

Christopher Grout

2007 (Inner Temple)



Qualifications

Bar Vocational Course (College of Law, London) 2007
LL.B (Hons) (University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) 2006

Professional Associations

Criminal Bar Association
Extradition Lawyers Association
Ecclesiastical Law Society
Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

Areas of Specialisation

General Crime

Christopher has a wide ranging criminal defence practice, regularly appearing in the Crown, Magistrates and Youth Courts. Christopher's trial history includes defending in cases of robbery, burglary, fraud, theft, affray, ABH, sexual assault, exposure and witness intimidation.

General Civil

Christopher also accepts instructions to appear before the civil courts and has represented Claimants and Defendants in the County Court for Small Claims and Fast Track Trials, as well as Assessment Hearings in cases of Personal Injury and Possession Hearings in cases concerning the recovery of property from illegal occupiers.

Selection of Cases

Offences of Violence

R v TJ, Watford Youth Court, January 2012

Represented a young Defendant throughout the course of a three day trial where the Crown alleged he had assaulted a man outside a nightclub in Watford. The Defendant was acquitted, the Magistrates finding that he had acted in lawful self-defence.

R v DS, Bromley Youth Court, November 2011

Represented a Defendant who was charged with multiple offences of common assault and criminal damage. He was acquitted after the court heard expert evidence from a psychiatrist who cast doubt upon whether the Defendant would have been capable of forming the necessary mens rea.

R v SG, Croydon Youth Court, September 2011

SG faced two charges of Common Assault and one charge under s.4A of the Public Order Act 1986 after it was alleged that she assaulted two girls at the Turnaround Centre in Croydon. Two of the charges were thrown out following a successful submission of no case to answer. SG was acquitted of the third following the conclusion of the trial.

R v SS, Stratford Youth Court, September 2011

SS faced one charge of Common Assault as against a resident of the care home where he lived. SS was acquitted after a three day trial, the court hearing evidence from the complainant, two care workers, and the police who attended the scene.

R v Fraser Root, Thetford Magistrates' Court, January 2011

Mr Root was charged with one offence of Common Assault, it being the Crown's case that he had assaulted his girlfriend by punching, biting, and attempting to strangle her. Mr Root was acquitted following trial.

R v Gorapa Venkiah, Blackfriars Crown Court, June 2010

Mr Venkiah was charged with two offences of Common Assault and one offence of Witness Intimidation, the Crown alleging that he had attacked two residents on the estate in which he lived and subsequently threatened them in relation to their attendance at court. Mr Venkiah was acquitted on all counts by the jury.

R v JB, West London Magistrates' Court, May 2010

JB was a junior doctor who faced a number of charges under the Police Act 1996 for assaulting and obstructing police officers. It was alleged that he had kicked and punched one and spat at another having been detained on suspicion of a separate assault. A submission of no case to answer was upheld after the Magistrates agreed that the officers involved in the case had been acting outside the execution of their duty.

R v D, Luton Youth Court, March 2010

D faced one charge of Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm after it was alleged that he punched and kicked the complainant so hard in the face that he caused the complainant to receive a broken jaw and lose several teeth. The issue in the case was one of causation. D was acquitted after trial.

Sexual Offences

R v Ajaz Khan, Aylesbury Magistrates' Court, November 2011

Represented a Defendant who was acquitted of one offence of sexual assault, the Crown alleging that he had groped a young woman in a kebab shop.

R v Anthony Paul, Snaresbrook Crown Court, July 2010

Mr Paul was charged with exposure after allegedly exposing his genitals in a fast food restaurant in the presence of the manager of the shop. Also present were a number of customers, including an off duty Police Community Support Officer. Mr Paul was acquitted by a unanimous decision of the jury.

R v A, Thames Youth Court, April 2010

A was charged with 6 counts of sexual assault in that he was said to have attacked a number of female joggers on consecutive days in an area near to Regents Park. A 'sting operation' was set up whereby police officers caught A 'in the act'. A pleaded guilty to one count but denied the remainder. He was acquitted after trial following a successful application to exclude the evidence pertaining to the 'sting operation' and his subsequent plea of guilty to that charge.

Dishonesty Offences

R v FM, Croydon Youth Court, January 2012

Represented a Defendant who was acquitted after trial in relation to an offence of robbery; the defence advanced being one of mistaken identification.

R v DS, Croydon Youth Court, January 2012

Represented a Defendant who was charged with one offence of theft from a designer retail outlet. The defence advanced was one of duress, the Defendant stating that he had been forced to commit the offence after being threatened with a knife. He was acquitted.

R v Jon Rust, Feltham Magistrates' Court, November 2011

Represented a Defendant who was acquitted of one offence of theft of building materials, the Defendant having stated that he thought the items in question had been abandoned.

R v J, Balham Youth Court, August 2011

Represented a young Defendant who was acquitted of the attempted robbery of a Domino's pizza delivery driver. The Crown's case had been that J and his 3 Co-Defendants had planned a robbery by ordering pizzas and then had lay in wait for the driver.

R v Peter Coleman, Worthing Magistrates' Court, July 2011

Represented a Defendant who was found by police to have £1,000 worth of property belonging to National Rail in his car boot. He was charged with Handling Stolen Goods but acquitted after trial, the Magistrates concluding that they could not be sure that he knew or believed the goods to be stolen.

R v Jayme Medcalf, Luton Crown Court, October 2010

Mr Medcalf faced a number of counts of burglary and theft in relation to a variety of expensive cars that were stolen from residential premises. On the day of trial, the Crown agreed to accept pleas to Handling Stolen Goods which resulted in a community sentence for Mr Medcalf.

R v S, Balham Youth Court, March 2010

S was charged with attempted theft after three police officers alleged that they had seen him try and break into a phone box with a screwdriver and then throw the implement onto a railway line. Just over £1,000 was found in loose change in his car. S was acquitted after trial, the District Judge observing that the officers may very well have made a 'mistake' in this case.

R v M, West London Youth Court, January 2010

M, along with three other Co-Defendants, was charged with the robbery of a 13 year old complainant after the Crown alleged that the 'gang' attacked him after school stealing his mobile phone and money. M was acquitted after trial.

Drug Offences

R v Jessica Cornfield, City of London Magistrates' Court, February 2011

Ms Cornfield was charged with an offence of possession of Class B drugs (cannabis) after police officers had cause to search her and found what they believed to be an illicit substance in her handbag. The Magistrates upheld a submission of no case to answer after the Crown failed to establish continuity as between the item seized from the handbag and the item tested by the Forensic Science Service.

R v Lee Webb, Ipswich Crown Court, December 2010

Represented the son of a police officer who pleaded guilty to possessing Class A drugs, namely cocaine, with intent to supply. Mr Webb received what the Judge described as an "exceptional" suspended sentence of imprisonment.

R v Frederick Brinkley, St Albans Crown Court, September 2010

Mr Brinkley was charged with possessing Class B drugs with intent to supply after police stopped the car in which he was a front seat passenger and found a large quantity of cannabis in the glove compartment. On the first day of trial, the Crown offered no evidence after they accepted that there was no real prospect of securing a conviction.

R v S, Balham Youth Court, May 2010

S was charged with Possession of Class A Drugs after police officers had cause to search him and recovered six wraps of heroin from his jacket pocket. The defence advanced was that the drugs had been planted there. S was acquitted after trial.

Road Traffic Offences

R v Paul Cook, Worthing Magistrates' Court, August 2011

Advanced Special Reasons for an ambulance driver who had pleaded guilty to Careless Driving after he crashed his ambulance into another vehicle, having crossed a red light at a junction. The Court accepted that the Defendant had been responding to a genuine emergency, declined to endorse his license with penalty points, and granted him an Absolute Discharge.

R v BH, Enfield Youth Court, July 2011

BH faced one allegation of allowing to be carried in a stolen vehicle. The Magistrates upheld a submission of no case to answer after the Crown failed to adduce sufficient evidence that BH had indeed been a passenger in the stolen car.

R v Martin Jones, Brent Magistrates' Court, July 2011

Represented a Defendant charged with failing to report an accident and driving with no insurance. The Defendant was acquitted after the evidence of the Special Constable, who purported to identify the driver of the vehicle as the Defendant, was discredited during cross examination.

Miscellaneous Offences

R v Tyrone Mellows, Snaresbrook Crown Court, January 2011

Mr Mellows faced one count of Breach of a Non-Molestation Order, the Crown alleging that he had intimidated, harassed and pestered the complainant by following her down a street. The trial judge upheld a submission of no case to answer concluding that the Defendant's conduct, as a matter of law, did not amount to any of the prohibitions contained within the Non Molestation Order.

R v TL, Harlow Youth Court, October 2010

Represented a Defendant charged with offences of obstructing, resisting and assaulting a Police Community Support Officer and Police Constable. The charges pertaining to the PCSO were dismissed following a submission of no case to answer, the Court concluding that the actions of the PCSO in trying to detain the Defendant were unlawful. The Defendant was acquitted of all other charges.

Reported Cases

R (on the Application of Kandice Firth) v Epping Magistrates' Court [2011] 1 WLR 1818; [2011] 1 Cr App R 32; [2011] EWHC 388 (Admin) Represented the Claimant who brought Judicial Review proceedings against the Defendant Magistrates' Court. The Claimant had been committed for trial on the basis of information contained within a Case Progression Form that had been filled in by her legal representative at an earlier hearing. The case received substantial publicity in the legal press. Articles have been published in the Criminal Law Review, the Law Society Gazette and the *SJ. Administrative Court*, 3rd February 2011

Other Relevant Experience

Prior to joining Chambers, Christopher worked for the Ministry of Justice. Specifically, he worked in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) dealing with applications seeking leave to appeal, as well as the substantive appeals themselves. Christopher also has experience working with young offenders and in dealing with youth crime generally, having worked as part of the Youth Offending Team whilst living in Newcastle.