DERE STREET BARRISTERS

David Lamb KC

David Lamb KC is a specialist criminal law barrister with particular expertise in cases involving high profile and multi-handed homicide, international drug trafficking, complex fraud and serious sexual offences. He was appointed Silk in 2022.

He is frequently instructed on a private basis where he delivers a complete, robust and bespoke service with first-rate client care skills.



Those who he is instructed by, leads and ultimately represents commend in particular his faultless preparation and case perception.

An exceptional strategist, possessing both a ready ability to connect with the jury and deliver complex legal arguments in a persuasive and eloquent manner.

Widely acknowledged as adaptable, stylish, charming and approachable.

In addition, David also appears in the Family Court in Public Law Hearings where his advocacy in criminal cases has proved to be indispensable when dealing with cases involving serious allegations of inflicting physical and sexual abuse.

'David is very thorough and matter of fact; he knows how to get the job done.'

Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2027

"David is a conscientious, well-prepared and effective silk."
"David Lamb KC's case preparation is meticulous."

Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2026

'David's huge assets are his attention to detail, his preparation and client care. No stone is left unturned, and his calm and collective manner with witnesses and jurors is second to none.

YEAR OF CALL

1987

YEAR OF SILK

2022

APPOINTMENTS

King's Counsel 2022

Safeguarding Chair on the Rugby Football League's Appeals Panel

AREAS OF PRACTICE

CRIME

FAMILY – Public Law

INQUEST & REGULATORY

Legal500 LEADING SILK UNITED KINGDOM 2027

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NOTABLE CASES

R-v-N 2026 (Preston HHJ Knowles KC)

Defence of a prisoner indicted with the murder of his cell mate whilst serving a sentence for an earlier attempted murder. Issues of bad character and causation

Instructed by BBNM Law

R-v-C 2026 (Teesside Mrs Justice Williams)

Prosecution of a mother who fatally poisoned her son and was found Unfit to Plead

R-v-M 2026 (Hull HHJ Thackray)

Defence in a murder where the accused was originally found to be Unfit to Plead and subsequently recovered following treatment to be sufficiently well to be tried. Issues surrounding The Pritchard Criteria and Diminished Responsibility

Instructed by Williamsons in Hull

R-v-B 2026 (Newcastle Mr Justice Goss)

Defence of the principal defendant in a lengthy cut-throat multi-handed murder

Instructed by Tilly Bailey and Irvine in Hartlepool

R-v-R 2025 (Teesside Mr Justice Cotter)

Defence of the first named defendant in a firearms murder where the weapon was taken to the scene and the victim was shot inside his own home from the street outside

Instructed by Swinburne Snowball and Jackson

R-v-W 2025 (Leeds Mr Justice Hilliard)

Defence of the first named accused in a 2 handed prolonged torture and murder of a vulnerable victim in his own home

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Instructed by Foreman and Co in Grimsby

R-v-C (2025) (Teesside HHJ Clews)

Defence of a monk employed at a world-renowned public school indicted with historic allegations of sexual assaults against pupils.
Issues of consent and cross-contamination.
Instructed by Milner's Law in Leeds

R-v-S (2025) (Hull HHJ Thackray KC)

Prosecution of a 15-year-old boy indicted with the Attempted Murder of another youth with an ornamental sword. Issue of Intent and requiring sensitive cross examination of a very young accused
Leading Miss C Holmes Wilberforce Chambers Hull
Instructed by CPS West Yorkshire

R-v-H (2024) (Hull Mr Justice Cotter)

Defended in a multi-handed murder involving sadistic torture and beating. Issues of joint enterprise and Jogee
Leading Mr S Robinson Wilberforce Chambers Hull
Instructed by Robinson's Solicitors in Hull

R-v-R (2023) Newcastle Crown Court (Mr Justice M Spencer)

Prosecution of the murder of the student boyfriend of the accused who was stabbed during an attack motivated by sexual jealousy with intricate topics concerning the forensic examination of the scene and pathology. Instructed by CPS Northumbria. Media coverage can be found here

R-v-K (2023) Teesside Crown Court (HHJ Crowson)

Defence of a pharmacist indicted with the murder of his brother. The trial presented elaborate questions of self-defence together with loss of control. Instructed by Westgarth Solicitors in Sunderland.

R-v-J [2022] (Newcastle Upon Tyne HHJ Sloan KC The Recorder of Newcastle) Murder

The prosecution of a frenzied drug induced knife attack upon a friend of the accused with intricate psychiatric arguments of diminished responsibility. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

R-v-C [2021] (Newcastle Mrs Justice Lambert) Murder

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The defence of a man charged with homicide of his own father. The case carried with it convoluted issues surrounding causation as death did not occur until 3 weeks after the event during which time numerous episodes of medical intervention occurred. Ultimately the prosecution accepted a plea to manslaughter. Instructed by Hodgson Coulthard in Houghton-Le-Spring.

R-v-C [2021] (Newcastle Mr Justice Lavender) Rape

Prosecution of a nightclub manager charged with the rapes of 2 female members of staff. Instructed by CPS Northumbria.

R-v-P [2019] (Teesside HHJ Ashurst) Murder

Defence of a man indicted with the murder of a vigilante who pursued the accused into his own home. Issues of householder defence and loss of control. Instructed by BBNM Law in Middlesbrough.

R-v-D [2019] (Durham HHJ Prince) Rape

Prosecution of historic rapes of 3 family members involving issues of severance and complex interwoven bad character applications. Instructed by CPS Teesside.

R-v-S [2022] (Newcastle upon Tyne HHJ Jameson KC). Murder

The defence of a 16 year old boy who was the second named defendant upon an indictment containing ten similarly aged youths all accused of murder. S began the unprovoked assault. The live issues centred upon joint enterprise and R-v-Jogee. Leading Rachael Landin of Dere Street Barristers and instructed by Hodgson Coulthard in Houghton-Le –Spring.

R-v-U [2019] (Newcastle Upon Tyne Mr Justice Morris)

The defending a double murderer accused of the rape and subsequent murder of a female following which he attempted to disguise her identity and destroy forensic evidence by setting fire to her body. The case called for considered and careful cross examination of expert telecommunication witnesses and involved a cut throat defence with a co-defendant who was also on life licence for another earlier murder. Instructed by Hodgson Coulthard in Houghton-Le-Spring.

R-v-P [2018] (Newcastle Upon Tyne HHJ Bindloss). Drugs and Attempted Murder

The defence of a man charged in connection with a drive by shooting alongside a organised crime group multi-handed drugs conspiracy. Pursued issues of non-disclosure over 2 weeks of legal argument resulting in the case collapsing. Instructed by Richard Haswell's in Newcastle.

R-v-M [2017] (Newcastle upon Tyne HHJ Sloan KC The Recorder of Newcastle). Perverting the Course of Justice

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Defending the vulnerable girlfriend of the principal defendant who was indicted with murder who provided the police with a false exculpatory witness statement. Instructed by Scanlons in Sunderland.

Recommendations and client feedback

Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2027

'David is very thorough and matter of fact; he knows how to get the job done.'

The Legal 500 2027

Leading Silk

Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2026

"David is a conscientious, well-prepared and effective silk." "David Lamb KC's case preparation is meticulous."

The Legal 500 2026

'David's huge assets are his attention to detail, his preparation and client care. No stone is left unturned, and his calm and collective manner with witnesses and jurors is second to none.'

Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2025

"David is extremely efficient and effective. He is incisive in getting to the key issues and dealing with them with minimal fuss, always on the ball and proactive."

Chambers and Partners 2024/2025

'David is incisive in getting to the key issues, always on the ball and proactive.'

The Legal 500 2024

'He is exceptionally efficient and easy to deal with. His vast experience is obvious in the ease with which he immediately masters complex briefs and is able to cut right to the heart of the issues.'

Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2023

"David is thorough in his preparation."

The Legal 500 2023

'His knowledge of the law is tremendous and his court manner very reassuring.'

David Lamb KC

The Legal 500 2022

‘David is well organised, conscientious and thorough. He is tactically astute and his advocacy is sharply focused. ’

The Legal 500 2021

‘He is meticulous in his case preparation. He has excellent judgement. A very fair but tough opponent. An excellent legal mind – a very good case organiser.’

Memberships

The Criminal Bar Association

The North Eastern Circuit