



Lee Harris – Barrister

Called 1999

Lee is an advocate with over twenty years' experience in the criminal and family courts. He is extremely highly regarded as a court advocate and has been described as having a natural instinct for cross-examining witnesses effectively, as well as for his ability to persuade a judge or jury. He also has the ability to put young and vulnerable witnesses at ease and make them as comfortable as possible with the court process. Client care is a central focus of Lee's approach to cases, leading him to be favoured counsel for many of his solicitors. Whatever his instructions, he works closely with his solicitors to ensure the best outcome for his client.

Crime:

Lee has an extensive and varied criminal law practice, acting for both the prosecution and defence. He practises in all areas of serious crime including homicide, offences of grave violence, serious sexual offences, drug offences, terrorist offences, as well as large scale and high value financial crime. He has been involved in lengthy complex trials, and cases involving multiple defendants. He appears regularly in the Crown Court and has appeared in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Lee is a Level 3 prosecutor on the CPS Advocate Panel, and was appointed to the Counter-Terrorism Specialist Panel in 2019.

Lee was appointed as Recorder of the Crown Court in 2020.

Family:

Lee has represented parents in private law Children Act proceedings for many years, including cases of complexity involving allegations of physical and sexual abuse. He also acts in public law care proceedings for parents and guardians, in cases involving complex and challenging issues. His work with vulnerable victims and witnesses in criminal cases also gives him a unique insight into and understanding of the complexities of Children Act proceedings and their effect on families and children.

In all cases, he is able to argue his client's position strongly in court, while also giving them realistic and accurate advice. He is also adept at negotiating with opponents to obtain the best outcome for client.

Testimonials:

"A diligent, knowledgeable and hardworking barrister. Lee is a safe pair of hands when it comes to instructing him for Crown Court matters. He is extremely calm and approachable for our clients, let alone a great support to us at every step of the way. It is always a pleasure to instruct Lee, knowing our clients will be looked after and their cases progressed in a timely and proactive way." – Zoe Heron, Reeds Solicitors



“We have instructed Lee on a number of our cases. His instruction has been for a variety of offences ranging from low level drug supply to complex Fraud to Murder.

As a firm of solicitors it can be very difficult to instruct Counsel that you have trust in and with whom you are able to build a friendly and professional working relationship. However Lee has been able to do all of those things with every member of our firm. Most importantly, he is able to build trust with our clients and provide unfaltering support throughout their case. He has exemplary attention to detail, an excellent and professional approach to advocacy and is highly effective in persuading judges to agree with him!” - Katie Quincey, The Castle Partnership

Education & Qualifications:

The College of Law – Bar Vocational Course (1998) – Very Competent
University College London – LLB (1997) – 2:1

Professional Memberships:

Middle Temple
Criminal Bar Association

Appointments:

CPS Advocate Panel level 3
CPS specialist counter-terrorism panel advocate
Recorder of the Crown Court

Notable cases:

R v B (Court of Appeal)

Appeared for the Crown, successfully defending an appeal against conviction, in which it was asserted by the defence that the conviction was unsafe due to perverse verdicts by the jury in the original trial.

R v C and others (High Court)

Appeared on behalf of the DPP in a successful appeal, following a conviction of several high profile protestors, which determined the meaning of ‘land’ for the purposes of the offence of aggravated trespass.

R v E

Represented the defendant in an allegation of a murder of a married couple in the presence of their three year old child. The trial involved considerable complexity and a vulnerable defendant with considerable physical and mental health difficulties.

R v R and others

Successfully prosecuted eighteen defendants involved in a £1m fraud and money laundering



operation. The case spanned three separate trials over several months. POCA proceedings also followed in respect of each defendant

G v S (High Court)

Represented a mother in complex and protracted private law proceedings in which the father faced a linked criminal prosecution involving allegations of sexual assault against children. The family proceedings lasted almost two years.

Contact Details:

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