Adam Kirke

Junior Counsel - Under 15 Years
CALLED 2018



Adam has a busy practice prosecuting and defending in the Crown Court. He has been described by clients as "absolutely brilliant" and "extremely professional and knowledgeable". Equally, his submissions have been described by the court as "skilfully structured and carefully crafted".

Background and Expertise

Adam is a busy trial advocate having appeared in various trials across the criminal spectrum including offences of kidnap; drugs supply; robbery; GBH; domestic violence and burglary. He has also appeared in various ancillary order applications (in both Criminal and Civil contexts) such as Criminal Behaviour Orders; Sexual Harm Prevention Orders; Football Banning Orders and restraining orders.

Having previously worked as an Investigator for the Serious Fraud Office, Adam also maintains a keen interest to develop his financial and white-collar crime practice. At the SFO, Adam investigated a number of cases of domestic and international complex fraud, bribery and corruption.

This included interviewing suspects and witnesses under PACE 1984 and S2 CJA 1987, reviewing financial records and attending property searches with the police. Whilst at the SFO he was awarded an official commendation from the Director of the SFO for his outstanding contribution. Adam is currently listed on the trial counsel panel list for the SFO and Grade 2 on the CPS Fraud Panel.

In 2022, Adam was also seconded to a top-tier law firm in their business crime department predominantly advising on financial sanctions.

Adam achieved a first-class honours Law degree from Bournemouth University in 2015. During his university placement he acted as a Crown Court paralegal for the Crown Prosecution Service where he managed a monthly case load and attended court daily. In this role he was nominated for Placement of the Year for outstanding achievement by exceeding expectations.

Adam is currently a Grade 3 Prosecutor and regularly accepts both prosecution and defence work. He has recently been appointed to the RASSO panel for the CPS, and is equally capable in defending in sexual offences. He also regularly appears as a case presenter on behalf of Social Work England, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Teaching Regulation Agency. Adam is also the Lead Legal Consultant for Training For Success.

Outside of work he is an avid, yet unfortunate, fan of Arsenal Football Club.

Notable Cases

Disciplinary and Regulatory

SWE v S, 2025

Investigation into a social worker's sexually motivated behaviour with a child under his care.

TRA v S, 2024

Case presenter against a teacher accused of having sexual communications with a pupil.

NMC v B, 2024

Case presenter in a case of 34 allegations concerning a failure to safeguard against a nurse.

GMC v R, 2024

Defence of sexual assault against a practising doctor. 14 / 16 allegations found not proven.

SWE v LW, 2024

Case presenter on behalf of Social Work England involving a case of two dementia patients, who had been the victims of fraud. The social worker was charged with a series of allegations surrounding their ability to safeguard each service users' finances, and their dishonest conduct thereafter. Various allegations were found proven, and the social worker was removed from the register.

Disciplinary and Regulatory

Drugs

R v C, 2025

Acquittal of D on an eight-count indictment alleging a variety of offences concerning the supply of drugs (class A – C) in which the defence was one of personal use

R v C, 2023

Conviction in a class A drugs supply case involving the use of cell site material.

R v M and others, 2023

Conviction in a multi-handed allegation of being concerned in the production of cannabis.

Drugs

Financial Crime

R v L, 2026

Prosecution counsel involving a conspiracy to steal and fraud over a period of 4 years to fraudulently obtain and steal the banking details of various unsuspecting victims. Whilst the true value of the fraud could not be established, the potential total cost to the banking industry was over £9m. L was also responsible responsible in perpetuating the 'Hi Mum' scam whereby she would prey on parents, posing as their child, seeking to obtain a new phone. Adam was instructed by the CPS pre-charge and was responsible for advising on appropriate charges.

Read more on the Daily Mail

SFO disclosure work [2026]

Adam is currently instructed as disclosure counsel in a major investigation by the SFO in relation to suspected fraudulent trading.

R v D, 2025

Junior counsel defending D2 in a multi-handed conspiracy to steal, pervert the course of justice and money laundering trial of £130,000.

Read more on ITV News

R v M and others, 2025

Instructed junior counsel for the Crown in a seven handed fraud against the NHS worth £300,000.
Read more on South London News

R v A, 2023

Prosecution counsel in a case concerning the transfer of £70,500 suspected to be money laundering.

R v H, 2023

Instructed prosecution counsel in ongoing POCA proceedings relating to a defendant convicted of selling kilograms of cocaine.

R v P, 2023

Defence counsel for a defendant who had pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud involving over £18,000 of benefit fraud. Following mitigation, Adam secured a small financial penalty and 6 days unpaid work.

Sanctions work, 2022

Adam was seconded to the business crime department of a law firm predominantly advising on the recent implementation of the Russian sanctions.

R v W, 2022

Listed for contested POCA hearing concerning the supply of drugs. Following negotiation between the FI and defence counsel, confiscation order agreed.

R v S, 2022

Defence counsel in a case relating to the seizure of £25,000 under s304 POCA.

DLC v Jones, 2022

During pupillage assisted with the private prosecution of a solicitor for fraud of $14m.

Financial Crime

General Crime

R v L, 2026

Prosecution counsel in a case alleging a defendant perverted the course of justice in providing a false alibi in a murder trial.

R v C, 2025

Defence counsel in a case alleging 7 years' worth of controlling and coercive behaviour, alongside a contested Stalking Protection Order.

R v G, 2024

Defence counsel where D was charged with assisting an offender, with the primary offender being responsible for the supply of multiple kilograms of cocaine.

R v S, 2023

Instructed counsel in a long running and multi-handed conspiracy to steal.

R v Cowan [2023] EWCA Crim 1278

Adam appeared for the Appellant who had received a total of 6 months' imprisonment following a mandatory minimum sentence. Adam argued four grounds of appeal and was successful in three (though the fourth ground was an alternative and thus not considered). The COA deemed that the most appropriate sentence would have been one of a low-level community order, however, as the Appellant had already served some time in custody since the initial sentencing hearing, a short custodial sentence was imposed. This resulted in the Applicant's immediate release from custody.

R v H, 2023

Adam represented a defendant charged with the attempted kidnap of a 6-year-old child. The case was set down for a s28 hearing to cross-examine the vulnerable complainant though, following discussions with the prosecutor, the Crown accepted a plea to affray.

R v S, 2023

Adam appeared as D1 in a violent kidnapping trial. After successfully resisting the Crown's application to adduce the complainant's evidence as hearsay (under the fear provisions); the Crown offered no evidence.

R v B, 2022

Successful appeal against conviction following a submission of no case to answer involving an allegation of obstruct PC. Adam was able to successfully argue that the force used by officers at the time of a search was unlawful through a variety of breaches of PACE Codes.

R v C, 2022

Robbery trial involving a youth defendant and youth witnesses where identity was in issue. Offence captured on CCTV but at the close of the Crown's case, Adam was able to successfully argue that there was no case to answer.

R v BW, 2021

Adam represented a client who had long standing mental health issues. He was charged with three counts of possessing a bladed article and two breaches of Heathrow byelaws. After obtaining expert psychiatric evidence it was concluded that the client was not able to understand proceedings but neither a hospital order nor guardianship order was appropriate under s37 of the Mental Health Act 1983. In addition, no special measures or the use of an intermediary would have been of assistance to the defendant. Consequently, Adam argued that to try the defendant would be an abuse of process as the defendant could not receive a fair trial. Upon receipt of Adam's skeleton argument and supporting documentation, the Crown conceded that it would not be in the public interest to prosecute the defendant.

Crime

Rape and Sexual Offences

R v A, 2026

Prosecution counsel involving a multi-count indictment of at least 22 rapes alongside controlling and coercive behaviour.

R v R, 2026

Acquittal as defence counsel in a case alleging a violent sexual assault by a brother against his sister

where he is said to have stormed into her flat, in the presence of her children, and physically and sexually assaulted her. The defence was not only a factual denial but one of malicious allegation, which required careful non-defendant bad character applications which were successfully admitted.

R v C, 2026

Prosecution counsel in a case alleging the sexual assault of a 10-year-old child.

R v R, 2026

Defence counsel in a case alleging the sexual assault against D's own sister.

AG Ref 712, 2025

Defence counsel opposing the Attorney General's reference for an unduly lenient sentence in relation to three admitted rapes.

R v Z, 2025

Disclosure counsel. 35 count indictment alleging 11 counts of rape against 10 different victims; 8 of whom had not been identified at the time of trial. Case involved a significant amount of digital material. The Judge described the Defendant as a "dangerous and predatory sexual offender", and the Metropolitan Police described the case as "one of the most complex investigations ever carried out by the force".

Read on BBC

R v C, 2024

Defence counsel. Acquittal of a single count of sexual assault.

R v GL, 2021

Successful submission of no case to answer concerning an allegation of exposure where the offence had been captured on CCTV and was supported by eyewitness accounts. Following cross-examination, both witnesses to the offence conceded that they could not be sure of seeing the actions alleged.

Rape and Sexual Offences

Violence

R v T and others, 2026

Defence counsel for D2 in a multi-handed violent disorder whereby it was alleged that machetes and crowbars were used. The trial was a true 'cutthroat' trial involving two teams against one another. The jury returned not guilty verdicts in respect of all charges against Adam's client.

R v C, 2026

Defence counsel in ABH trial whereby identification was in issue. After the Crown's first witness provided evidence, and thus before any cross-examination, Adam made appropriate submissions that the case ought to be withdrawn. The Crown reviewed and offered no evidence.

R v M, 2025

Instructed prosecution counsel in a s18 GBH.

R v B, 2023

Instructed prosecution counsel in an aggravated burglary relying on DNA evidence.

R v S, 2023

Adam appeared as D1 in a violent kidnapping trial. After successfully resisting the Crown's application to adduce the complainant's evidence as hearsay (under the fear provisions); the Crown offered no evidence.

R v J, 2023

Multi-handed affray trial. On day two of the trial, the Crown disclosed an additional violent suspect who had been NFA'd. Consequently, Adam successfully persuaded the Crown that it would not be in the public interest to try J.

R v C, 2023

Prosecution counsel in a multi-count indictment alleging various domestic violence offences, including an offence of intentional strangulation. D sentenced to 39 months' imprisonment.

R v O, 2022

Unanimously acquitted in a two-handed ABH where the defence related to the use of reasonable force against an individual wanted for rape and breach of a life licence relating to two further rapes.

Achievements

Memberships

- The Criminal Bar Association
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Appointments

- CPS Panel (Grade 3)
- CPS RASSO Panel (Grade 3)
- CPS Fraud Panel (Grade 2)
- SFO Panel C

Education

- LLB Law, Bournemouth University, 2015 (First Class)
- Bar Professional Training Course, University of Law, 2018 (Very Competent)
- Provosts Award for Excellence (2016)
- ICA Certificate in Anti-Money Laundering, 2020 (Distinction)