

JAMES HASKELL

CALL: 2004

"A thoughtful and polished advocate, confident without arrogance, with conspicuously good judgement."

Legal 500 2021

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James is a specialist criminal advocate who prosecutes and defends in a wide range of criminal cases. He is consistently ranked in Chambers UK as a 'leading junior'. He is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in cases involving serious sexual offences. James successfully defended only the second person in British legal history to be charged with exposing his daughter to Female Genital Mutilation. James is a Grade 4 CPS Prosecutor. He acts as Independent Counsel for reviewing material which might attract Legal Professional Privilege. He also represents professionals during disciplinary proceedings.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Crime
 - Regulatory & Professional Discipline
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CRIME

James has consistently been recommended in Chambers UK for his criminal expertise since he debuted in 2010 as the 'up-and-coming' junior on the Western Circuit. James is instructed to advise on disclosure in serious and complex cases and to advise on material which might attract Legal Professional Privilege. James is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in cases involving serious sexual offences. He successfully defended only the second person in British legal history to be charged with exposing his daughter to Female Genital Mutilation. James has experience of representing serving prisoners before Parole Boards and representing the police in relation to the variation or discharge of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders. He also appears in Insurance backed criminal proceedings ranging from driving without due care and attention to proceedings arising from serious road traffic accidents.

Recent Cases

R v Fisher (2019)

Successfully defended a young man charged with rape.

R v Keen (2019)

Successfully prosecuted this defendant who had committed multiple historic sexual offences against members of his family over a period of 30 years (sentenced to 23 years imprisonment).

R v D (2018)

Successfully defended only the second person in British legal history to be charged with an offence of FGM. This case was prosecuted by a Queens Counsel. James successfully argued that the defendant had 'no case to answer' at the end of the prosecution case.

R v Nur (2018)

Successfully defended a young male charged with Rape.

R v Parveaz (2017) EWCA Crim 873; [2017] Crim LR 891

Appeared for the Respondent in the POCA proceedings following an appeal by the Prosecution (this case is referenced in paragraphs 5B-297, 5B-299 and 5B-301 in Archbold 2019).

R v Ngoc Tran & others (2017)

Junior counsel for the Prosecution in relation to a multi-handed conspiracy to produce cannabis.

R v Matawlu (2017)

Prosecuted the Fijian International Rugby player who was charged with sexual assault.

R v Lester (2016)

Junior counsel for the Crown (successfully prosecuted the defendant for 58 offences including false imprisonment, rape of a child under 13 and making indecent images and received a life sentence).

R v Khan & others (2016)

Junior counsel for the Crown - multi-handed Class A drugs conspiracy.

R v Whitter (2016)

Defendant successfully prosecuted for rape.

R v Lewthwaite (2015)

Successfully defended a 19 year old defendant charged with rape.

R v Escobar-Julia (2015)

Successfully defended a Spanish defendant charged with sexual assault.

R v Smith (2014)

Successfully prosecuted a defendant charged with historic sexual offences against young boys.

REGULATORY & PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

James is regularly instructed in regulatory criminal matters. He successfully defended the first ever prosecution by Avon Fire and Rescue under section 32 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

James often represents professionals during disciplinary hearings. He has represented nurses who appear before the Nursing and Midwifery Council and James has also represented police officers alleged to have breached the standards of professional behaviour under the 2012 (Conduct) Regulations.

James also has experience of appearing at Coroners' Inquests.

RECENT CASES

Inquest into the death of CW (2019)

Represented the Royal Shakespeare Company who were an 'interested party' in the death of a young man who had jumped into a river when evading police.

Chief Constable Avon & Somerset Constabulary v PC P (2019)

Represented a police officer facing allegations of gross misconduct (acting dishonestly).

NMC v Raybould (2015)

Represented a nurse alleged to have neglected a patient who subsequently died.

NMC v Saunders (2013)

Representing a nurse alleged to have stolen medication for her own use.

NMC v Nyama (2013)

Representing a nurse at a disciplinary hearing & successfully opposing an interim suspension order.

NMC v Bridgman (2012)

Representing a nurse at a disciplinary hearing & successfully opposing an interim conditions of practice order.

Avon Fire & Rescue v Warren (2010)

Successfully defended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAMBERS UK 2021

Crime

Band 3

Specialist criminal practitioner who is also regularly instructed in the criminal elements of professional disciplinary proceedings. As well as an accomplished defender, he is also a Grade 4 CPS prosecutor and is appointed to the Crown's specialist rape panel.

Strengths: "He presents evidence very logically. His advocacy is focused and realistic, and he is fearless in court."

Recent work: Prosecuted a defendant charged with wounding a police officer with intent to resist arrest.

LEGAL 500 2021

Crime (General and Fraud)

'A thoughtful and polished advocate, confident without arrogance, with conspicuously good judgement.'

Ranked: Tier 1

CHAMBERS UK 2020

Crime

Specialist criminal practitioner who is also regularly instructed in the criminal elements of professional disciplinary proceedings. As well as an accomplished defender, he is also a Grade 3 CPS prosecutor and is appointed to the Crown's specialist rape panel.

Strengths: "Excellent preparation procedures and a strong but sensitive court manner."

Recent work: Successfully defended a man accused of allowing his daughter to undergo female genital mutilation.

LEGAL 500 2020

Crime

Particularly good with vulnerable complainants and witnesses.'

CHAMBERS UK 2019

Crime

Specialist criminal practitioner who is also regularly instructed in the criminal elements of professional disciplinary proceedings. As well as an accomplished defender, he is also a Grade 3 CPS prosecutor and is appointed to the Crown's specialist rape panel.

"He is extremely able and very helpful."

Recent work: Acted for the prosecution in a multi-handed conspiracy to produce large quantities of cannabis over a significant period of time.

LEGAL 500 2019

Crime

Recent work includes high-profile sexual assault cases.

CHAMBERS UK 2018

Crime

Junior - Band 3

Specialist criminal practitioner who is also regularly instructed in the criminal elements of professional disciplinary proceedings. As well as an accomplished defender, he is also a Grade 3 CPS prosecutor and is appointed to the Crown's specialist rape panel.

Strengths: "He is a meticulous and robust advocate who consistently provides excellent service and is helpful, approachable and a pleasure to work with."

Recent work: Acted as junior counsel for the Crown in a six-week trial which resulted in the defendant being convicted of 51 offences, including multiple rape offences of a child under 13 and false imprisonment.

LEGAL 500 2017

Crime

Leading Junior

'Recommended for a purview of criminal matters.'

CHAMBERS UK 2017

Crime

Junior - Band 3

Specialist criminal practitioner who is regularly instructed on the criminal elements of professional disciplinary proceedings. He is also a Grade 3 CPS prosecutor and is appointed to the Crown's specialist rape panel.

Recent work: Successfully defended an individual who was accused of the rape of a young woman, although both acknowledged that they were too drunk to remember the encounter.

CHAMBERS UK 2016

Crime

Junior - Band 3

Has extensive expertise in a wide range of complex criminal cases. He also represents professionals in disciplinary hearings.

Strengths: "He is very user-friendly and good at explaining complex issues in simple terms to clients."

Recent work: Successfully defended a case of historic sexual offences against young children.

CHAMBERS UK 2015

Crime

Leading Junior - Band 3

A specialist crime advocate who has represented prisoners in parole hearings and professionals in disciplinary proceedings. Recent work: Prosecuted in R v Lelliot, a fraud case where more than £100,000 was stolen.

CHAMBERS UK 2014

Crime

"James Haskell draws praise for his superb communication skills. He is regularly instructed in complex multi-handed cases and regulatory criminal matters."

Recent work: He successfully prosecuted a prison officer for theft in breach of trust from HMP Bristol where he was employed.

CHAMBERS UK 2013

Crime

"James Haskell continues to consolidate his position in the market after impressing widely in recent years handling serious and complex criminal cases."

CHAMBERS UK 2012

Crime

"James Haskell is barely 8 years' call but has already made an impact on the criminal field".

Notable matters include: R v Lavery, a matter concerning charges of false imprisonment and GBH.

CHAMBERS UK 2011

Crime

Ranked as the "up-and-coming" junior on the Western Circuit.

"James Haskell was recently involved in a 16-handed conspiracy to cause GBH. Peers praise him for his excellent client manner and ability to always stay on top of a case."

CHAMBERS UK 2010

Crime

Debuted as the "up-and-coming" junior on the Western Circuit.

"James Haskell is a particularly bright junior with a great future ahead of him."

APPOINTMENTS:

- CPS (Grade 4) Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Panel Advocate
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- Criminal Bar Association
 - Western Circuit
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EDUCATION:

- BVC, UWE Bristol
 - LLB Hons, UWE Bristol
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RECENT NEWS

- Practical Advocacy in the Crown Court has been published today!
 - We are very excited to announce publication of our book 'Practical Advocacy in the Crown Court' written by members of our Crime Team
 - Coronavirus Regulations Update - 6 July 2020
 - Guildhall Chambers is delighted to announce that Peter Binder will join our Crime Team on 1 September 2020
 - We are pleased to announce our Crime Team will have their book published by Bloomsbury Legal
 - Coronavirus Regulations – Update 23 June 2020
 - Coronavirus Regulations - Update 1 June 2020
 - Crime Team Newsletter - April 2020
 - James Haskell successfully defends FGM case
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