

## Robert Newcombe

Robert Newcombe is a highly experienced barrister having built a multi-disciplinary practice over nearly three decades, as a leader in criminal advocacy, financial regulatory law, and financial crime.

Called to the Bar in 1996 at Lincoln's Inn, he has established a formidable reputation for handling complex, high-stakes cases involving multiple homicides, large-scale fraud conspiracies, cybercrime, and regulatory matters, as leading junior counsel.



His meticulous attention to detail and down-to-earth manner mean that he is in constant demand for the most challenging of cases.

Robert Newcombe has extensive experience in the cross examination of a wide array of expert witnesses including DNA, accountancy, computer forensics, financial services experts, pathology, firearms and ballistics, telephony and neuroradiology. He enjoys the challenge of understanding the expert's discipline, challenging the opponent's assumptions and communicating complex material in a straightforward manner to the jury.

Robert recently achieved an acquittal in a nine month, nine-handed pension investment 'conspiracy to defraud' trial as leading junior counsel. His cross-examination of the officer in charge of the investigation was described by co-defending counsel as "a masterclass in advocacy".

He has extensive experience of financial regulation, corporate fiduciary duties, and corporate governance.

Robert is also experienced in the laws and safeguards surrounding covert policing. He was involved in a complex abuse of process hearing where CHIS "XY" made allegations of criminal conduct against his police handler. He was successful in persuading the judge to make an order for the disclosure of the CHIS's identity and cross-examined him on the voir dire.

### YEAR OF CALL

1995

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

REGULATORY

## Robert Newcombe

He holds the CFA UK Society's Investment Management Certificate (IMC – 2022) and serves as a Non-Executive Director and Chairman on several company boards, including over 10 years on FCA- authorised advisory and fund management firms. His board experience encompasses Supervisory Boards, Investment Committees, Remuneration Committees, and Audit Committees. Mr Newcombe also chairs a small charity with a wide objects clause.

He is regularly quoted in the press on wide-ranging financial-legal topics. His recent articles have been published in Fraud Intelligence, Regulatory Intelligence and the Quarterly Journal of Forestry. In 2023 Mr Newcombe was admitted to the Freedom of The City of London.

### Notable Cases

#### **R v H 2024/25**

Operation Utah – A conspiracy to defraud allegation where the trial lasted for nine months. The investigation was pursued with support from witnesses from HMRC, The Pension Regulator, and the FCA, as well as expert witness evidence from forensic accountants and pension fund trustees. It involved allegations of so-called “Pension Liberation” dating back to 2017, involving a complex web of off-shore structures used to enable pension investors to gain access to Defined Contribution pension funds. After the acquittal the instructing solicitor and lay client both commended Robert Newcombe's advocacy skill, tenacity, knowledge of finance and meticulous case preparation. Newcastle Crown Court.

#### **R v R - 2025**

Defendant charged with Murder. Led counsel in a 6 handed shooting case – for trial. Teesside Crown Court.

#### **R v N – 2025**

Defendant charged with conspiracy to commit statutory fraud (loan factoring) and industrial-scale cannabis production. Leading junior counsel in this 4 handed 4 month long trial. Newcastle Crown Court.

#### **R v O - Conspiracy to Defraud**

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Multi-handed, trans-national high value sports car fraud involving “grey market” contracts to purchase and re-sell in the period between order and delivery. St Albans Crown Court.

### **C v R - False Rape Accusation Appeal – CACD**

Successfully appealed a conviction for rape, leading to the quashing of the appellant’s conviction. The accuser was subsequently convicted of perjury and sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment.

### **R v C - Mortgage Fraud acquittal.**

Secured the acquittal of an FCA-authorized mortgage broker accused of making dishonest representations in residential conveyancing transactions. Preston Crown Court.

### **R v C – Murder – guilty plea**

Successful Newton hearing, where Crown unsuccessfully challenged the Defendant’s Basis of Plea that killing had not been for financial gain. Central Criminal Court.

### **R v A – Murder - acquittal**

Multi-handed public order incident. Led by Kerim Fuad KC. Central Criminal Court.

### **R v M – Murder - acquittal**

Multi-handed public order incident. Led by Kerim Fuad KC. Central Criminal Court.

### **R v S – Conspiracy to produce forged instruments**

Multi-handed, first on the indictment. Leading junior. Southwark Crown Court.

### **R v O – Conspiracy to defraud**

International cyberfraud. Southwark Crown Court.

### **R v T – Conspiracy to defraud**

International cyberfraud. Kingston Crown Court.

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### **R v O – Attempted Murder acquittal**

Family breakdown, where one brother knifed another. Central Criminal Court.

### **R v P – Attempted Murder - acquittal**

Aggravated burglary where gunman was not responsible for co-D's knife attack. Central Criminal Court.

Robert Newcombe is actively involved in exploring the intersection of law and emerging technologies. He has written on the role of agentic AI in financial crime, discussing the challenges it poses to legislators and law enforcement agencies.

In 2025, he was invited to join the Advisory Board of Northumbria Law School, his alma mater. He contributes to projects focusing on the use of artificial intelligence in law enforcement and leadership training within the legal profession.

He served for 8 years in the Army Reserves in the 1990s, specialising in surveillance and target acquisition.

### **Memberships**

The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Criminal Bar Association

Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

UK Environmental Law Association

CFA UK Society

Royal Forestry Society

Honourable Artillery Company