

# Andrew Forsyth

## 1989 (Inner Temple)



### Qualifications

LLB (Hons)(Wales): University College, Cardiff  
Barrister: Inns of Court School of Law

### Professional Associations

Criminal Bar Association  
Hon Society of the Inner Temple  
South East Circuit  
Kent Bar Mess

### Areas of specialisation

Crime - as leading Junior, led Junior or Junior counsel alone. Andrew has a busy, predominantly defence, practice that encompasses a wide range of areas of serious crime across the spectrum: fraud; money laundering; sexual offences; large scale drug importation and serious violence - including murder and firearms. He has also recently acted in one of the first cases brought under the Terrorism Act 2006.

Andrew is very experienced in dealing with 'vulnerable' witnesses and defendants, whether that vulnerability arises from the fact they may be very young, or from mental incapacity.

He has also developed a particular interest in the area of disclosure.

Andrew prides himself in being accessible to instructing solicitors and encourages them to contact him at any time on his mobile telephone if they wish to discuss a case or if they simply seek advice generally.

### Experience

Andrew has acted recently as leading counsel in a number of substantial trials, one involving large scale international Class A drugs conspiracies and the second a significant conspiracy to evade duty on counterfeit branded Polish and Russian cigarettes. Both trials also included significant money laundering allegations. He recently acted as leading counsel in an attempted murder trial (then retrial) at the Central Criminal Court.

Andrew also has experience of acting as a led Junior in a number of cases of murder and conspiracy to defraud. The latter category includes an 8 month trial at Southwark Crown Court involving four defendants, concerning an alleged loss to the Revenue of £3 million from alleged VAT offences involving gold jewellery and bullion - **R v Soni & Others**.

As Junior alone, Andrew has experience of acting in all areas of crime. This includes:

- allegations of serious violence - attempted murder, manslaughter, threats to kill, kidnap, blackmail, grievous bodily harm with intent, robbery; he also has considerable experience of conducting cases involving firearms;
- serious sexual offences - including those committed against (and in some cases, by) children;
- large scale importations of drugs and evasion of duty; and
- dishonesty offences - conspiracy to defraud, money laundering.

## Recent Cases

**R v T & another (Central Criminal Court, 2008):** Leading counsel for T in a trial (and subsequent retrial) of an allegation of attempted murder relating to an alleged gang related shooting in which a passer by suffered life threatening injuries as a result of being hit by three bullets.

**R v M (Yassin) (Woolwich Crown Court, 2008):** Led Junior in case involving allegations of attending terrorist training camps - one of the first cases brought under the Terrorism Act 2006; together with allegations of possession of information likely to be of use to a terrorist, under the Terrorism Act 2006.

**R v K & 3 others (Basildon Crown Court, 2007):** Leading counsel for K in substantial trial - and then retrial - following prosecution failures in disclosure - concerning allegations of conspiracy to evade duty on cigarettes and money laundering. (This case took up over six months of the year.)

**R v R (Woolwich Crown Court, 2007):** Allegation of knifepoint rape of a prostitute.

**R v O & another (Inner London Crown Court, 2007):** Money laundering allegations (Operation Clover) resulting from large scale new tax credit fraud.

**R v B & 9 others (Kingston Crown Court, 2006):** Leading counsel for B who was said to have played a senior role in a large scale international drugs cartel.

**R v K & Others (Kingston Crown Court, 2006):** Allegations of kidnap, false imprisonment, GBH with intent and perverting the course of justice, arising out of a feud between rival gangs. Members of one gang were said to have been abducted, detained and subjected to serious assaults with weapons.

**R v S (Cambridge Crown Court, 2006):** Led Junior in allegation of murder of prostitute.

**R v H (Woolwich Crown Court, 2006):** Rape and numerous sexual assaults on a Chinese 'escort' which had resulted in her throwing herself from the second storey window of the defendant's flat. Andrew had secured an acquittal for the same defendant eight months earlier at his trial at the Central Criminal Court on an allegation of false imprisonment when another Chinese prostitute fell from the same window allegedly to escape the attentions of the defendant. The alleged victim of the first trial gave evidence in the second under the bad character provisions of the Criminal Justice Act.

**R v C & Others (Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2006):** Alleged gang rape of two girls, aged 14 and 15, by group of young boys, including C who was 15 at the time.

**R v D (Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2006):** Historic child sexual assault allegation by step-daughter.

**R v F (Snaresbrook Crown Court, 2006):** Firearms, false imprisonment and robbery. Case was said to be 'Yardie' gang related, with sensitive disclosure issues involving police informants in Operation Trident. Part of the evidence was held in camera.