

Calum McNicholas Barrister

Crime

Calum's advocacy has been described by the Court of Appeal as "clear, cogent, and very persuasive".

Having quickly established a busy practice, Calum appears daily in the Crown Court. He is instructed in a wide range of serious criminal trials: GBH with intent, arson with intent to endanger life, false imprisonment, knife-point robbery, rioting and violent disorder, and others.



Calum successfully opposed an Attorney General's Reference in the Court of Appeal; represented the first Defendant to receive an ISC sentence (being trialled at Teesside Crown Court); and was instructed counsel in the first Crown Court case following the widely reported Middlesbrough and Hartlepool violent disorder of 2024.

Notable Cases

R v WB

Represented the Respondent against an Attorney General's Reference in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). The case involved a s.18 offence causing life-threatening injuries. Calum persuaded the Court that the AG's submissions would unduly restrict the role of a sentencing Judge, and that the life-threatening injuries did not require an A1 sentence on the Guidelines.

R v R

Represented a man acquitted of a knife-point robbery of an elderly male in his own home. The case involved Calum cross-examining multiple witnesses, including a vulnerable complainant, a cell site expert, and multiple police officers.

YEAR OF CALL
2021

GRADE OF
PROSECUTOR

AREAS OF
PRACTICE
CRIME

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R v L

Represented a man accused of robbing the same store on two consecutive nights. Following a 5-day trial, the jury returned Not Guilty verdicts on both counts.

R v F

Represented a young man of good character accused of wounding with intent to cause GBH. The case involved the use of glass as a weapon inside a public house. Following a 3-day trial at Teesside Crown Court, the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

R v L

Represented a 59-year-old male of good character accused of intentionally strangling his 15-year-old stepson. Calum cross-examined the Complainant and his mother who claimed to have witnessed the strangulation. The jury acquitted the Defendant after trial.

R v L

Represented a male accused of committing fraud against an elderly male with a value of £100,000. Calum successfully applied to dismiss the charge at an early stage of proceedings.

R v T

Represented a 16-year-old boy acquitted of false imprisonment and robbery following a 5-day jury trial.

R v L

Represented the Defendant in a sexual assault trial in circumstances where the defendant was unable to provide an account of the incident due to intoxication. The Defendant was acquitted.

R v H

Represented one of the first Defendants to receive the ISC sentence at Teesside Crown Court. The Defendant had pleaded guilty to PWITS heroin. Calum sought expert evidence from a psychiatrist and was able to advance “uniquely powerful” mitigation to enable the Defendant to avoid prison.

R v G

Represented the defence in first Crown Court case of violent disorder following the widely reported “Southport riots” in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool.

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R v LB

Represented the Appellant in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). Successfully appealed a Crown Court Restraining Order, both in terms of its excessive duration and overly restrictive wording.

Education and Awards

Calum obtained a first-class law degree and an Outstanding on the BPTC. His achievements in this regard were marked by various academic awards:

- Middle Temple's Certificate of Honour for Bar Course Performance
- University Department Prize for Best Undergraduate Student in Law
- Northumbria Bar Course Honour Roll
- Northumbria Contribution Roll for Excellence in External Advocacy Competitions

Calum competed in and won a range of advocacy competitions, including the Oxford University Press/Inns of Court National Mooting Competition, the Trinity Chambers XIC Competition, and the New Park Court Mitigation Competition.