



4 King's Bench Walk

2nd floor, Temple, London EC4Y 7DL

Tel: 020 7822 7000

Fax 1: 0870 803 1901 Fax 2: 0870 429 2781

Email: clerks@4kbw.co.uk

Web: www.4kbw.co.uk

Robert Spencer Bernard – Barrister

Called 1969

Practice Profile

I have appeared regularly in the Crown Court since its establishment both prosecuting and defending. I have defended as Leading Junior in murder and fraud cases. I have prosecuted numerous murders as a junior to Silk and attempted murder as a junior. I have prosecuted on behalf of the Serious Crime Squad in very substantial drugs cases including one that involved being subject to security vetting so that I could advise on disclosure. I have prosecuted and defended in serious sexual cases (rape, buggery, incest and child pornography). It follows that I have considerable experience in Special Measures (in all its forms) and the use of intermediaries. I have prosecuted and defended in cases of very serious violence, kidnapping, false imprisonment, child cruelty etc.

As a Recorder I have also tried indecency cases involving children, using the video link, as well as such offences as Causing Death by Dangerous Driving and Securicor robbery.

I have appeared frequently in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, in appeals against conviction as well as against sentence, again acting for both the Respondent and Appellants, including R.v. Allsop & Ors. an authority on RIPA.

I have appeared in the Divisional Court in firearms appeals. I have been instructed regularly by the Solicitor for the Metropolitan Police and by The Chief Constable of Humberside in firearms matters. On the recommendation of the Metropolitan Police I supervised a revision of practice for Humberside Constabulary. Advices I have written have been put before ACPO.

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Education & Qualifications

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| 1969 | Called to the Bar. |
| 1986 | Appointed Assistant Recorder of the Crown Court. |

1992 Appointed Recorder of the Crown Court.

2000 Appointed Recorder of the County Court.

Professional Courses

JSB Human Rights Bar Human Rights JSB Criminal Refresher Courses

JSB Continuing Papers

Professional Memberships

Inner Temple Criminal Bar Association Midland Circuit