



Nick Robinson

Year of Call: 2006

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Motoring offences

Nick has appeared at every level from the Magistrates' Court to the High Court (case stated) in the most serious road traffic cases: death by dangerous and careless driving, automatism, drink and drug driving, and novel questions of identification and regulatory compliance.

Selected Cases

R v PB – (2025) Causing serious injury by dangerous driving (three counts). Southern Vectis double-decker bus crash on the A3056, Isle of Wight – the defendant missed a turning, failed to negotiate a bend, and the bus left the road. Twelve passengers on board; three sustained broken backs. Unanimous not guilty on all three counts after 30 minutes of jury retirement. Defendant admitted careless driving – sentenced to a fine and penalty points. *Reported:* [Isle of Wight County Press](#), [Island Echo](#).

R v CC – Magistrates' Court (2024) Drug driving. Direct access. Prosecution failed to provide the second blood sample and analytical data pack for the defence expert – 89 days after a court order. Prosecution offered no evidence. Acquitted.

R v JB – Magistrates' Court (2021) Drink driving. Direct access. Laced drinks defence at trial supported by expert toxicology evidence. Acquitted.

R v IC – (2020) Causing death by careless driving – fatal pedestrian collision. It was not in dispute that the defendant had driven over the pedestrian whilst she lay prone in the carriageway. The Crown alleged his failure to take evasive action amounted to careless driving. The defence was that another vehicle may have caused the fatal injuries before the defendant's arrival and that, confronted with a sudden emergency, he made a wrong decision in the agony of the moment – the collision was explicable by external factors including road conditions, lighting, and weather. Expert evidence from two pathologists and two collision investigators. Bad character and hearsay evidence excluded. Unanimous not guilty after 90 minutes of deliberation in a six-day trial. A second driver pleaded guilty in the Magistrates' Court to careless driving. *Reported:* [The Sun](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Metro](#), [Daily Echo](#).

R v GB – Magistrates' Court (2019) Failure to provide a specimen. Direct Access instruction. No statutory warning given; critical CCTV withheld despite a court order. Prosecution offered no evidence. Acquitted.

R v TM – (2019) Careless driving conviction appeal. Direct Access. Sole prosecution witness an off-duty police officer. Nick's skeleton exposed that the officer had simultaneously acted as investigator, officer in charge, and disclosure officer; that the in-car camera was "non-functioning" without independent verification; that the schedule of unused material was missing; and that the prosecution's own telematics expert had inadvertently corroborated the defence case. A former police officer instructed as defence expert. Crown offered no evidence at appeal; conviction quashed. Costs ordered.

R v DQ – (2018) Causing death by careless driving – fatal collision at a right-turn junction in Ferndown; motorcyclist aged 67

struck and killed. Expert witnesses for both prosecution and defence agreed that parts of the carriageway were obscured by shadows and bright sunlight. Nick successfully argued that a careful driver in the same conditions might have failed to see the motorcycle, and the defendant's account that it was obscured from view was consistent with the expert evidence. Acquitted. *Reported: Daily Echo.*

R v JB – (2016) Causing danger to road users (s.23 RTA 1988). Defendant alleged to have grabbed the steering wheel of a moving vehicle at approximately 70mph on the A35 at 3am, causing it to roll. Three witnesses in the car alleged the defendant caused the vehicle to overturn, seriously injuring its occupants. Nick instructed an independent accident reconstruction expert who challenged the prosecution's vehicle examiner on the significance of the absence of seat belt marks – establishing that in a rollover the absence of marks cannot indicate that belts were not worn. Unanimous not guilty verdict.

R v AM – (2016) Guilty plea to causing death by careless driving whilst unfit through drink. High-profile and tragic case. Defendant was sentenced to 4 years and 4 months imprisonment: *Reported: BBC News.*

R v AP – Magistrates' Court (2013) Drink driving in a Ferrari. The defendant's drinks had been spiked without his knowledge. Successful special reasons argument supported by expert evidence, securing no disqualification despite an elevated minimum disqualification period arising from a prior drink driving conviction. Absolute discharge.

R v PH – (2011) Four-day trial. The defendant, a National Express coach driver, lost control of his vehicle in the New Forest late at night, drifting onto the hard shoulder and up an embankment before crossing three lanes of the motorway with 49 passengers on board. With expert evidence from a neurologist and a sleep specialist, Nick successfully argued that the defendant had not fallen asleep as alleged but had suffered an episode of automatism. The jury also accepted that his decision to continue the journey to Ringwood did not constitute dangerous or careless driving. Unanimously acquitted on all counts. *Reported: Daily Echo and Daily Echo.*

R v Fitch – High Court (2011) Case stated appeal – s.172 RTA 1988. Obligation to "give" information does not extend to ensuring its safe receipt. Conviction quashed.

R v MH – Magistrates' Court (2008) Failure to provide a specimen of urine. Legal argument on the proper meaning of "failure to provide"; not guilty in the absence of medical evidence.

Recommendations

Court of Appeal

In an appeal against sentence R v Sherriff [2012] EWCA Crim 2381 Lord Justice Aikens said:

"Mr Robinson presented the arguments very concisely, clearly and persuasively".

In an appeal against sentence R v Kluver [2010] EWCA Crim 3237 Lord Justice Moses said:

"There is ample authority for the proposition that counsel for the defence has so skilfully identified both in his written grounds and in his oral submissions and we are indebted to Mr Robinson for them".

In an appeal against sentence R v Bennett [2010] EWCA Crim 1032 Mr Justice Davis said:

"Mr Robinson, on behalf of the Appellant, has put the case very well".

In an appeal against sentence R v Woodcock [2011] EWCA Crim 1347 Mr Justice Blair said:

"Mr Robinson has argued the case well for the applicant."

Chambers and Partners Legal Directory

Nicholas Robinson exclusively defends in heavyweight and high-profile criminal cases. He acts in a variety of cases including murder, sexual offences and crimes against children as well as mortgage fraud and armed robbery. He also handles appeals against conviction from the Court of Appeal in Jamaica to the Privy Council.

Strengths: "He has a great practice. "He is a smooth advocate who has a great way of speaking to the jury."

Chambers UK 2025/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "He has a very client-centred approach." "His advocacy skills are impressive." "Nick is an industrious individual."

Chambers UK 2024/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "He is highly effective and highly skilled in all aspects of criminal defence work."

"Clients love Nicholas. He's a very good lawyer and a persuasive advocate."

"Nicholas handled the cross-examination deftly but devastatingly. His ability to juggle disclosure requests, client management and legal arguments is remarkable."

Chambers UK 2023/Crime/Western Bar

Recent work: Successfully represented a young defendant who was charged with an offence of wounding with intent.

Chambers UK 2022/Crime/Western Bar

Exclusively defends in heavyweight and high-profile criminal cases. Acts in a variety of cases including murder, sexual offences and crimes against children as well as mortgage fraud and armed robbery. He also handles appeals against conviction from the Court of Appeal in Jamaica to the Privy Council.

Strengths: "Has a very positive attitude and his written work is excellent." "He has an approach and flair which juries like."

Recent work: Represented a defendant charged with serious assaults with weapons and false imprisonment, in relation to two complainants.

Chambers UK 2021/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "He has a very good reputation and his written work is of the highest quality."

Recent work: Represented a defendant who was accused of being involved in a serious conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

Chambers UK 2020/Crime/Western Bar

Successfully represented one of two Polish defendants charged with the gang rape of a prostitute.

Chambers UK 2019/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "He is both responsive and proactive, and his advocacy skills are fantastic."

Chambers UK 2019/Crime/Western Bar

Legal 500

'Nick is a committed, highly competent and effective criminal barrister. He is an effective trial advocate who gets good results, and his pleas in mitigation are always carefully constructed with great preparation.'

Legal 500 2025/ Crime (General and Fraud) - Western Circuit

'Nick is diligent and always enthusiastic about his work. His written work is of the highest quality. He is also a very persuasive and effective advocate.'

Legal 500 2024/ Crime (General and Fraud) - Western Circuit

'Nick is a top level operator. A first-class and fearless advocate with a very robust and incisive approach to criminal litigation. An exceptional strategist.'

Legal 500 2023 / Crime - Western Circuit

'Nick's strengths are his intelligence, his ability to fully engage with a jury and his thorough preparation.'

Legal 500 2022 / Crime - Western Circuit

'A criminal defence specialist'

Legal 500 2021 / Crime - Western Circuit

'A criminal defence specialist'

Legal 500 2020 / Crime - Western Circuit - Tier 1

'An expert in defending in serious crime cases.'

Legal 500 2018/19 / Crime - Western Circuit - Tier 1

'Self-assured and dedicated.'

Legal 500 2017 / Crime - Western Circuit

"Extremely diligent in his approach to cases."

Legal 500 2016 / Crime - Western Circuit

'Known for his defence work in the Crown Court, and his practice has an emphasis on serious crime.'

Legal 500 2015 / Crime - Western Circuit

'He specialises in sexual offence cases, particularly those involving children and historical allegations of misconduct.'

Legal 500 2014 / Crime - Western Circuit

'3PB's Nick Robinson is "a very confident and knowledgeable advocate".'

Legal 500 2013 / Crime - Western Circuit

Nick was also recommended by the Legal 500 directory for 2012 and 2011.

Judiciary, Instructing Solicitors, Lay Clients & Social Media Recommendations

Mr Recorder Don Tait said in open court following the acquittal of Nick's client Mr Reece Creighton:

"Mr Robinson you did an excellent job defending this man. You very skilfully revealed all of the inadequacies in this investigation ... I am sure Mr Creighton is very grateful."

Instructing Solicitor

"Truly grateful for your proactive case management, first class professionalism and dedication".

Instructing Solicitor

"This was a difficult case in one sense and your efforts and assistance went beyond the call of duty. I very much appreciate it".

Instructing Solicitor

"Please accept my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all your incredible and excellent hard work on this firm's cases and for always doing over and above what is required in every matter that you deal with. Not only that, well done on all of your outstanding results and faultless client care!"

Instructing Solicitor

"Thank you Nick, I am very grateful for your assistance. Your professionalism and support is unbelievable".

Lay Client

In September and October 2017 at Bournemouth Crown Court Nick represented one of two defendants who faced an Indictment containing six counts. The trial lasted over two weeks and the defendants were found not guilty on all counts. Nick's client sent an email to the CEO Simon Astill where he provided, inter alia, the following appraisal:

"I write to you to express my sincere gratitude about a member of your Chambers Mr Robinson who defended me at trial ... The case required complete concentration and an eye for detail. This worried me as being on legal aid I thought I might not receive the same service as a client paying privately. This wasn't the case at all and in fact the complete opposite. Mr Robinson genuinely cared about his client and even spent time to reassure my co-defendant ... During the trial Mr Robinson's charisma was a breath of fresh air; he kept the Jury on their toes and concentrated throughout and also he was very calming during the breaks when tensions were high. Finally Mr Robinson's closing speech was mesmerising and got across every possible point I could think of and more. I knew after his speech there was no way I

would be convicted. I feel in debt to this man and feel that the literature in my email doesn't allow me to explain my true gratitude."

Lay Client (defendant's mother)

"Thank you so much for all the hard work you put into F's case; I can't thank you enough Mr Robinson".

Lay Client

"Just wanted to express my thanks, for the confident, reassuring and supportive way that Mr Robinson has handled my case. At short notice he has been able to defend me to his confident best. His caring and clear way in which he dealt with me and my family and friends was top notch".

Lay Client (Direct Access)

"Nick - I'm eternally indebted to you and will never be able to thank you enough for today's outcome ... thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done for me. You've given me my life back".

Lay client's relatives (letters to instructing solicitor and Nick respectively)

"I would also like to say a specific thank you for bringing Nicholas Robinson in as L's barrister. L felt very comfortable talking to Nick, and Nick, in turn, put L at ease. The relationship barristers have with their client, the trust and confidence in the barrister's ability is paramount, and we certainly had that with Nick. I think it also proved that a barristers relationship with his counterparts on the other side is also important and in our case this definitely proved to be significant".

"I just wanted to repeat our thanks for your sterling work in L's defence".

Social Media

"You can't beat Nick Robinson when it comes to mitigating circumstances".

Social Media

"You can always rely on Nick Robinson to come up with something original when it comes to mitigating circumstances".

Academic qualifications

- BA Criminology & Sociology, The University of Liverpool (First Class Honours)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Bar Vocational Course, BPP London

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Called to the Bar: 2006.
- Chambers & Partners – Leading Junior: 2019–2026 (Crime – Western Bar).
- Legal 500 – Leading Junior: 2011–2026 (Crime – Western Circuit).
- BSB Direct Access Accreditation – Authorised to accept instructions directly from members of the public.
- BSB Accredited Litigator – Authorised to conduct litigation and to instruct counsel, expert witnesses, and investigators.
- Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights.

Professional bodies

- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Criminal Bar Association

- Western Circuit