CPS Grade 3 Prosecutor
- RASSO panel
- Serious Fraud Office Panel C
- Attorney General's Regional Panel C

Education

- Bar Professional Training Course (Outstanding), Manchester Metropolitan University
- LLM in Comparative, European and International Law, European University Institute
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction), Manchester Metropolitan University
- English Language and Literature (First Class), University of Oxford

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Western Circuit
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association

Awards

- Gray's Inn Mould Scholarship (2019)
- Gray's Inn Prince of Wales Scholarship (2016)