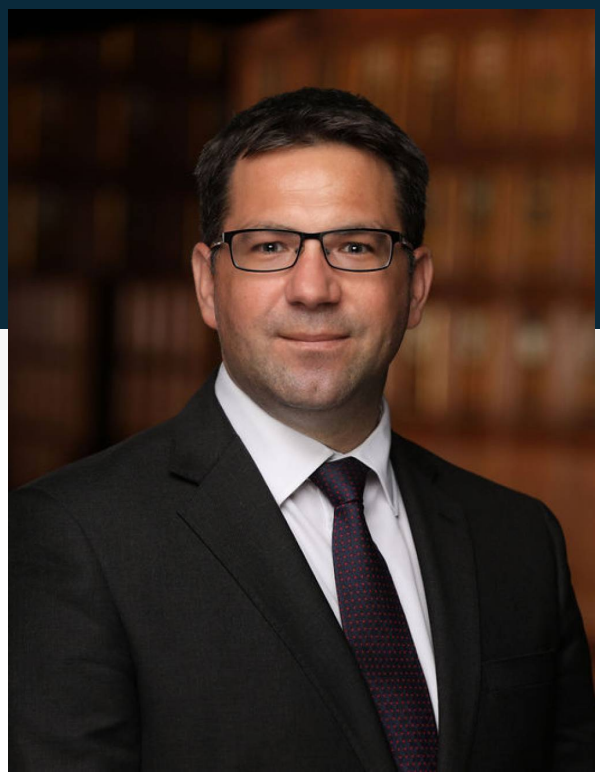
Roderick James.

Barrister • Year of call Call: 1999



clerks@crucible.law

What others say:

- *'Roderick is able to take the jury through something complex and difficult and can get them to understand what he is talking about. He has a very nice manner with them.'* **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2027**
- *'Roderick was really good - very thorough, detailed and client-friendly.'* **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2027**
- *'Roderick is very good at breaking down large amounts of information and data'* **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2027**
- *"Roddy is a highly experienced leading junior covering the full scope of grave crime in cases that are factually and legally complex. He combines exceptional analysis, hard work, incisive written submissions, and compelling advocacy to provide his clients with the highest standard of representation."* **Legal 500, 2027 - Crime**
- *"Roddy is a highly sought-after junior in white-collar crime cases who I am sure will become a KC when he decides to apply. He is exceptionally fastidious when it comes to preparation and links that to a keen strategic and tactical awareness, meaning he is always on top of the case and able to assist with any decisions that are required."* **Legal 500, 2027 -**

Present and recent instructions:

Financial Crime

- • **Operation Salmon** Instructed to represent defendant in a £100m payroll model fraud trial in which the trial is listed to last 6 months.
- • **R v. RH and others** Instructed to defend Finance Director of company in a private fraud prosecution brought by the Fraser Group / Sports Direct.
- • **R v. R and others** Client acquitted in multi-handed money-laundering conspiracy alleged to involve the transfer of £millions in cash to the UAE.
- • **SFO v. MP [G4S]** Instructed as first junior counsel for the Commercial Director of G4S Electronic Monitoring in a £multi-million fraud investigation brought

Fraud and white-collar crime

- *'Roderick has strong attention to detail, knows a case backwards and demonstrates wonderful client care.'*

  'He is absolutely first class.' **Chambers & Partners - Finance Crime 2026**
- *'He is a top-drawer advocate.'*

  'James has complete understanding of the law, the case and the needs of the client.' **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2026**
- *'Roderick has a keen eye for detail. He is able to analyse large volumes of material and distil the issues in the case with ease.'* **Legal 500 – Fraud: Crime, Leading Juniors 2026**
- *'Roderick is long past the stage where he could be said to be a go to junior for serious crime, the reality is he is now frequently leading on grave and lengthy cases himself. He is exceptionally hard working and has a great legal mind.'* **Legal 500 - Crime, Leading Juniors 2026**
- *"Roderick is hugely intelligent and exceptionally capable."*

  "Roddy can assimilate thousands of documents down to the key points. He is a really friendly chap but forceful and happy to take the lead." **Chambers & Partners – Financial Crime, Leading Juniors 2025**
- *"He is very good and gives an extremely good closing speech. He is intelligent, hard-working and a good jury advocate."*

  "Roderick is impressive and easy to work with." **Chambers & Partners – Crime, Leading Juniors 2025**
- *'Roderick's strengths include being extremely personable and well liked by clients. He has excellent advocacy skills, is incredibly hard-working and manages to find solutions in cases by carrying out innovative research.'* **Legal 500 - Crime, Leading Juniors 2025**
- *'With a patient, calm-under pressure style, he is favoured by judges and juries and rightly so.'* **Legal 500 – Fraud: Crime, Leading Juniors 2025**
- *'Very hard-working with a super intellect. He cuts through the trees and sees the issues.'* **Chambers & Partners – Financial Crime, Leading Juniors 2024**
- *'Highly user friendly – both from the point of*

by the SFO.

Serious Crime

- • **R v. DB and others** Instructed as leading junior counsel for defendant facing trial relating to the alleged supply of class A drugs.
- • **R v. DN** Instructed as led junior counsel for client charged with the murder of a neighbour, in proceedings brought over 10 years after the event.
- • **R v. SH and others** Instructed as leading junior to represent defendant acquitted of wide-ranging conspiracies to steal and burgle commercial premises.
- • **R v. AG and others** Instructed as leading junior counsel in multi-handed prosecution relating to prostitution and trafficking. Case dropped before trial.

view of instructing solicitors and also for lay clients. He has the ability to fillet substantial amounts of evidence down to the essential components that will become the issues in the case and his advocacy style is measured, tactical, always respectful but suitably combative when needed.' **Legal 500 – Fraud: Crime, Leading Juniors 2024**

- *'Very good with clients. He is able to put them at ease with his thoughtful manner and sage advice.'* **Chambers & Partners – Crime, Leading Juniors 2024**
- *'Roddy has amazing reserves of confidence, and is always calm and assured. You will believe every word he says'.* **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2023**
- *'A meticulous advocate whom you can rely on to know the papers well.'* **Chambers & Partners - Crime, Leading Junior 2022**
- *'A junior who remains calm under fire, has an extremely meticulous eye, and possesses exact legal judgement. His extensive experience and confident persona sits well with clients.'* **Legal 500 – Crime, Leading Juniors 2022**
- *'A junior who maintains a calm demeanour under pressure. He is also extremely meticulous and has excellent legal judgement. His significant experience and confident persona sit well with clients.'* **Legal 500 – Fraud, Leading Juniors 2022**

Practice Profile:

Roderick is a leading London junior with a strong Financial and Serious Crime practice. His areas of specialism include defending clients facing multi-handed fraud, corruption and money laundering trials as well as cases involving allegations of serious and organised crime, homicide and serious drug-trafficking.

Described by instructing solicitors as “very methodical with evidence and excellent under pressure”, he is adept in making complicated issues comprehensible. Skilled in mastering large volumes of evidence and displaying clear tactical judgement he regularly conducts cases at all court levels as either leading or led counsel.

Financial crime:

Roderick has extensive experience in high level, multi-handed white collar fraud cases conducted as both leading and led junior.

'A very safe pair of hands but can argue innovative points where appropriate' (Legal 500 – 2020)

'A lawyer's lawyer with a careful and considered approach to all the issues' (Legal 500 – 2019)

'He is extremely hardworking, incredibly well-prepared and a forceful advocate' (Legal 500 – 2017)

Notable financial crime cases:

- • **R v. MHR and others [2025] Manchester Crown Court.** Client acquitted in multi-handed money-laundering conspiracy alleged to involve the transfer of £millions in cash to the UAE.
- • **SFO v. MP [G4S] [2023] Southwark Crown Court.** Instructed as first junior counsel for the Commercial Director of G4S Electronic Monitoring in a £multi-million fraud investigation brought by the SFO. [link]
- • **R v. R [2020]** Instructed to advise on behalf of a company director charged with tax offences in respect of an alleged Phoenix company set up to avoid unpaid VAT and PAYE. Case discontinued by prosecution as the result of representations made.
- • **R v. SS and others [2018] Isleworth Crown Court.** Instructed as junior counsel to represent the director of a London money transfer businesses charged with laundering a total of £28 million in criminal property in less than 2 years by transferring it overseas and then via various layers of international business entities.
- • **R v. SK [2018] Hove Crown Court.** Represented the sole director of a company offering Gatwick-based "meet and greet" parking charged with fraudulent trading after Trading Standards exposed that vehicles were being parked unsecure in open fields and public car parks. The company website was alleged to have contained falsified testimonials and fraudulent claims as to the services provided.
- • **R v. JW and others [2017] Basildon Crown Court.** Instructed, alone, to defend the director of a city commodities trading house specialising in rare earth metals accused of defrauding the company's customers through involvement in the wider fraudulent "Denver Trading" scheme.
- • **R v. KT [2016/2017] Norwich Crown Court.** Instructed to defend one of 3 company directors prosecuted by Trading Standards for conspiracy to defraud worth in excess of £10m relating to the deliberate mis-selling of satellite system insurance and anti-spam telephone services.
- • **Operation Mulgrave [2016] Southwark CC.** Instructed to act for a former executive of a major insurance broker charged with defrauding the company of £millions by means of payments to sham introducing agents in overseas territories.
- • **Operation Silenius [2015] Isleworth Crown Court.** Instructed as leading junior counsel representing an HMRC Vat Inspector charged with tax evasion and multiple charges of mortgage fraud spanning more than a decade.

Serious crime:

Roderick is regularly instructed in serious or high profile cases, usually as the leading barrister or led junior. His caseload typically involves allegations of homicide or Organized Crime Group activities.

‘Able to dissect very complex evidence’ (Legal 500 – 2020)

‘His friendly and easy-going manner belies the sheer preparation he puts in’ (Legal 500 – 2018)

‘His ability to think of solutions to problems quickly is a real strength’ (Legal 500 – 2017)

Notable serious crime cases:

Homicide Cases

- • **R v. DN [2025] Cambridge Crown Court.** Instructed as led junior counsel for client charged with the murder of a neighbour, in proceedings brought over 10 years after the event.
- • **R v. H [2023] Maidstone Crown Court.** Instructed alone to defend in case of “one punch” manslaughter.
- • **R v. AK [2021] Isleworth Crown Court.** Instructed as led junior for defendant charged with murder.
- • **R v. LS [2021] CCC**. Instructed as led junior counsel for defendant charged with murder by arson.
- • **Operation Rochdale [2020] Central Criminal Court.** Instructed as led junior counsel in a trial involving a shooting alleged to have been a gang revenge killing.
- • **Operation Parkston [2019] Central Criminal Court.** Instructed as led junior counsel to defend one of 6 young men charged with two murders in a series of reprisal attacks following an earlier killing. A series of stabbings and other offences took place over the course of a single evening, leading to 2 deaths and numerous injuries to other victims.

Other serious organised crime

- • **R v. SH and others [2025] Northampton Crown Court.** Instructed as leading junior to represent defendant acquitted of wide-ranging conspiracies to steal and burgle commercial premises.
- • **R v. AG and others [2025] Southwark Crown Court.** Instructed as leading junior counsel in multi-handed prosecution relating to prostitution and trafficking. Defendant acquitted without trial.
- • **R v. LB and others [2024] CCC.** Instructed as led junior counsel for client alleged to be a senior member of an international OCG, charged with possession of multiple firearms in respect of an attempt to pervert the course of justice by misleading the NCA.
- • **R v. S [2023] Bristol Crown Court.** Instructed as leading junior for client acquitted of allegations relating to the production and international supply of “Spice”.
- • **R v. SM [2021] Isleworth CC.** Instructed as led junior for client charged with participating in the burglaries of the homes of Tamara Ecclestone, Frank Lampard and Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, with losses of over £50m. Defendant acquitted at trial.
- • **R v. K [2018] Kingston Crown Court.** Instructed as junior counsel to represent teenage defendant charged with 8 counts of disseminating terrorist publications with intent to encourage others to commit terrorist acts. The defendant had disseminated ISIS-produced videos of graphic violence via secure chat platforms