

Michael Collis

2004 (Inner Temple)



QUALIFICATIONS

MA (Law) Cantab.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Criminal Bar Association
South Eastern Circuit

EXPERIENCE

Extensive experience in both defending and prosecuting in the Crown, Magistrates' and Youth Courts. Trial experience includes section 18 GBH cases, conspiracy to defraud, robbery, sexual assault, burglary, drugs supply, assault involving police officers and dishonesty offences.

Frequently acts for police officers charged with offences, committed both on- and off-duty.

Has successfully advanced arguments in relation to sections 76 and 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, applications for dismissal, contested committals, bad character applications (both making them and responding to them), special measures applications and applications to adduce hearsay evidence.

Also acts for both the prosecution and defence in confiscation proceedings brought under POCA.

Regularly appears in the Court of Appeal for both the appellant and the respondent, in challenges to Crown Court sentences.

Prosecution experience includes acting for the Probation Service, the Youth Offending Team, the Department of Work and Pensions, Revenue and Customs, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and numerous local authorities. Particular experience acting for the Probation Service, regularly appearing at Kingston and Croydon Crown Court, as well as Ealing Magistrates' Court, to prosecute contested and uncontested breach matters.

Regularly receives instructions on behalf of defendants in extradition cases, appearing at the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, and advising and appearing in judicial reviews arising from extradition matters.

Represents applicants in Parole Board and military hearings, where he has successfully argued, contrary to the recommendations of the Probation Service, that an individual serving an IPP sentence should be down-graded to an open prison.

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RECENT CASES

- **R v SF** Prosecuted a defendant charged with racially aggravated common assault on a manager of Curry's, after he was asked to leave the store as he was suspected of shoplifting
Kingston Crown Court, 21st May 2010 - Ongoing
- **R v DG** Prosecuted an affray and offensive weapon case, in which the defendant was caught on CCTV running down a High Street, brandishing a knife, in pursuit of his cousin. Convicted after trial
Croydon Crown Court, 23rd March - 26th March
- **DEFRA v Sapphire Trading Limited** Prosecuted the first ever case brought for obstructing a compliance officer of Gangmasters Licensing Authority, under legislation brought in as a direct result of the cockle-picking disaster in Morecambe. The defendant pleaded guilty before trial and as part of his sentence was ordered to pay over £10,000 towards the prosecution costs
Southampton Magistrates' Court, August 2009 - March 2010

FORTHCOMING CASES

- **R v LD** Junior counsel in a multi-handed large scale VAT fraud. Trial put off to 2011 after prosecution successfully applied to adjourn case for nine months a matter of weeks before the trial was due to start, resisting abuse of process arguments that were made as a result
Southwark Crown Court, April 2010 - Ongoing
- **R v DB** Junior counsel in the rape and assault by penetration re-trial of a father alleged to have sexually abused his teenage daughter. Defendant was convicted of child cruelty offences in the first trial, but jury were unable to reach a decision on the sexual abuse counts
Croydon Crown Court, September 2010
- **R v DB** Defending a man charged with assaulting his partner on three separate occasions. Trial is complicated by the fact that the incidents were witnessed by the defendant's 14-year old daughter, and the defendant is currently facing a re-trial over allegations that he sexually abused this daughter over an 18-month period. Bromley Magistrates' Court, November 2009 - Ongoing

OTHER NOTABLE CASES

CRIME

R v B (2010) - currently acting as defence junior in a case involving allegations against the defendant that he physically and sexually abused his daughter over a two-year period

R v M (2009) - acted as defence junior in a 7-week s.18 GBH and conspiracy to supply Class A drugs trial in which the defence of duress was advanced

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R v I (2009) - acted for the defendant in a 4-day non-dwelling burglary case, involving a challenge to the accuracy and admissibility of the Crown's palm-print expert

R v T [2008] EWCA Crim 1389 - appeared for the Crown in a defence appeal against sentence based on failure to award time on remand

R v S (2008) - acted for defendant in a 3-day s.20 GBH case involving a "glassing" in a nightclub

R v S (2008) - successfully argued for a racially aggravated s.4 Public Order Act offence to be discharged at committal based on inadequate identification evidence

R v B and H (2007) - prosecuted a 2-handed conspiracy to defraud a credit card company, in a case involving an employee of a bookmakers accepting bets on stolen credit cards

R v B (2007) - prosecuted the case dealing with the theft of Spongebob, a squirrel monkey, from Chessington World of Adventure

R v K (2007) - successfully defended at trial a serving police officer charged with a number of offences arising from an on-going neighbour dispute

R v P [2006] EWCA Crim 2740 - acted for appellant in a challenge to the sentencing judge's finding of "dangerousness"

R v G (2006) - successfully argued for the exclusion of post-caution comments, leading to the prosecution not opposing a Crown Court appeal against conviction

EXTRADITION

Romania v A (2009) - advanced arguments that the EAW was deficient for the purposes of s.2 of the Extradition Act 2003

R (on the application of Arunthavaraja) v Administrative Court Office [2009] EWHC 18921 (Admin) - claim for judicial review dealing with the time limits for filing and serving notice of appeal

Turkey v D (2009) - advanced arguments under section 81 of the 2003 Act, namely that the defendant's extradition was sought in order to punish him for his political activities

Holland v C (2008) - advised in relation to claim for judicial review of District Judge's refusal to adjourn an extradition hearing

Poland v G (2008) - advanced arguments relating to passage of time and section 20 of the Extradition Act 2003

Czech Republic v T (2008) - advanced human rights arguments based on the poor record of treatment of Roma within the Czech Republic

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PAROLE HEARINGS

Application of WC (2009) - represented an applicant whose parole was strongly opposed by the police on the basis that there was intelligence suggesting that he had been involved in an armed robbery whilst on day release from prison

Application of PR (2009) - successfully argued that a prisoner serving an IPP sentence should be transferred to an open prison

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FORTHCOMING CASES

R v L Potter

Representing a defendant in a five handed conspiracy to commit burglary. A serious and complicated case involving stolen goods in excess of £ 1 million
Isleworth Crown Court

R v R Cornell

Representing defendant in a historical sex abuse case
Portsmouth Crown Court

SELECTION OF PAST CASES

R v Wright (2009) - Represented a defendant charged with a substantial multi handed conspiracy to burgle

R v Wilkinson (2008) Instructed as leading junior for defence in a case of murder

R v Daley-Smith (2008) Represented a defendant in a high profile ‘gang rape’ case

R v Ahern (2007) - Instructed to represent a defendant on a charge of attempted murder. The case involved a brutal attack on a Nepalese youth

R v Bubliauskus (2007) - Defending the main defendant in a conspiracy to import a large quantity of firearms, silencers and ammunition

R v Smith (2007) - Defending a man charged with twenty others in a substantial case of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. The police operation involved targeting the major drug dealers in a number of towns in Surrey

R v Ishmel (2007) - Defence counsel in a multi-handed case of conspiracy to rob. All fifteen defendants were youths. The trial lasted five weeks

R v Waldron (2007) - Defence counsel in a conspiracy to handle stolen goods, involving property in excess of £1.5 million

R v Mbeledogu (2006) - Appeared for defence in “gang rape” case

R v Zouaii (2006) - Represented a man accused of a large number of robberies on Securicor vehicles

R v Navickas (2006) - Defending in a murder trial. The case involved the issue of whether a conviction in a foreign jurisdiction (attempted murder in Lithuania) was admissible

R v Palmer (2006) - Appeared for the defence in a complicated kidnapping case, involving detailed consideration of cell site analysis

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OTHER CASES OF INTEREST

- Representing a defendant charged with manslaughter. The defendant had with consent injected heroin into the victim. The case involved difficult and novel issues of law
- Instructed to represent a woman who was charged with the murder of her husband. The defendant was alleged to have counselled and procured her son to commit the offence
- Instructed to represent a defendant charged with arson. Originally he had been charged with drink driving. The defendant was accused of setting fire to the laboratory in which his blood sample was stored
- Represented a Turkish defendant charged with a substantial conspiracy to supply heroin to the value of one million pounds. The trial ran to some nine weeks
- Leading defence junior in a trial which involved a series of professionally planned armed robberies at post offices and jewellers
- Instructed as leading defence junior to represent a German national charged with conspiracy to supply heroin. The case was extensive and complex involving difficult tactical issues. The trial lasted approximately seven weeks

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