



2026 Notable Cases

R v O – Canterbury Crown Court

Concerned in the Supply of Class A Drugs

The defendant was charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs, namely heroin and crack cocaine, and possession of criminal property, following an arrest in Canterbury linked to police surveillance.

The prosecution alleged involvement in an organised drugs operation. The defence worked intensively to establish that the defendant had acted under duress, having been subjected to threats, coercion, and exploitation. A statutory defence under section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was advanced.

Following a full trial at Canterbury Crown Court, the jury returned not guilty verdicts on all counts.

The defendant was acquitted and released.

R v A – Reading Crown Court

The client was charged with Possession with Intent to Supply heroin and crack cocaine, following targeted police surveillance and an on-street stop. He was found in possession of significant quantities of Class A drugs, and the Crown pressed strongly for an immediate custodial sentence.

Crownbridge Law advanced robust mitigation and clear submissions on role and personal circumstances.

Outcome:

2-year SUSPENDED sentence.

R v A – Croydon Crown Court

The client was jointly charged with ten others in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. The Crown

alleged that he had conspired to obtain in excess of one kilogram of cocaine, a quantity ordinarily attracting a substantially higher sentencing starting point.

Crownbridge Law advanced focused mitigation and clear submissions on role and culpability, successfully reducing the client's position within the conspiracy.

Outcome:

4-year custodial sentence, reflecting a reduced role and a sentence below the usual starting point for the alleged quantity.

R v A – Oxford Crown Court

Possession of an offensive weapon (axe) and possession of a bladed article in a public place.

The client faced sentencing for serious weapons offences arising from a public incident where the Crown submitted that immediate custody was inevitable.

Crownbridge Law advanced focused mitigation, relying on the client's lack of previous convictions, guilty plea, positive pre-sentence report, employment, and family support.

Outcome:

22 months' imprisonment (axe) and 12 months (knife), concurrent and wholly SUSPENDED, avoiding immediate custody.

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R v A – Bradford Crown Court – Kidnap

The client was accused of being one of three masked men alleged to have kidnapped a man, forcing him into a vehicle, taking him to a secluded location, and assaulting him with hammers. The Crown relied on CCTV footage, identification evidence, cell-site maps, and mobile phone evidence, alleging the incident was connected to missing drugs.

At the close of the prosecution case, Crownbridge Law made decisive half-time submissions. The client was acquitted.

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