



Nick Robinson

Year of Call: 2006

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Financial Crime incl Fraud POCA

Nick has defended individuals and organisations in multi-million-pound mortgage fraud, conspiracy to defraud, rogue trader prosecutions, and regulatory investigations brought by government departments. He has a proven record of exposing disclosure failures and prosecutorial misconduct – including cases where officers in charge have misled prosecution counsel and concealed unused material, resulting in entire multi-defendant prosecutions collapsing. His pre-charge work in fraud investigations has prevented prosecution entirely. He accepts Direct Access instructions in fraud cases and can advise from the earliest stage of an investigation.

Selected Cases

R v AP (Operation Ringwood) – Pre-charge (2019–2022) Pension liberation fraud investigation by Dorset Police. Direct access. Nick represented the client throughout, including advising in relation to Restraint proceedings. Following three years of investigation, the Crown took no further action in October 2022. A clear example of specialist pre-charge advice preventing prosecution entirely.

R v A & Others – (2021) Defence of company and individual defendants charged with criminal offences arising from alleged breaches of planning enforcement notices. Nick negotiated an out of court settlement, and the prosecution offered no evidence on all charges.

R v JW and Others – (2019) Seven-defendant rogue trader conspiracy targeting a vulnerable, partially sighted victim in Bournemouth. The group repeatedly attended the victim's home, posing as tradesmen and officials, and defrauded him over a sustained period. Nick's client was the only defendant acquitted; all six co-defendants were convicted and sentenced to between 21 months and three years and four months' imprisonment. *Reported:* [BH Living, Bournemouth One](#).

R v AP and others – Winchester Crown Court (2015) Multi-defendant fraud prosecution (75 charges; five defendants) brought by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The officer in charge had misled prosecution counsel and concealed disclosure, and the officer in charge and disclosure officer were the same person contrary to the Attorney General's Code of Practice. Fresh review uncovered further suppressed material. Both trials collapsed. All defendants including Nick's client AP were formally acquitted of all charges. High-profile case involving Richard Carr. *Reported:* [Daily Echo](#).

R v JH and others – (2015) Eleven-defendant £4 million mortgage fraud – fabricated occupations and incomes used to obtain mortgages on multiple properties. Nick's client acquitted on two of three counts; 12-month sentence suspended for two years on the third. Co-defendants sentenced to between two and a half and four years' imprisonment. *Reported:* [Daily Echo](#).

R v SM – (2015) Handling stolen goods – proceeds of an insider fraud against a multinational company. Following disclosure applications, it emerged that the employer's investigator had coerced, pressured, and intimidated the defendant – a young

woman of good character – into confessing, having promised there would be no police involvement if she admitted the offences. The employer broke that promise and the Crown prosecuted. Nick's abuse of process application succeeded after contested findings of fact (the investigator denied making the promises); the Crown offered no 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 Kløver [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