



Michael Magarian QC

Called 1988 (QC 2011)

Areas of Practice

Crime

Michael is a fearless advocate who has acted in many organised crime cases and prides himself on standing shoulder to shoulder with his client. He took silk in 2011 on his first application. He was counsel in the original Damilola Taylor trial.

Notable Cases

R v Sinclair Lewis (2012)

Michael Magarian QC and Jonathan Black of BSB secured the acquittal of Sinclair Lewis. This was a cold case investigation. The top half of Julie Dorsett's skeleton was found on an allotment plot belonging to the defendant's father 5 years after she went missing. In addition, there was evidence of domestic violence by the defendant against her. At the initial trial HHJ Rook QC was persuaded to discharge the murder count. The case proceeded as manslaughter and preventing a lawful burial. The jury was undecided. At the retrial he was acquitted on those remaining charges. The case involved an isotope expert who purported to give the date of death.

R v Nathan Mann (& anor) 2012

Two prisoners at HMP Frankland disembowelled and killed a sex offender. Mann was already a life prisoner, having killed 2 old ladies in a nursing home in an earlier case. The new case had cannibalistic aspects. There was a complicated psychiatric defence which resulted in a successful plea of diminished responsibility. Led Katy Thorne.

R v Sacha Williamson (& others) 2011

Successful defence in the Camberwell arson in which a baby was killed. Michael is due to act for another woman accused of killing her baby after a suggestion that it had been taken over by an evil spirit.

R v Spartley (2008)

The biggest importation of ecstasy pills at that time (weight of pills 0.5 tonnes).

tooks chambers

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The Damilola Taylor murder (2003)

The original trial which collapsed after the discrediting of the key witness.

R v John Palmer and others (2002)

This concerned organised crime on Tenerife through timeshare fraud. The loss was said to be £33m.

R v John Drewe (1999)

Modern art forgeries of Giacomettis, Nicholsons and Sutherlands

R v Cowan 1996 1 CAR 1

Led by Michael Mansfield QC in the first guideline case on s.35 inferences from silence in court.

The Guinness appeal (1993)

R v Ernest Saunders and others. Represented Anthony Parnes. Led by Clare Montgomery QC.

Speaking Events and Training, Seminars

Lectured on the art of advocacy and the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Legal Snapshots: Joint Enterprise; a fair doctrine? at Toops Chambers
26th April 2012

Membership and Societies

CBA

Ex committee member of Bar Council Legal Services Committee

Liberty

Other Relevant Information

As a junior Michael had a heavy criminal practice at the Central Criminal Court. He led in murders successfully (eg R v Wynter a killing in self defence of the son of the woman the defendant was in an allegedly abusive relationship with, R v Anthony a killing on Shepherds Bush Green tried by Fulford J).

Michael is listed within new silks in the Legal 500 (2011) Crime. He is also recommended as a new silk in Chambers UK (2012) Crime.

Michael Magarian QC