



RECORDER 2005

MEMBER OF THE CRIMINAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Bernadette has been a member of Lincoln House Chambers since 1992 and has developed a busy and broadly based criminal and regulatory practice.

She read Law at the London School of Economics and graduated with an Upper Second degree in 1986. After completing her pupillage in London, Bernadette moved to Manchester to begin private practice. In the course of her pupillage, she lectured in law, on a part time basis, at the London School of Economics.

CRIMINAL LAW

Bernadette has a busy practice encompassing all areas of Criminal Litigation in the Crown Court. She also regularly sits as a Crown Court Recorder and is a Category 4 Prosecutor.

Crime is the largest proportion of Bernadette's practice and she regularly appears, for both the prosecution and the defence, in a range of cases dealing with serious crime including; murder, manslaughter, serious sexual assaults, drugs, violence and dishonesty. She has particular expertise in conducting rape cases and has spoken to an audience of specialist police officers and prosecution lawyers on the subject at the St. Mary's Centre Annual Conference in Manchester. She has also lectured on "the role of the barrister" as part of the Senior Investigating Officers training course for the Greater Manchester Police.

She also appears in a number of large scale drugs conspiracies (and associated Confiscation proceedings) and is currently instructed to defend in a 9 handed conspiracy to import £250 million pounds worth of cocaine.

REGULATORY WORK

Over many years Bernadette has appeared before Police Discipline Tribunals on behalf of Officers who are alleged to have breached the Police Discipline Regulations. Her practice is largely confined to Forces in the North of England (Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester) but she has also represented officers from Derbyshire and North Wales. She also frequently conducts Chief Constable's Review Hearings and hearings before the Police Appeal Tribunal. These proceedings are civil proceedings, which rely heavily upon written submissions, but they have strong parallels to the rules of evidence and procedure applicable in criminal cases. Bernadette's long experience in the criminal courts means that she is well able to deal with the demands and sensitivities of this type of work.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

Bernadette also prosecutes for the General Medical Council before its Fitness to Practise and Interim Orders Panel. These are also civil proceedings with rules of evidence and procedure very similar to those applicable in the criminal courts. The hearings can cover all aspects of professional misconduct, including deficient professional performance and often involve extremely sensitive subject matter. Bernadette is currently instructed to prosecute Dr. Daniel Ubani (a German national working as a GP for an Out of Hours service in the UK) before a Fitness to Practise Panel for misconduct, including the administration of a massive overdose of morphine which killed one of his patients.

NOTABLE CASES

R-v-Martin Alexander FORSHAW (October 2009 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette (led by Peter Wright QC) was instructed to defend a police officer charged with the murder of his fiancée, who was also a serving police officer.

R-v-Mohammed PATEL (January 2010 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette was instructed to defend a police officer charged with misconduct in a public office. The Defendant was working as a registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages whilst also working as a police officer.

R-v-Phillip BERRY (March 2010 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette was instructed to defend a police officer charged with misconduct in a public office. The Defendant, a former drug squad officer, was alleged to have “sold” sensitive police information to a known drug dealer.

R-v-Timothy JONES (March 2008 and March 2009 Mold Crown Court). Bernadette was instructed to defend a police officer charged with rape and sexual assault in two separate trials. The Defendant was said to have met all of his victims in the course of his work and one of the rapes was said to have taken place in a police station.

R-v-Natalie CONNOR (December 2007 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette (led by Paul Reid QC) was instructed to defend a 17 year old girl with learning difficulties charged with murder. She was jointly charged with her parents and grandmother. Against a background of bullying between Natalie and the daughter of the deceased, she and her parents set fire to the girl’s home killing the parents and seriously injuring the girl.

R-v-Sarah WATSON (January 2009 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette defended a mother charged with the manslaughter of a man who had sexually assaulted her young son. The deceased had fallen, to his death, from the balcony of his flat whilst running away from the Defendant and her co-accused.

R-v- Errol REYNOLDS (October 2006 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette (led by Andrew O’Byrne QC) was instructed to defend a young man charged with murder-a gangland shooting in which all of the principle witnesses were granted anonymity.

R-v-Callum DAVIES (September 2009 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette prosecuted a 17 year old serial sex offender who sexually assaulted and raped a number of women in a public park.

R-v-Ross GLEAVE (March 2008 Preston Crown Court). Bernadette prosecuted a young man for the stranger rape of a 10 year old child in a public park. The Defendant was identified when the police released a photofit picture, provided by the child, to the public.

GMC-v- Dr. Adam OSBORNE (February 2010). Bernadette prosecuted Dr. Osborne, a psychiatrist (the brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer) for serious misconduct (including dishonesty) before a Fitness to Practise Panel. He was suspended from the medical register.

GMC-v-Dr. Michael RUSLING (September 2009). Bernadette prosecuted Dr. Rusling, a GP, for offences of serious sexual misconduct with 3 of his patients before a Fitness to Practise Panel. His name was erased from the medical register.

GMC-v-ADWEDDA (July 2007). Bernadette prosecuted Dr. Adwedda, an Anaesthetist, who misplaced an epidural in a pregnant woman leading to cardiac/respiratory arrest when the patient was undergoing a Caesarean section. The doctor failed to recognise the cause of the arrest in time and the woman suffered severe and permanent brain damage as a result.

GMC-v-UBANI (2010) Bernadette prosecuted a German doctor who on his first day of work as an “out of hours” GP in the UK gave a patient a fatal overdose of diamorphine.

R-v-TUFAIL (Between 2006 and October 2008 Manchester Crown Court). Bernadette defended in 3 separate but connected matters; a 9 handed conspiracy to supply 10 kilos of cocaine, money laundering sums in excess of £1 million and Confiscation Proceedings involved assets of £1.2 million.

R-v-RIMMER and others (2010) Bernadette defended in one of the largest drugs conspiracies ever prosecuted in the UK; her client was charged with 9 others with conspiracy to import half a billion pounds worth of cocaine.

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

St Mary’s High School, Hull
London School of Economics
University of London (LL.B 2:1) 1983-1986;
Inns of Court School of Law 1986-1987

HM Customs & Excise list

PERSONAL

Bernadette was born and grew up in Hull attending St. Mary’s RC High School for her secondary education. She moved to Manchester in 1988 and has lived here ever since.

When not at work she loves to spend time with friends and family, particularly her husband and two young sons. She is also a keen reader and enjoys cinema, theatre and travel.