

Mr Antony Hook

Call 2003

Antony is an experienced and busy barrister specialising in criminal law, both prosecuting and defending and public law. As well as many years in private practice, he also brings experience working in-house at the Crown Prosecution Service where he was Head of Fraud and Confiscation in Cambridgeshire for four years. In public law, he has particular experience in local government law, including planning, and coroners' inquests. He also brings unique knowledge and transferable skills as a former elected Member of the European Parliament, representing South East England's interests in Brussels and Strasbourg. He was a member of LIBE, the Parliament's Home Affairs Committee. He has also served in local government as an elected county councillor.

CRIMINAL LAW EXPERIENCE

Antony has vast experience in criminal trials and also in a number of judicial review cases arising out of criminal proceedings. He is a Grade 3 CPS external advocate.

These are some of the cases in which Antony has prosecuted or defended:

R v X secured acquittal of a senior businessperson facing personally ruinous charges of assaulting their own children

Operation Snake - organised crime based burglaries across five counties

R v R and T county lines drug supply

Operation Pecan – organised thefts across England of highly endangered birds.

R v S and others – theft and fraud of £2 million

R v M and others – MOD corruption and bribery case following investigation by MOD Police and reporting directly to the Attorney General's office on developments and decisions in the case.

R v A and others – 11-handed "crash for cash" insurance fraud case.

R v B and others – 3-handed fraud by national criminal group arranging for driving tests to be taken by imposters generating six-digit criminal profits.

R v AS – six-digit figure money laundering case of funds between England and Africa and with victims in Canada, Scandinavia, Middle East, Africa.

R v NW – fraudulent furniture business with several dozen victims throughout UK and Republic of Ireland

R v D – fraudulent car leasing company.

R v H & L – organised professional burglaries.

R v P – attempted murder (frenzied stabbing).

His judicial cases include:

Visvaratnam v Brent Magistrates' Court (2010) 174 JP 61, Successful judicial review following adjournment and prosecution failure to warn key witness.

Nicola v Enfield Youth Court [2008] All ER (D) 94. Successful judicial review of delay of trial for young defendant. Also, a precedent for costs against the CPS rather than central funds (protecting the legal aid budget)

R (on app of Costello) v North East Essex Magistrates' Court [2006] All ER (D) 294, Successful judicial review of refusal to adjourn when defendant and his key witness had faced a grievous trauma shortly before trial. Art 6 ECHR engaged.

Khan v Waltham Forest Justices [2007] All ER (D) 29, Judicial review of delay in committal proceedings. Important strong obiter remarks against unofficial "one free adjournment" policy that had taken hold in some London magistrates' courts.

Cebelis v Lithuania [2006] All ER (D) 251, Early case on requirements on European Arrest Warrant, in particular whether facts cited on the EAW must bear relationship to legal provisions cited on it; whether challenge can be made on basis that requesting state will endanger defendant's ECHR rights.

Antony has significant experience around disclosure including dealing with sensitive and non-sensitive unused material and public interest immunity applications.

He has prosecuted a number of large scale frauds with complicated disclosure issues, including a MOD corruption case involving multiple armed forces personnel and civilian defendants with extensive unused material relating to MOD and NATO equipment and protocols. The sensitivity of the case required Mr Hook to report directly to the Attorney-General's private office.

He has also prosecuted cases with large amounts of electronic material including records of insurance companies, large corporations, social media material and cases with social services and other sensitive public sector material.

He has given training to CPS lawyers on how to approach disclosure.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Antony has advised local councils, individual councillors and member of the public on legal issues to do with local government law. He is standing counsel to one of the national associations of local councillors and also to a consultancy that assists town and parish councillors.

His recent experience includes:

- Representing a group of local councillors in relation to vexatious litigation threats and false claims of harassment;
- Advising and representing a group of local councillors in relation to material irregularities of the conduct of council elections;
- Representing members of local authorities accused of misconduct by their authority and subject to Standards Committee proceedings;
- Advising and representing a large association of private companies in relation to changes to their contracts proposed by the Home Office.

He has trained local authority members of and officers on the Freedom of Information Act.

He is very familiar with the Planning system and has represented parties to planning applications.

CORONERS' INQUESTS

Antony has represented both families of the deceased and public bodies at coroners' inquests.

EDUCATION

2004, MA in Law, City University,

2002-2003, Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law

2001-2002, Postgraduate Diploma in Law, City University

1998-2001, BA (Hons) History, UCL

OTHER AWARDS AND POSITIONS

- 2019-2020, Member of the European Parliament and member of the EU's LIBE and JURI committees
- 2017-present, Kent County Councillor
- 2010-2016, School governor
- 2002, Royal Society of Arts, Young Leader of the Year
- 2000-2002, Trustee of the British Youth Council