

Matthew Bolt

Door Tenant

CALLED 2012



Matthew is an experienced Service Courts practitioner who has successfully represented defendants charged with a wide variety of criminal offences. Recent instructions have included a long-term conspiracy to evade duty, fraud and sexual assaults. He also has experience across the whole gamut of service offences.

Matthew also regularly prosecutes and defends in the Crown Court and has conducted trials in cases involving a wide range of criminal offences including regulatory matters and military law.

Described as hands on, easy to work with, and someone who quickly gets to the heart of a case and adds value. He is a high calibre advocate who has a keen understanding of the commercial reality of his cases.

Matthew also practises from Cornwall Street, Birmingham.

Military Law

- Court Martial & Summary Appeal Court

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- Court Martial Appeal Court

Matthew has experience in the Court Martial Appeal Court including in the leading case of R v SH [2019] EWCA Crim 1863 which established that contrary to long held opinion it was possible for a defendant in the Court Martial to apply to dismiss the charges against him.

- Major Administrative Action

Matthew has considerable experience in drafting written representations and representing service personnel in interviews with Deciding Officers and Reviewing Officers. He understands the intricacies of the relevant service specific frameworks and the wider career implications of potential sanctions.

- Compulsory Drugs Test Failure

Matthew also has experience in the complex field of Compulsory Drugs Test Failure. In all but the most exceptional cases a CDT Fail is career ending with significant financial impacts. Matthew is adroit at working with experts to gather evidence and drafting written representations in cases of involuntary consumption.

- Other areas

Matthew is familiar with the Service Complaints Regime and is happy to assist in the drafting of complaints. He also has experience advising in relation to service inquiries and knowledge of inquests in a service context.

Criminal Law

Matthew regularly prosecutes and defends in the Crown Court and has conducted trials in cases involving a wide range of criminal offences including regulatory matters. His defence practice increasingly focuses on serious crime in both the Crown Court and the Court Martial. His experience in civil practice also makes him an ideal choice for proceeds of crime and fraud matters.

Civil Litigation

Property: Matthew regularly appears in the County Court dealing with Landlord & Tenant matters, contract disputes, boundary disputes and covenants. Outside of court he has a busy paper and advisory practice. He also has experience dealing with TOLATA applications.

Inheritance Act Claims: Matthew has a burgeoning interest in Inheritance (Provisions for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 claims. He has experience of successfully advising in

contentious claims for provision under the Act.

Notable Cases

Civil

Kemsheds Trust

Successfully represented Northampton County Council against developers attempting to claim ownership via inheritance of a village car park based on disputed epitome of title.

G v G

Acted for the Claimant in a complex mortgage possession matter relying on the Mercantile Law Amendment Act 1856.

M v M

Successfully resisted an application to enforce a building scheme by way of injunctions requiring the destruction of an extension.

S v C

Advised in an application for provision from deceased estate for foreign holidays on the basis they were a requirement for her health. Publications and other projects.

Drugs

R v G

Successfully defended as junior alone in a multi-handed three week county lines PWITS case. Matthew's client was the only defendant to be acquitted.

Maidstone Crown Court

[Drugs](#)

General Crime

R v B

Prosecuted a dangerous dogs case where a dog had been used as a weapon whilst dangerously under control.

Canterbury Crown Court

R v M

Successfully defended as junior alone in an seven handed armed robbery matter lasting a total of 62 days.

Maidstone Crown Court

Crime

Military

R v D

Successfully defended a soldier accused of abusing recruits under his command.

R v B

Successfully defended a soldier charged with sexual assault having won a contested s.41 application on the issue of the manner of consent.

R v H

Successfully defended a soldier in a case of GBH, where service injuries had led to memory loss of the incident concerned.

R v E

Successfully defended a soldier charged with fraud.

R v L

Represented an officer at sentence charged with conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline following a serious injury to one of his soldiers on exercise.

R v M

Successfully secured the quashing of a soldier's conviction for administering a noxious substance having identified failures in the judge advocate's summing up.

Re. H

Drafted written representations resulting in the overturning of the decision to terminate a soldier's service.

Re. B

Successfully argued that a sailor who failed a CDT should be retained in the Royal Navy.

R v W

Currently instructed to defend in an eight handed cross border conspiracy to evade duty involving the military postal system.

Swindon Crown Court

[Military](#)

Violence

R v H

Successfully defended a man charged with GBH.

Gloucester Crown Court

[Violence](#)

Achievements

Memberships

- Association of Military Court Advocates – Hon Secretary

- Hon Society of the Middle Temple – Member
- Criminal Appeals Lawyers Association – Member
- Criminal Bar Association – Member
- South Eastern Circuit – Member
- Midlands Circuit - Member

Appointments

- CPS General Crime Panel - Grade 3
- CPS Serious Crime Panel - Grade 2
- Attorney General's Civil C Panel
- Service Court Rules Review Committee - Member

Publications

- Bolt, M & Wallis G: Court martial hearings, fairness and the dismissal of charges - Cov. L.J. 2019, 24(2), 116-117 (available from Westlaw).
- Matthew is a contributor to the Global Military Justice Blog, an international collaboration run by Prof. Fidell of Yale University.

Education

- A(Hons): History – University of Southampton 2009
- LLB (Accelerated) - University of Southampton 2011
- BPTC - 2012