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Robert Newcombe

Year of call: 1996 | Year of silk:

About

Robert Newcombe is a highly regarded barrister with nearly three decades of experience and a leading reputation in criminal advocacy. Since being called to the Bar in 1996, he has developed a formidable, multi-disciplinary practice spanning serious and complex crime, regulatory law, and financial crime. He is frequently instructed as leading junior counsel in high-stakes cases involving multiple homicides, large-scale drug importations, major fraud conspiracies, cybercrime, and significant regulatory matters. Known for his meticulous attention to detail, strategic insight, and grounded manner, Robert is consistently sought after for the most challenging and sensitive cases. He has extensive experience cross-examining expert witnesses across a broad spectrum of disciplines, including DNA analysis, forensic accountancy, computer forensics, financial services, pathology, firearms and ballistics, telephony, and neuroradiology. He is adept at mastering specialist material, exposing flawed assumptions, and presenting complex evidence to juries with clarity and precision. Robert recently secured an acquittal in a nine-month, nine-defendant pension-investment conspiracy-to-defraud trial, acting as leading junior counsel. His cross-examination of the officer in charge was described by co-defending counsel as a masterclass in advocacy. His practice also encompasses financial regulation, corporate governance, and fiduciary duties. Robert has significant experience in covert policing law and safeguards. Notably, he acted in a complex abuse-of-process hearing involving allegations made by a CHIS (XY) against his police handler, successfully obtaining an order for disclosure of the CHISs identity and conducting the subsequent voir dire cross-examination. Robert holds the CFA UK Societys Investment Management Certificate (IMC, 2022) and serves as a Non-Executive Director and Chairman on several company boards, including more than a decade with FCA-authorised advisory and fund-management firms. His board work includes service on Supervisory Boards, Investment Committees, Remuneration Committees, and Audit Committees. He also chairs a small charity with broad charitable objectives. Regularly quoted in the press on financial and legal matters, Robert has written forFraud Intelligence,Regulatory Intelligence, and theQuarterly Journal of Forestry. In 2023, he was admitted to the Freedom of the City of London.

Practice Areas

- Criminal Law
- Regulatory And Disciplinary Law
- International Law
- Business Crime
- Health And Safety Law

Languages

- English

Seminars

Cyber fraud and Cyber Security: Trojan Botnets, Web Injects and Mules (at the University of Northumbrias Centre for Evidence and Criminal Justice Studies) and as part of the Church Court Chambers CPD Lecture series.

Firearms: Law and Case Management (CPD for practitioners)

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Defending Environmental Prosecutions (CPD for practitioners)

Memberships

The Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn

Criminal Bar Association

Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

UK Environmental Law Association

CFA UK Society

Royal Forestry Society

Honourable Artillery Company

Cases of note

R v G Southwark Crown Court, 2026 for defence Acquittal | Leading Junior Counsel

Successfully defended an allegation under s.328 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 of being concerned in a money laundering arrangement involving approximately 6 million in cash. The case arose from NCA Operation LUPEOSE and involved complex issues concerning the statutory requirement for proof of both knowledge and suspicion.

R v B Newcastle Crown Court, 2026 for defence Acquittal

Successfully defended an allegation under s.328 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 arising from NCA Operation CRANEMAN 4. The prosecution alleged that high-value residential property had been used by an organised crime group. The case involved complex issues of knowledge and suspicion, together with detailed examination of the source of funds.

R v R Teesside Crown Court, 2025 for CPS Murder | Led Junior Counsel

Prosecuted a client charged with murder in Operation HAMNETT, in which the prosecution alleged that he was the shooter. The defence case that the shot was intended as a warning was rejected by the jury. Led by David Lamb KC. The client was convicted and received a life sentence with a minimum term of 32 years.

R v D Newcastle Crown Court, 2025- for defence Acquittal | Attempted Murder

Successfully defended a client facing two counts of attempted murder, prosecuted on the basis of causing grievous bodily harm with intent under s.18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861. The case concerned the use of a hammer against threatening callers at the clients own doorstep, who sustained multiple fractures. The defence of self-defence succeeded, and the client was acquitted.

R v N Newcastle Crown Court, 2025 Leading Junior Counsel | Four-Month Trial

Four-handed conspiracy trial arising from Operation KINGSTON, involving invoicing fraud and the production of cannabis on an industrial scale. The prosecution alleged that multiple companies had been used to obtain bank finance against fraudulent invoices, with funds subsequently recycled into large-scale cannabis production.

R v H Newcastle Crown Court, 20242025 for defence Acquittal | Leading Junior Counsel | Nine-Month Trial

Defended in a nine-handed conspiracy to defraud trial arising from Operation UTAH, concerning an alleged pension liberation scheme. The client was alleged to be the architect of the scheme. The case involved complex financial evidence relating to investments through a network of offshore companies across multiple jurisdictions,

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including redeemable preference shares and warrants. The defence required extensive analysis and presentation of complex financial transactions and expert evidence from the FCA, HMRC, regional fraud specialists, accountants and forensic investigators, alongside evidence from multiple investors in an occupational pension scheme. The client gave evidence over ten days. The client was acquitted.