

Thomas Acworth

Year of Call: 2014

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Overview

Thomas Acworth is a criminal specialist. His practice encompasses general crime, regulatory crime and police law.

Crime and Regulatory Crime

Thomas Acworth's practice is centred on heavyweight crime. He appears in cases involving homicide, sexual abuse and serious organised crime. Thomas's fearless advocacy and meticulous case preparation have been recognised in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.

Appellate Work

F v The Queen (Jamaica): Murder. Advising on appeal to Privy Council on issues of identification, character evidence and incompetency of counsel. Case concerned a gangland contract killing.

R v C & D: Armed Robbery: Resisting appeal against terminating ruling following successful submission of no case to answer. Case concerned joint-enterprise and circumstantial evidence.

R v JJ: Making indecent images of children. Appeal against indefinite sexual harm prevention order.

Drugs

R v Y & Others (Operation Whale): Conspiracy to Import Class A. NCA investigation into international cocaine smuggling ring based overseas. Case concerned crew of a super yacht smuggling cocaine into the UK, case linked to another importation of £160 million worth of cocaine into UK. Evidence included encrypted messaging services and GPS locators.

R v Q & Two Others (Operation Pacgal): Possession of Class A with Intent. Albanian nationals accused of involvement in substantial cocaine distribution network (multiple kilos) in London. Encrochat evidence.

R v L & Six Others (Operation Warbler): Conspiracy to Supply Class A. Led by David Richards. County lines conspiracy. Substantial telephone evidence. Issues of human trafficking, forced criminality and extended abuse of process arguments.

R v G & Five Others (Operation Hector): Conspiracy to Supply Class A and Human Trafficking. Led by Simon Jones. County lines conspiracy. Substantial telephone evidence.

R v L & Nine Others (Operation Plaudit): Conspiracy to Supply Class A. Large county-lines drug-dealing operation, based in Liverpool.

R v P & Six Others (Operation Geology): Converting Criminal Property. Defendant accused of storing cash for a leading-member of an organised crime group, which was involved in the supply of cocaine and methamphetamine.

R v W (Operation Orochi): Concerned in the Supply of Class A. Defendant from Essex orchestrated supply of Class A drugs in Sussex. Case turned entirely on circumstantial observations of D together with extensive cell-site evidence.

R v F (Operation Crosslands): Conspiracy to Supply Class A. Conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. Undercover police officers.

R v U & Six Others (Operation Scowl): Production of Cannabis. Defendant of previous good character accused of producing cannabis for commercial supply. Case linked to large Encrochat operation involving supply of cocaine.

Recommendations

Thomas Acworth is a sought-after junior with notable expertise in criminal defence work. His caseload includes murders, fraud and sexual abuse matters.

Strengths:

- "He approaches cases forensically and achieves very good results."
- "He is very diligent."

Chambers UK 2025/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths:

- "He possesses skills way beyond his call."
- "Thomas is very hard-working and always in command of his brief."
- "Thomas is a fearless and determined advocate."

Chambers UK 2024/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "Thomas is a fearless advocate."

Chambers UK 2023/Crime/Western Bar

'Thomas is driven, focused and talented. He has precise attention to detail and a robust approach to advocacy.'

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

'Thomas is an extremely diligent practitioner with an extraordinary eye for detail and his knowledge is genuinely astounding. No stone is left unturned in his preparation and his advocacy is equally impressive.'

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

'He has an excellent court manner, very calm and controlled and his witness handling is absolutely superb. He isn't fazed by judges.'

Legal 500 2023/Crime (General and Fraud)/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'A barrister of great tenacity, very hard working and with an eye for detail. He shows a high level of dedication to his clients and is fearless and straight talking in his approach.'

"Words cannot explain how elated I am with the outcome today. I am ever so grateful. Wanted to express my deepest appreciation"

Client's email to instructing solicitor

"I am extremely grateful for the excellent work you have done on this case"

Email from instructing solicitor

"I've just had a chat with young Mr. F and he's asked me to pass on his sincere thanks for yesterday. In his words you were top dollar and really cool. Thank you for all your efforts in securing a great result for us"

Email from instructing solicitor

"I must say he is absolutely amazing at what he does, firm when he needs to be (and he needed to be with me) and so incredibly quick thinking when he is in court"

Client's email to instructing solicitor

Academic qualifications

- BPTC (Kaplan)
- LLB (Newcastle University)

Scholarships

- Academic Scholar (Canford School)
- The Luboshez Award (Middle Temple)
- Arnold and Porter Prize for Competition Law (N'cle)
- Pinsent Masons Prize for Public Law (N'cle)
- Cartmell Shepherd Mooting Prize

Professional bodies

- Criminal Bar Association
- Western Circuit