



Callum Church

Year of Call: 2018

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Crime and Regulatory Crime

Callum Church's criminal practice covers the full scale of serious crime. He is commonly instructed in cases involving technical elements, and has a particular interest and expertise in 'paper-heavy' and complex work. He believes that true excellence in advocacy derives from preparation and a strong early grasp of the issues in any case, and thorough preparation allows him to achieve this.

His prosecution practice is testament to his strong results, as he is trusted to achieve positive outcomes from difficult positions. Whilst his advocacy on his feet stands out due to his calm nature 'under fire', his work ethic and legal drafting also make him an excellent candidate for led work.

As a defence advocate, he is unafraid to stand up for his clients and make submissions which may appear unpopular where appropriate. He is often instructed as a 'repeat' brief for clients accused on multiple indictments.

Recent cases - Prosecution

Operation Lockspur (2025) – Led by Rebecca Wade KC – Instructed as Led Junior for a 7-handed indictment alleging s.18, Kidnap & Aggravated Burglary

Operation Fulltime (2025) – Led by Rebecca Wade KC – Instructed as Led Junior for an 8-handed indictment alleging a Class A drug conspiracy

Operation Venogram (Current) – Junior Alone – Instructed in relation to a 5-handed Class A drug conspiracy.

Operation Macular: (2026) – Led by Ben Close – instructed as Led Junior in relation to a 7-handed indictment alleging drug supply and firearms offences

Operation Consistency (2024) – Junior Alone – Instructed to prosecute a 4-handed Class A drug conspiracy

Operation Briquette (2024) – Led by Kevin Hegarty KC – instructed as led junior to prosecute a case arising out of the "Encrochat" hack.

Press coverage: <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/cocaine-dealer-named-trendybuster-who-28944072>

Operation Syngraph (Current) – Junior Alone – Instructed to prosecute a case relating to firearms recovered in the course of a National Crime Agency surveillance operation.

R v RF [2024] – Junior alone – Instructed to prosecute a serious domestic violence allegation, where the victim had sadly died before trial. Issues of admissibility of hearsay evidence, and defence attempts to adduce evidence after their case had closed.

Recent cases - Defence

Operation Orochi/Monument (Current) - Junior Alone - instructed to defend in a multi-handed County Lines Class A drug conspiracy. Issues of "SIM-swapping", and expert analysis of digital and cell-site evidence arise.

Operation Iago (2024) - Led by Michael Gomulka - Initially instructed as trial advocate alone 9 working days before trial for a Defendant accused of assisting offenders after a homicide, following a transfer of legal aid. The case was the subject of the Channel 4 documentary "Catching a Killer: A Stab in the Dark".

BBC News case coverage: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1k72mjlzvko>

R v LH - (2023) - Led by Jonathan Rees KC - Instructed as Led Junior to represent a man accused of multiple rapes, assaults, and controlling and coercive behaviour. The Defendant was acquitted at trial of all rapes and assaults.

Operation Jamb (2025) - Led by Kevin Saunders - Instructed as Led Junior to represent a woman accused of taking part in a £12million money laundering operation. The Prosecution offered no evidence against the Defendant.

R v SMT (2024) - Junior Alone - Instructed as trial counsel to represent a man alleged to have taken part in a County Lines Class A drug conspiracy.

Operation Tafias (2025) - Junior Alone - instructed as trial counsel to represent a man for offences linked to a 13-handed drugs conspiracy.

R v SZ [2026] - Junior Alone - Instructed as Defence Counsel in a courier fraud, where the Defendant avoided immediate custody.

R v ES (2025) - Junior Alone - Instructed as trial counsel to represent a man accused of defrauding John Lewis of over £700,000. Following representations the prosecution accepted a basis of plea with a £280,000 reduction in the final figure, resulting in a significantly reduced sentence.

R v COJ [2024] - Junior Alone - Instructed as trial Counsel in a conspiracy to defraud, where the Defendant was alleged to have threatened one of the victims of the scam with a knife. The Defendant avoided immediate custody.

R v JW [current] - Junior Alone - instructed from the outset across multiple indictments alleging drug supply, domestic violence, and perverting the course of justice. Issues of abuse of process via autrefois, reluctant witnesses and complex disclosure matters arise.

R v HV [2026] - Junior Alone - Instructed to defend a youth accused of multiple serious offences following the granting of certificate of counsel. The prosecution discontinued all proceedings following submissions re disclosure failings and undermining material being brought to the Crown's attention.

R v CW [2023] - Junior Alone - Instructed from the outset to defend across multiple indictments, including as the lead Defendant in a National Crime Agency firearms surveillance operation. Callum secured acquittals for CW on two separate s.18 Wounding/GBH allegations.

Operation Guy [2021] - Led by Edmund Vickers KC - Instructed as trial counsel to Defend in a case of assisting an offender after a homicide.

Regulatory Crime

Callum has been instructed on behalf of a number of private prosecutors, including Royal Mail Group and the RSPCA. He also appears in the Crown and Magistrates Court in relation to Food Safety, Trading Standards and Licensing appeals.

Recent cases include:

RSPCA v LK - Instructed to prosecute Crown Court proceedings against LK for cruelty towards a puppy.

RSPCA v CD - Instructed to prosecute an application under s.20 Animal Welfare Act

LCC v Hirez - Instructed to prosecute a taxi licensing appeal at the Crown Court stage

Royal Mail v MB - Instructed to prosecute a delivery driver for theft from the post.

BCC v DS - Instructed to Defend in a Trading Standards Confiscation.

WMP v JS - Successfully struck out an application for a Sexual Risk Order.

WMP v SB - Successfully stayed an application for a Sexual Risk Order during interlinked Criminal proceedings.

Recommendations

"Callum is a highly intelligent, thoughtful and hard-working advocate who defends fearlessly and well. He has an excellent bedside manner with lay clients and an easy affability with his solicitors, who trust him with cases beyond which those of his call would ordinarily be instructed." **Legal 500, 2026**

"Callum is an energetic and positive advocate who always demonstrates commitment to his cases with admirable enthusiasm." **Legal 500, 2025**

"Callum is thorough, patient and extremely well-prepared. He is unflappable in difficult situations." **Legal 500, 2024**

"Callum's calm and confident advocacy, coupled with his ability to communicate complex legal arguments clearly and persuasively, greatly contributed to the positive outcome of the case... It was a privilege to be represented by a barrister of such calibre, at such a difficult time." **Lay client, Operation Kenn**

Academic qualifications

- BPTC, Very Competent, BPP, London Holborn
- LLM Legal Practice (Barristers), Distinction, BPP
- BA Law, 2:1, Downing College, University of Cambridge

Professional qualifications & appointments

- CPS Panel Advocate, Grade 2

Professional bodies

- Middle Temple