

Adam Smith

Call: 2021

Practice Areas:

- Crime
- Extradition
- Regulatory
- Immigration
- Judicial review

Adam has an extensive practice focused on criminal, extradition and public law.

Adam has a busy criminal practice appearing in the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court and Court of Appeal. He both defends and prosecutes. Adam has represented clients charged with a variety of offences, including sexual offences, arson, violent offences and drug offences. His regular criminal practice has given him extensive exposure to new legal areas; a proving ground in which he has shown his ability to get to grips with difficult legal matters in a short space of time and communicate clear legal advice to his clients. Adam's confident style of advocacy, combined with his impressive academic abilities, has led to highly commendable feedback from clients.

In extradition, Adam has dealt with a complex cases that have involved arguing human rights grounds, as well as technical legal arguments regarding the validity of extradition warrants. He has resisted a extradition from countries over Europe for a variety of serious criminal matters.

Adam is regularly instructed in civil matters in the Magistrates' Court dealing with Police orders (Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Domestic Violence Prevention Orders, etc). For these matters, Adam has effectively articulated technical arguments, including human rights arguments focused on proportionality.

Adam also practices in regulatory law, having acted for the Royal College of Nurses, Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Metropolitan Police Service in a variety of professional misconduct hearings.

Adam has a background in investigating human rights abuses in several high-profile matters; working with the Geoffrey Nice Foundation, he worked on a project assessing how to bring human rights abuses to an end in North Korea. This work involved detailed legal and factual research (considering the accounts of hundreds of North Korean defectors) as well as international advocacy, where the findings were presented to high-profile and international audiences in South Korea, Germany and Croatia. In this work, Adam extensively considered Universal Jurisdiction for such crimes. In addition to this work, Adam has previously worked on assisting victims of the conflict in Afghanistan, where he advised on potential methods for redress. This involved quickly researching legal options to develop clear and concise advice for clients.

In public law, Adam has both an extensive academic and practical background. Practically, Adam has worked in judicial reviews, most recently in relation to an action against the Department of Work and Pensions. In this, he used his experience in creating the Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022, whilst he was working as a civil servant. This work involved setting up independent reviews of the Human Rights Act and Administrative Law. As such, Adam has a wealth of experience and knowledge of public law and human rights in the UK, and abroad.

Adam won an award for achieving the highest mark in public law and human rights module when studying law, which he built on to achieve a Distinction during his LLM.

Outside of work, Adam enjoys cooking, travelling and has a keen interest in performing improvised theatre, having taken several shows to the Edinburgh Fringe during his time at university.

Published Cases

- *R v Datson* [2022] EWCA Crim 1248. Adam drafted grounds for the Respondent in a case concerning whether a mistake as to the legal status of Hemp meant that its importation was not fraudulent.

Criminal Cases

- *R v AM* (2024): Adam secured the acquittal of his client within 12 minutes, during a trial at Inner London Crown Court. His client had faced two counts of common assault and non-fatal strangulation. He successfully argued that there was no case to answer in relation to the common assault, and then secured the swift unanimous verdict in relation to the strangulation count.
- *R v AA & AC* (2023): Adam secured an acquittal for his client of a robbery charge, after a 14-day trial at Wood Green Crown Court. The robbery was caught on CCTV outside the venue. Adam successfully argued that this was a case of mistaken identity, after resisting the Prosecution's application to adduce the extensive previous convictions of his client. He was able to keep 9 out of 10 of his client's similar previous convictions from being shown to the jury, and successfully argued to tailor legal directions strongly in his client's favour.
- *R v HA* (2023): Adam represented a client who was part of a Class A drug dealing conspiracy. The default sentence position was carried a starting point of 4 years 6 months' immediate custody. Adam mustered a detailed understanding of the case to successfully mitigate the extent of his client's role in the conspiracy. Despite being the only member of the conspiracy convicted after trial, Adam's client was the only member to be given a Suspended Sentence Order – all other defendants received immediate custodial sentences.

Extradition Cases

- *Belgium v AB* (2024): Adam secured the discharge of his client's extradition to Belgium. His client was sought on an accusation warrant for his role in a large-scale cannabis cultivation operation as part of an organised crime group. Adam successfully persuaded the District Judge that the arrest warrant was not compliant with section 2 of the Extradition Act 2003. Adam was able to split the section 2 argument off from other grounds, which saved his client from having to give evidence about a sensitive health condition.

Memberships

- Honorable Society of Inner Temple
- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers
- Geoffrey Nice Foundation alumni
- Free Representation Unit

Academic background

- BA Politics & International Studies – University of Warwick – First-class Honours
- Graduate Diploma in Law – University of Law – Distinction
- LLM Legal Practice (Barristers) – Distinction (with Very Competent BPTC component)

Languages

- German (C1)
- Greek (A2)

Awards

- **2020:** Exhibition Award (awarded by Inner Temple)
- **2019:** BPTC Excellence Scholarship (awarded by BPP University)
- **2018:** Outstanding Performance in Public Law (awarded by Clyde & Co Solicitors)