



Rachel has a very busy practice and is regularly instructed by both prosecution and defence in major cases involving all aspects of criminal law.

Rachel was instructed to prosecute the first case brought by the GMP Cold Case Review Unit and the first murder case brought by the unit, in 2006. She has also been instructed in all the other cases prosecuted by the Unit.

Rachel was recently instructed to prosecute the first major terrorism case to be heard outside London.

The 2007 edition of The Legal 500 confirmed that 'for heavy crime [Rachel is a] very experienced and competent junior'.

#### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Recorder (2004)

## NOTABLE CASES

### R. v. Ahmed, Ahmed and Haji

Prosecution first junior (led by Andrew Edis QC)

Terrorism. Long-running and complex investigation into high-ranking member of Al Qaeda. Three month trial involving difficult legal and evidential issues, resulting in the first conviction in the UK for directing Al Qaeda. VHCC.

### "Operation Stallion"

Prosecution junior (led by H Bentham QC)

"Operation Stallion": Long-running GMP drugs squad investigation culminating in 2004 with the arrests of 7 Defendants and the seizure of heroin with a street value of just under £2,000,000. Lengthy confiscation proceedings. VHCC

### "Operation Sicily"

Prosecution junior (led by H Bentham QC)

Money laundering investigation arising out of Operation Stallion. Detailed financial investigation identified very significant sums of money passing through a currency exchange, of which £1,401,650.00 was directly referable to the Manchester drugs conspiracy. VHCC

### R v. Jones and Others

Defence junior for Spencer (led by Maura McGowan QC)

Conspiracy to murder. In 2001 the victim was shot in his home in front of his wife and child. In 2003 there was a trial of a number of Defendants, all but two of whom were convicted of conspiracy to murder. After conviction, one of those Defendants offered to tell the police who else had been involved in the conspiracy. Detailed second investigation led to second trial for conspiracy to murder, against four Defendants including Spencer. The previously-convicted Defendant gave evidence for the Prosecution in the trial and re-trial. Spencer was acquitted after 2 hung juries failed to reach verdicts. VHCC

### R v Keen

Prosecution junior

The first GMP Cold Case Review Unit prosecution. Rape and false imprisonment of a prostitute by the Defendant for the purpose of creating illegal pornography. Defendant convicted after trial and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment.

### R. v Wong and Liu

Defence junior for Liu (led by Andrew O'Byrne QC)

Case involving the death of a baby, killed by his carer, Wong. Lui was charged with causing or allowing the death of the child, contrary to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, and attempting to pervert the cause of justice. The Prosecution relied on the evidence of Mr Liu's son (then aged about 8) against Ms Wong on murder and Mr Liu. Issues included the cultural differences in approach to bringing up children in a traditional Chinese family and the precise nuances of language. Mr Liu's son was cross-examined at trial. Liu was acquitted on the direction of the judge after submissions at the end of the prosecution case.

### R v Suddons.

Prosecution junior (alone)

High profile case involving multiple sexual assaults carried out over a 2 month period, leading up to a knife point rape. (Suddons was described in the press as the "Yellow Brick Road Rapist" due to his targeting women and girls along the 'Yellow Brick Road' tow path.) Defendant aged only 17 at the date of his guilty pleas was described as "highly dangerous" and sentenced to life imprisonment.

### R v C and P

Leading junior for the Prosecution.

Cohabiting couple committed serious sexual offences against a number of victims, including children of the woman. One of the victims was repeatedly raped by both Defendants and bore children with hereditary birth defects. Another child was adopted in infancy but made contact with the female defendant (P) as a young adult and was raped by the male defendant (C) on her first visit to stay with them. C was sentenced to five concurrent sentences of life imprisonment (with other concurrent determinate sentences). P was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. VHCC.

### R v. Blair

Defence junior (led by Anthony Cross QC)

The Defendant murdered two people, his sister and brother in law, beating each of them to the head with a hammer. He stayed in their house, with the bodies, selling their property and using their money to pay for food, drink and a stay in a hotel for himself and his girlfriend. After his arrest and charge, the Defendant was remanded to a secure unit at Ashworth Hospital for assessment of his mental condition, at the time of the offences and subsequently. After full expert assessment he was deemed fit to plead and to stand trial. Thorough preparation and full analysis of the evidence failed to identify sufficient evidence to support a defence to murder. The Defendant pleaded guilty to both counts.

## R v O'Callaghan

Prosecution junior (led by Andrew O'Byrne QC)

The first GMP Cold Case Review Unit prosecution for murder. Defendant murdered a woman in a bus station at night, in the toilets, in January 1994. He stripped the body and mutilated it, cutting off the victim's breast. A massive murder enquiry in 1994 failed to identify the Defendant but a review and reinvestigation of the forensic evidence identified the Defendant's DNA missed with a smear of the victim's breast tissue at the scene. Paper-heavy case due to nature and extent of original investigation and complex evidential and forensic issues at trial. Defendant convicted after trial.

## R. v Hadley, Hadley, Cox and Skidmore

Defence junior for Skidmore (led by Alan Conrad QC)

Appeal against conviction for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. This was the second appeal of the case of R. v H and C (leading case on disclosure). Investigation after the verdicts identified that the Prosecution had not made full and proper disclosure and the appeals were brought and out of time. Successful appeal and re-trial ordered. Subsequently, the Prosecution offered no evidence on the re-trial, after further disclosure problems. Difficult arguments on evidence, law and abuse of process. VHCC.

## R. v. Davies, Simmons and Tottle

Defence junior for Simmons (led by M Hussain QC)

Prosecution for importation and supply of Class A drugs and money laundering, brought after a five year investigation involving the GMP, NCS (as was) and SOCA, Paper-heavy case, due to length of investigation, large numbers of other linked Defendants convicted before the first Defendant's extradition and detailed financial investigation in the UK and in Spain. Lengthy trial at which Simmons was acquitted at the close of the Prosecution case, after submission of no case to answer was allowed. VHCC.

## R. v. Tomi,

Prosecution junior (alone)

People trafficking into and within the UK, rape and controlling and exploiting prostitution. The 8 defendants were all Romanian citizens who had trafficked into the UK a Roma woman. They then exploited her for prostitution in the UK. Evidentially complex case, arising out of another investigation into a different trafficking ring. The trial was listed with an estimate of 12 weeks. After 6 days spent at court, all Defendants bar Sivak pleaded guilty to the indictment. The Prosecution offered no evidence against Sivak as a result of new evidence obtained immediately before the trial. VHCC

## R. v. Khan, Fazal and Singh

Defence junior for Khan (alone): Fraud. The Defendant was an insurance claims manager with CIS Insurance. Over a number of years he developed a scheme for creating false insurance claims and stole £1.4 million from his employers, some of which was paid to his co-Defendants who had helped him by assisting with the creation of sham solicitors' firms and fictional claimants. The evidence ran to several thousand pages, as the investigation covered large numbers of false claims and a detailed audit of the movement of money from CIS. The Defendant pleaded guilty on a basis limiting his personal gain to £1,000,000.

## "Operation Banda"

Leading junior counsel for the Prosecution

Linked conspiracies to possess firearms with intent to endanger life, conspiracy to possess firearms and conspiracy to possess ammunition. Defendants from London, Manchester and Leeds and principal defendants connected to well-known Manchester gangs. Evidentially complex case, relying on telephone evidence and cell-site to link the defendants and the conspiracies together. Large amount of surveillance evidence and number of PII issues. VHCC

## R. v. Marshall

Prosecution junior (alone)

Cold Case Review Unit prosecution after re-investigation of unsolved rape and robbery in 1992 and obtaining of new DNA evidence. Marshall pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

## R. v. Sinclair

Prosecution junior (alone)

Cold Case Review Unit prosecution after re-investigation of unsolved attempted rape in 1994 and obtaining of new DNA evidence. Sinclair pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment.

## R. v. Derbyshire

Prosecution junior (alone)

Cold Case Review Unit prosecution after re-investigation of unsolved rape in 1995 and indecent assaults in 1993 and obtaining of new DNA evidence. Derbyshire pleaded guilty and a life sentence was imposed.

## R. v. Watkins

Prosecution junior (alone)

Cold Case Review Unit prosecution after re-investigation of unsolved rape and indecent assault in 1991 and obtaining of new DNA evidence. Defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment.

## R. v. Heyes

Prosecution junior (alone)

Cold Case Review Unit prosecution after re-investigation of unsolved serious indecent assaults in 1991 and 1998 and obtaining of new DNA evidence. Defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment to be served concurrently with life sentence imposed for other sexual offences.

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R .v. Leonard

Prosecution junior (alone)

Cold Case Review Unit prosecution after re-investigation of unsolved anal rape in 1998 and obtaining of new DNA evidence. Defendant convicted after trial and sentence to 7½ years' imprisonment.

"Operation Toulouse"

Prosecution junior (alone)

People trafficking into and within the UK, rape and controlling and exploiting prostitution. The 6 defendants were all Romanian citizens who had trafficked into the UK a Romanian woman. They then exploited her for prostitution in the UK. She was raped repeatedly by the first defendant and suffered severe violence from the defendants. Evidentially complex case, listed for lengthy trial. Defendants all pleaded guilty at trial.

## EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

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Achieved the highest mark in the England and Wales Bar Finals in 1990

Call: 1990

Recorder: 2008

Grade 4 Prosecutor

Member of the Criminal Bar Association