

Lyall Thompson

YEAR OF CALL 1995

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Career Overview

Lyall's career has been notable for its variety, albeit with a constant focus on jury advocacy and criminal law. Having obtained a degree in Scots Law, Lyall completed a conversion course and qualified at the English Bar. After pupillage, he successfully built up a self-employed practice over 14 years.

An opportunity presented itself to join the CPS as a senior crown advocate and work with the police on some of the most high profile and serious prosecutions in London (including the largest case to come out of the 2011 London Riots involving 23 defendants). Then, in 2015, Lyall joined the barristers' team in a nationwide firm of criminal defence lawyers. This led to him defending in long multi-handed conspiracy trials, including as leading counsel in a 5 month, 11-handed child sexual exploitation trial. As well as vast experience in court therefore, Lyall also has a fairly unique insight into the workings and practices of both the prosecution authorities and defence solicitors.



Throughout his years of practice, Lyall has been keen to take on jury trials and appellate advocacy at all levels. Although he has extensive experience in multi-handed cases, and has frequently led other advocates in such cases, he also achieves much satisfaction in acting for defendants in shorter trials. Lyall never forgets that every case is the most important one taking place in the country for that defendant, and always keeps client satisfaction at the forefront of his priorities.

Above all, Lyall loves persuading juries that the most unlikely stories may have a grain of truth in them.

Area of Practice

- Organised crime, firearms and gang violence
- Attempted murder, kidnapping, false imprisonment and torture
- Drug offences, including large-scale importations involving Encrochat evidence.
- Rape and other serious sexual offences
- Child sexual exploitation and other child abuse and neglect
- Causing death / serious injury by dangerous driving
- People smuggling and other immigration offences (including Article 31 defences)
- Lower-level fraud / money-laundering
- Proceeds of Crime and Cash Seizure
- Road Traffic law (especially drink/drug driving and failing to provide a specimen)
- Regulatory work (especially healthcare)
- Disciplinary proceedings / Police misconduct
- Local authority prosecutions / Military Law
- Analysing cell-site evidence
- Working with intermediaries

Notable Cases

2024

R v AE

Wood Green CC Murder (Silk Led) Not Guilty verdicts

R v AC

Oxford CC GBH, strangulation Not Guilty verdicts

R v ER-J

Gloucester CC Rape (private case) Not Guilty verdict

R v JS

Warwick CC Drugs conspiracy Guilty verdict

R v DM

Reading CC Cigarette smuggling conspiracy Guilty verdict

R v PM

Southwark CC Gang-rape of a 13 year old child Guilty verdicts (intermediary)

R v CL

Kingston CC Armed robbery conspiracy Guilty plea entered during trial

R v JD

St Albans CC Assault on a 2 year old child Not Guilty verdict

R v TW

Isleworth CC Endangering life by damaging property Not Guilty verdict

R v MK

Gloucester CC Drugs conspiracy Not Guilty verdict (only one of 12 defendants to go to trial)

R v RW

Aylesbury CC Rape Not Guilty verdict

2023

R v SW

Oxford CC Rape Not Guilty verdict

R v MH

Oxford CC Attempted murder Prosecution offered no evidence following representations on mercy killing guidance

R v JP

Oxford CC Rape Not Guilty verdict

R v TN

Isleworth CC Kidnap Not Guilty verdict

R v LP

St Albans CC Sexual Assault / Burglary Suspended sentence (transgender client)

R v PJ

Oxford CC Drugs conspiracy Plea on a restricted basis (Encrochat case)

R v ED

St Albans CC Conspiracy to defraud 18-handed case. Crown offered a favourable basis on 3rd day of trial after others pleaded.

2022

R v TS

Oxford CC Rape Not Guilty verdict (client with intermediary)

R v SD

St Albans CC GBH (s.18), False Imprisonment Not Guilty verdicts

R v JR

Guildford CC Causing serious injury by dangerous driving Guilty verdict

R v JM

Isleworth CC Drug importation Not Guilty verdict

R v SW

Oxford CC False imprisonment / Torture Mixed pleas and verdicts

R v MA

Oxford CC Sexual assault Hung jury – no retrial

Education

- High School of Glasgow
- University of Aberdeen 2:1 (Scots Law)
- City University, London
- Inns of Court School of Law

Other Information

Lyall is a pupil-supervisor and a mentor for the Inner Temple.

In his spare time, Lyall enjoys refereeing football and watching cricket and theatre. He is an Associate Member of the MCC and a Patron of the RSC.