

## Nicola Carroll

2016 Inner Temple, carroll@deanscourt.co.uk



### Education

Staffordshire University - LLB (Hons)  
Former Solicitor - Admitted 2004  
Solicitor Advocate - 2009  
Called to the Bar - 2016 (Inner Temple)

### Appointments

Crown Prosecution Service Advocate Panel (Level 4)  
Crown Prosecution Service Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Panel  
Advocate

### Areas of Specialism

Crime

General Crime

Fraud

Homicide

Money Laundering

Firearms

Motoring Offences

Prison Law

Sexual Offences

International and Overseas

### Profile

Nicola is an established criminal practitioner with over 20 years experience working within the Criminal Justice System. She is an extremely capable advocate with excellent client care.

Prior to joining the Independent Bar Nicola spent 14 years as a Prosecutor at the Crown Prosecution Service in the North West where she litigated the most serious and complex cases including Murder, Death by Dangerous Driving, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences, high value Frauds, and lengthy and voluminous Drug conspiracies and operations.

Prior to joining the CPS in 2004 Nicola worked in a paralegal role on the Shipman Inquiry and the well publicised and now controversial MMR group litigation claims. Nicola has vast experience in handling sensitive and multifaceted data streams.

She is instructed by both the Prosecution and the Defence in a vast range of serious cases.

She is appointed as a Level 4 Prosecutor on the Crown Prosecution Service Advocate Panel and has been appointed to the CPS Rape and Serious Sexual Abuse List.

### Disclosure

In January 2018 Nicola assisted the Crown Prosecution Service during a period of Peer Review of all Rape cases charged in the North West region. This project was urgent and incredibly vital following the joint review of the disclosure process in the case of R v Allan and other collapsed rape cases nationally. Nicola thoroughly peer reviewed a vast number of RASSO cases and provided advice in respect of disclosure generally and whether, where there were failures to properly comply with statutory duties, those failings had any impact on the success or otherwise of those cases at court.

Nicola understands first-hand the pressures faced by the Prosecution when dealing with disclosure and is always happy to advise on all matters pertaining to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

Having that first-hand knowledge of course places her in a robust position when considering disclosure from the Defence perspective. Nicola regularly advises her Instructing Solicitors on how best to streamline their disclosure requests and on what might be considered to be a reasonable line of enquiry.

Nicola has in the past achieved terminating rulings in the Crown Court following legal arguments on abuse. Her in-depth knowledge of the disclosure processes and polices at the CPS have undoubtedly helped her achieve those results.

For a short time in 2014 Nicola worked for the Inspectorate of the CPS, HMCPSi, and was a contributor to the report "Achieving Best Evidence in Child Sexual Abuse Cases – a Joint Inspection."

## Notable Cases

### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Nicola has acted as sole counsel on a number of complex and voluminous cases and is adept in understanding the evidential strands of Drugs Conspiracies and OCG cases including cell-site, ANPR, telemetry data, telephone traffic and more and has skilfully dealt with expert witnesses in such cases.

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### Operation Arctic. R v O and others. Conspiracy to supply Class A. Defending. 2023

#### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Trial pending. Multi-handed conspiracy to supply Class A drugs in Salford.

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### Operation Mitcham. R v C and others. Kidnap, False Imp, Blackmail. Defending. 2022

#### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Trial. Multi-handed OCG "turf war" where the victim was kidnapped and tortured in a "drugs house". Trial ran for 8 weeks. Issues included voire dire hearsay arguments, PII, cell site and telephone data.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/twisted-torturers-poured-boiling-water-24745059>

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### Operation Comanche. R v A and others. Undercover drugs operation. Defending. 2022.

#### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Trial. Represented 2 separate defendants in an undercover drugs operation. Issues involved flawed ID by an undercover officer and anonymity arguments.

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### Operation Horizon. R v M and others. County-lines drug trafficking. Defending. 2020.

#### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Trial. Drug-trafficking trial involving 33 defendants. "Operation Horizon" was prompted as a result of a nationwide county-lines drug dealing organising which had led to the deaths of 14 people in the Barrow area. Issues involved cell-site, digital data and ANPR.

<https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/19023388.operation-horizon-34-criminals-brought-justice-major-police-sting/>

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### Operation Stark. Prosecuting. July 2020

#### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Listed for trial twice due to covid-19 pandemic. In between those dates further offences came to light which prompted a guilty plea. Digital evidence was voluminous and required several days to review.

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### R v F. Prosecuting. Drug Smuggling. NCA case. Prosecuting

#### Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases

Trial. Defendant attempted to smuggle over 120g of cocaine into Abu Dhabi where it would have held a street value of over £24,000. Jury sworn and case opened. Overnight, Nicola assisted the NCA in creating a sequence of events of the most incriminating phone messages. Thousands of pages of data to consider. Once served, the D was re-arraigned on

day 2 of the trial and pleaded guilty.

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### **R v A. Supply of importation quality cocaine and firearms. Prosecuting.**

#### **Practice Area: Drugs/OCG cases**

Trial of issue. The Defendant pleaded guilty to possessing 3kilos of importation quality cocaine, with intent to supply it. He also pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited weapon, namely a stun gun. He denied that he was significantly involved in the operation and claimed to be a warehouseman. After an effective trial of issue, the Judge ruled against him and sentenced him as per the Crown's case. Case preparation involved analysing several thousand pages of phone data which revealed that in fact he was not working alone. His co-conspirators were subsequently arrested and prosecuted for conspiracy to supply drugs, and for possessing firearms. Cumulatively the gang were sentenced to more than 40 years in custody.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/chorlton-crime-gang-found-assassins-14301389>

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### **R v A and others. Conspiracy to Rob. Defending 2023**

#### **Practice Area: Serious Violence**

Trial pending. Multi-handed prosecution relating to personal robberies in Manchester City Centre.

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### **R v C. Controlling/Coercive behaviour and assault. Defending. September 2023**

#### **Practice Area: Serious Violence**

Terminating ruling following successful legal argument on abuse of process.

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### **R v F. S18 Wounding. Defending. September 2023.**

#### **Practice Area: Serious Violence**

Stabbing of a stranger in Piccadilly Gardens. Listed for trial. Defendant had pleaded guilty to S20 at PTPH. Crown ultimately offered no evidence on the S18 after 2 trial dates had passed due to lack of court time. Defendant ultimately received a community order to reflect the time he had spent on a qualifying curfew.

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### **R v R and others. Multi-handed Armed Robbery. Prosecuting. April 2023.**

#### **Practice Area: Serious Violence**

Plea after 1<sup>st</sup> trial date. Organised armed robbery – victim lured to scene then ambushed. All 3 Defendants pleaded not guilty but changed their plea after the digital forensic analysis of the seized devices.

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### **R v H. Serious Assault (S20). Prosecuting. February 2023**

#### **Practice Area: Serious Violence**

Trial. Single count "one-punch" GBH on a football pitch resulting in a broken jaw with life-changing injuries. Defendant convicted. Legal argument on the admissibility of the victims good character.

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### **Operation Valiant. R v M & others. Multi-handed Armed Robberies. Prosecuting. March 2023.**

#### **Practice Area: Serious Violence**

Plea before trial. Multi handed armed robberies of students in Manchester. 10 count indictment.

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### **R v B. Rape. Prosecuting. 2023**

#### **Practice Area: Rape and Serious Sexual Offences**

Stranger attack. Intoxicated and vulnerable lone female preyed upon by D in Barrow town centre.

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**R v S. Sexual Assault by penetration. Prosecuting. 2023.**

**Practice Area: Rape and Serious Sexual Offences**

Stranger attack. Intoxicated and vulnerable lone female preyed upon by D in Manchester City Centre.

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**R v F. Rape and Strangulation. Defending. September 2023**

**Practice Area: Rape and Serious Sexual Offences**

Trial. Defendant acquitted after the prosecution offered no evidence on both offences following the cross-examination of the Complainant.

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**R v G. Rape of child under 13/multiple child sex offences. Prosecuting. January 2023**

**Practice Area: Rape and Serious Sexual Offences**

Prosecution of a prolific paedophile. Voluminous and graphic digital forensic analysis.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/paedophile-84-finally-faces-justice-26797355>

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**R v M. Rape. Defending. November 2022.**

**Practice Area: Rape and Serious Sexual Offences**

Trial. Defendant acquitted of the rape of a female he had met on a night out in Oldham.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/man-charged-rape-following-alleged-24023439>

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**R v A and others. Conspiracy to de-fraud. Defending. 2023.**

**Practice Area: Fraud/Other**

Multi-handed "parcel fraud" conspiracy. Acting for a vulnerable female Defendant.

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**Operation Pelham. R v A and others. ICO prosecution. Defending. 2023**

**Practice Area: Fraud/Other**

Multi-handed computer misuse case involving the use of unlawfully obtained data. Paper bundle over 2,000 pages. Acting for a man of good character.

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**R v M. £50,000 income tax fraud. Prosecuting. 2021**

**Practice Area: Fraud/Other**

Plea before trial. 5 years of fraudulent tax returns. Paper heavy case requiring cross-referencing of all the various streams of evidence/data.

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**R v B. Fraud. Prosecuting. 2018**

**Practice Area: Fraud/Other**

Trial. 10,000 page VAT fraud involving a female defendant who had a history of being a vexatious litigant. Instructed the day before trial. Defendant convicted.

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## R v C and K. Possession IIOC. Defending 2021.

### Practice Area: Notable youth cases

Terminating ruling following successful legal argument on abuse of process where the "unconscionable" delay in prosecuting these youths was found to have "undermined the foundation stones of the youth justice system"

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## R v A. Rape. Defending. 2019

### Practice Area: Notable youth cases

Trial. Representing a 16 year old boy with both language and communication issues. He was assisted by an intermediary for the trial. Very sensitive stranger rape case involving frame by frame CCTV analysis from a number of city centre venues.

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## R v A. Rape. Defending. Youth Court

### Practice Area: Notable youth cases

Trial. A 15 year old boy for trial had been charged with the rape of a 14 year old girl, arising out of what he argued was teenage sexual exploration. Issue was consent. The case involved sensitive and careful cross examination of a number of teenage witnesses and examination of phone evidence, some of which was not disclosed until day two of the trial. Defendant acquitted.

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## R v C. Rape. Prosecuting. Youth Court

### Practice Area: Notable youth cases

Trial. Issue was consent. The Defendant, a 15 year old virgin, claimed that he reasonably believed that the Complainant was consenting. S41 application made and successfully opposed. Defendant convicted.

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## R v W Prosecuting. Rape. Youth Court

### Practice Area: Notable youth cases

Trial. The Complainant was an adult relative of the youth Defendant. She was asleep at the time the offence was committed. Defendant convicted.

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## R v C Prosecuting. Biological weapons. Youth Court

### Practice Area: Notable youth cases

Nicola was instructed by the CPS Complex Casework Unit in relation to a case being prosecuted under the Biological Weapons Act 1974. The defendant was a youth and had attempted to purchase abrin from the dark web. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> only prosecution of its type in the UK. The case came down to legal arguments on the definition of the term "peaceful purpose". Nicola successfully argued that the defendant did not have a defence of peaceful purpose pursuant to the Biological Weapons Act 1974. Guilty plea following successful legal argument.

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### What the Directories say

"Nicola is an excellent advocate in Court, who does not back down."

Instructing Solicitor

When dealing with an extremely vulnerable female client of mine Nicola showed great patience, compassion and consideration - she spent considerable time with this client and went above and beyond to assist her.

Because of her exceptionally thorough knowledge of criminal law and procedure Nicola ultimately managed to have the case against my client dropped, which was a fantastic result.

Instructing Solicitor

Her client care is excellent. Nicola really cares about doing the absolute best she can for her clients.

Instructing Solicitor

"Nicola is an extremely capable advocate who impresses with her robust and can-do approach in difficult and challenging cases. Dedicated and hardworking, she is always meticulously prepared. With her down to earth and approachable manner, she is a pleasure to work with".

Instructing Solicitor

"I wouldn't have any hesitation in briefing Nicola on a variety of cases with varying degrees of complexity as she is always thorough, well prepared, robust and pro-active.

CPS

"Nicola is ideal to represent me at my upcoming trial. She is able and confident and has set my mind at ease."

Client

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