



# Srikantharajah Nereshraaj

Called 2007

## Areas of Practice

### *Crime*

Neresh joined Chambers in October 2009, after successfully completing a period as a third six pupil at Tooks, during which he built up an impressive Crown Court practice.

Prior to joining Tooks, Neresh completed his pupillage at a chambers with an emphasis on Revenue and Customs work. While he retains a specialist interest in these areas (and is regularly instructed to defend in cases involving drug importations and financial crime), he undertakes a broad range of criminal work, which includes offences of serious violence, public order offences, robbery, fraud and other dishonesty offences.

Neresh has extensive experience of conducting cases in the Youth Court and is particularly adept at dealing with individuals with special needs such as anger management issues and learning difficulties.

In addition, Neresh regularly acts for clients accused of offences arising out of political protests and demonstrations.

## Notable Cases

### **Crown Court**

***R -v- Miller [2009]*** Instructed to represent a South African national involved in the importation of 15kg cannabis into the UK.

***R -v- Oduyoye [2009]*** Instructed to represent a Nigerian national involved in a large scale importation of cocaine

***R -v- Garlicki [2009]*** Instructed to represent a defendant accused of multiple violent assaults on females.

***R -v- Adeyemi [2009]*** Instructed to represent a middle-aged Nigerian woman who was a professional drug 'swallower' and was caught having managed to internally conceal over 1.5kg of cocaine

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**R -v- Ariya & others [2009]** Instructed to represent a defendant in a multi-handed conspiracy to commit fraud through the use of cloned credit cards.

**R -v- Cummings & others [2009]** Instructed to represent a defendant in a multi-handed money laundering case. Client was unanimously acquitted by the jury on all counts after a 5 day trial in circumstances where all the co-defendants either pleaded guilty on the morning of trial or were convicted after trial.

**R -v- Brinzila [2009]** Instructed to represent a Bulgarian national involved in commercial importation of class A drugs.

**R-v- Atta [2009]** Instructed to represent a defendant involved in the importation 35kg of testosterone-ethanate (a class C controlled steroid). The case involved complex issues regarding the effects of recent legislative changes on the appropriate sentencing regime for class C drugs.

**R-v- Hunt [2009]** Instructed to represent a defendant in a case of a s.20 wounding, arising out of an incident outside a night club. The client pleaded guilty on a very favourable basis and received a suspended sentence.

#### **Youth Court Case**

**R -v- ES & others [2009]** Represented the 1<sup>st</sup> defendant in an multi-handed trial (with a certificate for counsel) for multiple robberies and ABH. The case involved substantial legal arguments in relation to the admissibility of identifications made via internet social networking, loss of evidence by the police and non-disclosure. The client was acquitted of all 4 charges after an 8 day trial.

**P -v- S [2009]** Represented a client accused of vehicle-taking offences arising out of a domestic burglary. The trial centred on evidence in relation to DNA and fingerprints found in items left at the scene. The case involved instruction of defence experts, extensive cross-examination of prosecution experts (fingerprints and DNA) and multiple s.8 disclosure applications.

## **Speaking Events and Training, Seminars**

Neresh is actively involved with the issue of widening access to the Bar, and has regularly talked at student events in Chambers and in colleges.

## **Membership and Societies**

Criminal Bar Association  
South Eastern Circuit  
Lawyers for Liberty

## **Other Relevant Information**

Given his own background, Neresh has an interest in immigration issues, particularly where they intersect with criminal law. He has in the past conducted appeals before the AIT in cases involving post-conviction deportation. Prior to coming to the Bar, Neresh worked with numerous Refugee organisations in the UK and South Asia. As an undergraduate student at Edinburgh University he was responsible for running Student Action for Refugees (STAR) and helped establish the Edinburgh's refugee drop in centre.

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Neresh is committed to encouraging participation in pro bono schemes. In addition to volunteering at his local legal centre, while at Law School, he was responsible for setting up the Department's pro bono.

During his legal studies, Neresh was awarded City Law School's Academic Excellence Scholarship and the Routledge-Cavendish Prize for academic achievement, he was also awarded the Prince of Wales Scholarship from Gray's Inn.