



New Park Court

Date: 22 October 2026

Time: 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Place: The Leonardo Hotel, Fry Street,
Middlesbrough TS1 1JH

Booking: Limited spaces available.
To reserve your places(s) at this free Crime Seminar,
please email mail@newcastlelawsociety.co.uk

*Canapés and refreshments prior to
and after the seminar presentations*

Crime Seminar

By Newcastle and North of England Law Society
in association with New Park Court Chambers.

James Bourne-Arton KC

Year of call 2001 / 2024



Practical approach to advising clients charged with murder.

James Bourne-Arton KC will provide a practical approach to the early stages of advising clients facing an allegation of murder. There will be particular emphasis on addressing the perceived loss of control and the overwhelming, supervening events.

Matthew Donkin KC

Year of call 2004 / 2026



Section 5 offences: Causing or Allowing Death or Serious Physical Injury to a child or vulnerable adult.

Matthew Donkin KC will discuss the recent case where he, on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions, successfully appealed to the Supreme Court the decision of the Court of Appeal in R v Sheikh and others. The Supreme Court provided guidance on the statutory construction of section 5 (1) (d) (iii) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

New Park Court Chambers' expertise is recognised nationwide.

In 2026, the set was awarded 'Chambers of the Year' at the Modern Law Awards, and it was the only set outside of London to be shortlisted at The Lawyer Awards, where they were presented 'Highly Commended' in the 'Chambers of the Year' category. Previously, New Park Court also won the titles of 'Chambers of the Year 2025' at the LexisNexis Legal Awards, 'Chambers of the Year 2024' at the British Legal Awards and 'Team of the Year – Crime and Regulatory' at the Northern Law Awards 2024.

The Speakers

James Bourne-Arton KC

Recognised as an accomplished and polished advocate, James Bourne-Arton KC has a national reputation for both the defence and prosecution of serious and financial corporate crime, including complex fraud, professional disciplinary and regulatory work.

He has experience in all areas of financial crime, including missing trader cases, cash detention and forfeiture, copyright, money laundering, and confiscation.

James is also in demand to act for individuals charged with serious and organised criminal offences including murder, terrorism and organised crime.

A fearless and persuasive advocate, James is known for giving clear and commercially astute legal advice in cases that involve a large amount of evidence, and he has the ability to make complex legal and financial issues easily digestible.

Matthew Donkin KC

Matthew Donkin KC is recognised in the leading Directories as “exceptional in his field” and “knowledgeable and skilled”. He specialises in cases involving substantial and complex issues of evidence and law.

Matthew’s practice typically involves cases with significant expert evidence. He has a particular interest in presenting and challenging expert medical opinion and has developed a specialism in cases involving serious injury inflicted upon infants.

For a number of years Matthew has been dealing with cases of homicide and his practice has also involved terrorism, serious sexual offending, high-level dishonesty and commercial fraud and serious organised crime.

Matthew’s experience is extensive. He was appointed to the CPS panel at Grade 4 before he was 10 years’ call, and was then the most junior appointee to the Serious Crime Panel on the North Eastern Circuit.

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T: 0191 232 1980
E: clerks@newparkcourt.co.uk
www.newparkcourt.co.uk

New Park Court Chambers,
3 Broad Chare, Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 3DQ