

Mahmud Aslam

Call: 1983

Mahmud was called to the Bar in 1983 and practices in all areas of criminal defence. He has extensive trial experience both as leading counsel and junior. He has a flair for creating openings in complex and difficult criminal cases and is particularly strong in cross-examination and closing speeches. He has acted successfully in several high-profile cases which have received considerable national and international media coverage. The diversity of Mahmud's practice has enabled him to develop expertise in a wide range of matters in criminal law.

Mahmud has represented clients charged with the most serious of offences including murder, terrorism, arson, armed robbery, blackmail, fraud, advance fee frauds, boiler room frauds, kidnapping, serious sexual offences and serious violent offences. A number of these cases have involved cross examination of professional and expert witnesses. His lay clients have included people from all walks of life including accountants, teachers, barristers, clergymen, doctors and solicitors.

Notable cases

Selection of Terrorist Offences

1. **R v RS and another.** (2024) (6-week trial Birmingham CC before HHJ Inman The Recorder of Birmingham).
Leading Counsel, representing lead Defendant. The defendant was accused of holding and supporting Islamic extreme ideologies and further supporting Islamic State and other extremist organisations by disseminating terrorist documents and videos. In addition, he was accused of raising funds directly for ISIS to help them purchase weapons and anything else they may have needed to support their terrorist activities as part of ISIS. A substantial amount of electronic media/data was recovered in the investigation on several differing platforms.
2. **R v HM** (Central Criminal Court before HHJ David Paget KC) (Leading Counsel, representing Defendant charged with raising funds for terrorism and being a potential suicide bomber. The defendant was alleged to have links to the group behind the London bombings. A police undercover officer had infiltrated the group and commenced covert recordings of the group and the defendant. The defendant was alleged to have asked the undercover officer for money so that he could travel abroad to carry out terrorist attacks .

Selection of Murder and Attempted Murder Cases

1. **R v EP** (Central Criminal Court before The Common Serjeant of London. Sole Counsel for youth charged with Attempted Murder of two girls and Possession of Offensive weapon. Acquitted. (2021)
2. **R v K. G & Others** (Central Criminal Court) (Leading Counsel), representing defendant charged with Attempted murder (attempted beheading). Case stopped after 3 months trial after successful defence submission of no case to answer). (2008)
3. **R v Onokah & Others** (Woolwich Crown Court before HHJ Judge Anwyl QC) Leading Counsel in the 'Romford knife murder which led to a press Campaign for deterrent sentences for knife crimes) Onokah was acquitted of murder). (2006)
4. **R v Betton and Others** (Stafford Crown Court before Hon Mr Justice Gibbs) (Junior Counsel in the Marian Bates murder and robbery trial). (2005)
5. **R v Henry & Another** (Central Criminal Court before Hon Mr Justice Leveson) (Leading Counsel in the Ainlee Walker child murder case), Case involved the beating, starvation and burning of a child with cigarettes by parents. Cut-throat defence at trial. Defendant convicted of manslaughter by neglect and cruelty to a child. Case led to a subsequent Inquiry into the failings of the social services). (2002)
6. **R v Cameron King and Another** (Harrow Crown Court) sole Counsel representing defendant charged with Attempted Murder of neighbour. Acquitted of attempted murder convicted of section 18 GBH.
7. **R v Hardy** (Maidstone Crown Court) Leading Counsel for defendant charged with murder of a disabled friend.
8. **R v P & Others** (Leading Counsel in murder by stabbing issues of causation raised including medical negligence)
9. **R v Davey** (Birmingham Crown Court before Hon Justice Jowitt (Leading Counsel in a murder case involving beheading of a pensioner. (1995)

Selection of Offences of Violence

1. **Rex v Towoba and seven Others.** (2024) 6-week trial case involving allegations of Violent Disorder, Conspiracy to Commit GBH and Conspiracy to Possess bladed article in a public place. Defendant Acquitted on all charges.
2. **R v M.B. and Others** (Case involved several Robberies by a professional gang of high value designer watches. Complainants targeted after being followed in bars/clubs in the West End).
3. **R v R.A. and Others** (2021) (GBH) Group attack with knives. Acquitted GBH convicted section 20. Suspended sentence.

4. **R v Taylor and another** (GBH and false imprisonment. Extinguishing cigarette in the eye of the complainant and stabbing him in the foot with a screwdriver. Defence of Self Defence and Accident raised. Defendant Acquitted).
5. **R v M.M. and another** (Father and Uncle accused of persistent, substantial and sustained child cruelty against several children. The case involved complicated issues of admissibility and sensitivity issues of disclosure).
6. **R v Bero** (GBH London Underground tube stabbing of passengers).
7. **R v Noel Mahoney and Others** (Case involved a major incident at Queen Elizabeth Hospital where property was damaged and stolen, which resulted in the hospital being closed and life of patients being endangered).
8. **R v Juma Omar** (Dangerous driving by Uber Driver in possession of false documents. Incident initially believed to be a terrorist related offence as several people were driven at and injured outside the Natural History Museum).
9. **R v A.H** (Allegations of Controlling/coercive behaviour/Section 18/False Imprisonment. Defendant Acquitted on all counts).
10. **R v CG and Another** (Allegations of Blackmail and Robbery).
11. **R v Jutty & Others** (Leading Counsel in case involving a series of kidnaps, torture and professional ransom demands).
12. **R v Garriques** (Contract GBH case involving an Acid attack on a female. Defendant Acquitted).
13. **R v Kasunga** (Appeal EWCA Crim 1623) Jury irregularity.
14. **R v Khan & Others** (Mosque riots).
15. **R v Jananto and another** (Stabbing of John Mills, the husband of the DPP).
16. **R v Jananto**. (Perverting the course of justice, re Philip Lawrence, Headmaster murder case).
17. **Rex v A.O.** (Central Criminal Court) (2023) Perverting course of Justice. Allegation of misleading the police and social services by providing false details about relationship, identity and whereabouts of partner wanted for rape of daughter. After cross-examination of the officer in the case, the Crown offered no further evidence.
18. **R v BD**. Perverting course of Justice. Attempt to influence Juror outside the Central Criminal Court. Acquitted.
19. **R v Andra Marchudanu & Others** (2021) Winchester CC (Before the Recorder of Winchester HHJ. Angela Morris). Assisting Unlawful Immigration to Member State, contrary to section 25(1) of the Immigration Act 1971. Absent Defendant at trial. Case stopped on disclosure issues raised by Defence. Defendant Acquitted.

Selection of Fraud Offences

1. **R v A and Others** (Leading Counsel, representing Defendant alleged to be the bookmaker and prime mover who approached and bribed several famous International professional cricketers involved in T20 Games to spot fix games. The case involved extensive use of covert audio and video surveillance).
2. **Rex v R and Others** (2023) Absent Defendant. Conspiracy to defraud investors and Converting Criminal Property.
3. **R v Alausa & Another** (Acted initially as Junior Counsel and then subsequently as Lead Counsel in a case involving an International advanced fee fraud, trial lasted 7 months).
4. **R v LD & Another** (Junior Counsel in Boiler Room fraud prosecuted by SFO).
5. **R v Reverend Mabro** (Facilitation illegal entry to the UK. Acquitted).
6. **R v Raja & Others** (Multi-million-pound fraud against major communication companies).
7. **R v Khatim** (Multiple identities and passport immigration offences, basis of plea submitted 12 months imprisonment).
8. **R v Shanobi & Others** (Leading counsel in multiple mortgage fraud involving over 170 properties and several million pounds).
9. **R v Aina & Others** (Student loan fraud involving multiple false identities).
10. **R v Stewart & Others** (Leading Counsel in London Underground fraud case). Acquitted
11. **R v B and Another** (£30 million Bankers Draft Fraud)

Selection of Sexual Offences

1. **Rex v HS** (2024) Sexual Assault on train journey. Acquitted.
2. **Rex v CT** (2023) Allegation of Rape and attempted strangulation on one female who was asleep and sexual assault of another. Acquitted.
3. **R v JB** (2021) (Before the Recorder of Lincoln HHJ Pinni) Sexual activity with a child x 4 and Causing or inciting child prostitution and Pornography. Acquitted.
4. **R v I.A.** (Home Tutor charged with sexual offences against pupils. Acquitted).
5. **R v T.P.** (Indecent Photographs and breach of SHPO).
6. **R v M.M.** (Historical sexual offences spanning back 35 years).

7. **R v J.C.** (Central Criminal Court) Female child minder faced 15 counts of sexual assault on female child under 13 by penetration x 3, sexual assault on x 3, causing a child to engage in sexual activity x 9. Defence of collusion and fabrication by mother and child raised. Defendant Acquitted on all counts.
8. **R v S.R.** Allegation of stranger rape at knifepoint, after complainant had been followed from railway station.

Selection of Drug and Firearm Offences

1. **R v Arusha** (Possession with intent to supply 27 kilos of cocaine at 95% purity. Basis of plea submitted 10 years imprisonment).
2. **R v Carl Gowie and another** (Alleged Duty Evasion on 6000 kilos of Shisha Tobacco from Pakistan. Defendant Acquitted).
3. **R v S** (First ever prosecution of a Harley Street Doctor supplying Rohypnol, date rape drug and other substances).
4. **R v FA and others** (Conspiracy to supply Class A Drugs and Possession of Firearm with intent to endanger life.)
5. **Rex v CB and another** (2023) (Importation of 11.22 kilograms of Cocaine hidden within suitcases)
6. **R v Sweeney** (Possession of Firearm with intent. Defendant Acquitted).

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association

Languages

- English Punjabi
- Urdu