DERE STREET BARRISTERS

Calum McNicholas Barrister



Calum's advocacy has been described by the Court of Appeal as "clear, cogent, and very persuasive". His closing speeches have been commended by multiple members of the Judiciary.

He is ranked as a Rising Star in the Legal 500.

Calum has an established practice in criminal work. He has been instructed in trials of the utmost seriousness, including murder, serious violent and sexual offending, and organised crime.

Notably, Calum has successfully opposed an Attorney General's Reference in the Court of Appeal, has recently been led in a high-profile murder of a young woman in her University accommodation, and was instructed in the first Crown Court case following the "Southport Riots" in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool.

YEAR OF CALL

2021

GRADE OF PROSECUTOR

**

AREAS OF PRACTICE

CRIME

Legal500
RISING STAR
UNITED KINGDOM
2027

Notable Cases

R v O

Led Junior in the murder of a university student in Preston. This case involved allegations that the Defendant had travelled to his stepdaughter's student accommodation, murdered her, and then staged the scene as a suicide.

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 W

Defended a vulnerable 17-year-old Defendant acquitted after trial of rape.

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R v H

Represented a young defendant charged with false imprisonment and threats to kill. Calum cross examined the complainant and two independent witnesses. The jury acquitted the defendant on both charges.

R v F

Represented a pregnant defendant charged with a robbery within a dwelling. Two Defendants went into a property, attacked the homeowners with weapons, and stole items. Calum made a successful submission of no case to answer.

R v B

Represented a young defendant who had pleaded guilty to various sexual offences. Calum successfully appealed the sentence in the Court of Appeal, reducing the sentence from immediate imprisonment to a suspended sentence.

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.

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.

Calum McNicholas Barrister

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.

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.

Recommendations and client feedback

The Leal 500 2027
Rising Star

The Leal 500 2026
Rising Star

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 McNicholas Barrister

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.