

Liam O'Brien

Barrister

Overview

Liam is an experienced criminal practitioner with a record of prosecuting and defending those accused of serious criminal offences ranging from complex fraud to serious violence.

Liam is a former Amicus intern and once spent seven months in Asheville, North Carolina working with defence attorneys in capital punishment cases.

Notable cases

R v Smallman (Teesside) :

Lone Prosecution Counsel in complex fraud involving thirty-one complainants. Defendant convicted after a four-week trial, sentenced to five years' imprisonment and made the subject of a Serious Crime Prevention Order. [A media report of the case can be found here.](#)

R v A (Leeds) :

Instructed on behalf of violent recidivist accused of unlawful wounding with intent. Defendant acquitted after trial.

R v Harkness & Richardson (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) :

Prosecution Counsel at trial and on appeal in well planned armed robbery of a busy hair salon. Both defendants convicted, one after trial. Conviction and sentences of 9 and 10 years' imprisonment upheld by the Court of Appeal.

R v P (Teesside) :

Instructed on behalf of defendant accused of assault by penetration. Acquitted after trial.

R v W (Teesside) :

Instructed on behalf of sex worker accused of robbing complainant she alleged was an unsatisfied former customer. [A media report of the case can be found here.](#)

R v Gosley-Shaw (York) :

Instructed to prosecute defendant accused of stealing her 89-year-old grandmother's life savings. Secured conviction of defendant after trial. [A media report of the case can be found here.](#)



Year Of Call:

2007

Practice Areas

Crime

Professional Qualifications

2008 - LLM in Advanced Legal Practice, Northumbria University

2007 - Bar Vocational Course, Northumbria University (Outstanding)

2005 - LLB (Hons) 2:1, University of Liverpool

Memberships

Criminal Bar Association

North Eastern Circuit

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Awards

2007 - The Baron Dr. Ver Heyden de Lancey Prize, Middle Temple

2007 - Certificate of Honour, Middle Temple