



## Robert Spencer Bernard – Barrister

Called 1969

---

### Practice Profile:

November 1969: called to the Bar by the Inner Temple. Pupillages at 13 King's Bench Walk (Lawrence Libbert, later Q.C.) and Francis Taylor Building (E. Monier-Williams) September 1970: invited to accept tenancy by Sir Edward Gardner, Q.C., M.P. at Francis Taylor Building, Temple. Joined the South-Eastern Circuit April 1984: moved to chambers at 4 King's Bench Walk (Bruce Laughland Q.C.) and joined the Midland & Oxford Circuit August 1988: authorized to sit as Assistant Recorder, Midland & Oxford Circuit August 1992: appointed Recorder, Crown Court

I have appeared regularly in the Crown Court since its establishment both prosecuting and defending. I have prosecuted numerous murders as a junior to Silk. I have defended as Leading Junior in murder, attempted murder and fraud cases. I am at home in multi-handed trials. 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, sexual assaults, offences against children and indecent images). 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. I have appeared frequently in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, in appeals against conviction as well as against sentence, 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. When still practising on the South-Eastern Circuit I was 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.

As a Recorder I have tried serious cases involving indecency with children as well as such offences as frauds, causing death by dangerous driving and Securicor robbery.

### **Education & Qualifications:**

- 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  
CBA – Excellence in Advocacy (2008)  
Judicial College criminal law seminars

**Professional Memberships:**

Inner Temple  
Criminal Bar Association  
Midland Circuit

**Contact Details:**

Telephone: 0207-822-7000  
Fax: 0871-288-7022  
Email: [clerks@4kbw.co.uk](mailto:clerks@4kbw.co.uk)