

Isobel Thomas prosecutes and defends in a wide range of criminal matters; including, but not limited to, sexual offences, drugs, violence and fraud. She is also frequently instructed in driving matters, having developed a reputation as a forceful advocate able to deal with complex/unusual legal issues that may arise. Isobel is able to quickly build a good rapport with clients and provides clear and practical advice at every stage in proceedings.

In her regulatory practice, Isobel is often instructed by Local Authorities and private clients to deal with a variety of matters, including licensing, food safety and trading standards.

Isobel also accepts instructions in civil cases. She appears before the County Court in small claim and fast track trials. She advises on both liability and quantum in a range of personal injury matters.

Prior to joining the bar, Isobel worked for a well-known North London solicitors firm, during which she completed the preliminary stages of becoming an accredited Police Station representative. She also spent considerable time working on the case of *R v AK & AW*, the largest mortgage fraud to have taken place in the UK.

Isobel is public access qualified.

Criminal Law

Isobel has a great deal of experience in dealing with a wide range of different offences in Crown Court; from preliminary hearings to trial.

Notable Cases

R v DN – Junior counsel for the defence in murder trial. The defendant was charged with murdering her ex-partner in a brutal attack involving an axe and a hammer. The defendant admitted manslaughter but denied murder, relying on the partial defence of loss of control. Defendant acquitted of murder following a 10 day trial. She was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for manslaughter.

R v DL – Defended a client charged with Indecent Assault on two girls under the age of 13. The offences dated back to 2000. Defendant acquitted after a 5-day trial.

R v JM – Successful prosecution following trial of a male charged with exposing himself in front of a family, including a 3-year old child. The defendant was subsequently detained under s41 Mental Health Act 1988.

R v AH – Three-week trial defending one of three brothers charged with a variety of offences including drug dealing, blackmail and witness intimidation.

R v KF – Client charged with robbery (in a home), possession of a firearm and possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Client pleaded guilty to robbery at the preliminary hearing and after successful negotiations the Crown did not proceed with the remaining counts.

Driving Offences

Isobel is frequently instructed to represent the defence in a range of driving offence cases. She is a very popular choice with both private clients and insurance backed firms. The work serviced is nationwide and Isobel is able to offer fixed fee structures to allow for those instructing to have complete transparency over costs.

Notable Cases

R v MH – Trial at Lancaster Crown Court in which the defendant and his co-defendant were charged with dangerous driving. The prosecution alleged that the two had been racing their cars at high speeds along country roads whilst being followed by the police. The case involved conflicting expert evidence regarding the speed of the police cars which came from data stored within the police vehicles. Three days into the trial, at the close of the prosecution case, the case was stopped by the Judge following a successful half time submission. Two police officers had given evidence for the prosecution and following cross-examination of both, the Judge viewed their evidence as inconsistent and weak that the case could not be left to the jury.

R v JB – Defendant employed as a HGV driver. He was charged with careless driving and an offence under s40A Road Traffic Act 1988 (as the manner in which his load was secured to his vehicle was such that it involved a danger of injury). Isobel was able to persuade the prosecutor to accept a plea to the s40A offence and offer no evidence on the careless driving charge. For the s40A offence, the defendant's licence was endorsed with 3 points. As such, he was able to keep his licence and his employment.



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Civil Law
Criminal Law
Judicial Review Law
Licensing
Personal Injury
Professional Discipline
Regulatory

R v IG – Isobel was able to persuade the court that it would cause ‘exceptional hardship’ to the defendant if he were disqualified from driving for a period of 6 months, despite the defendant having ‘totted up’ 12 points on his licence.

R v MS – Instructed to represent defendant charged with careless driving. Defendant successfully acquitted following a trial, which involved cross examination of two police officers.

R v CS – Instructed to represent defendant charged with drink driving. Case involved expert evidence concerning ‘back calculation’ of alcohol intake. Defendant acquitted.

Confiscation/Asset Recovery

Notable Cases

R v SH – Instructed to prosecute in a complicated two-day contested POCA hearing in which the Crown alleged that the defendant had substantial “hidden assets”.

R v RS – Instructed to prosecute in a POCA (order value: £285,000) in which there was legal argument involving time to pay under the old/new s.11 POCA. Isobel successfully argued that the new s.11 applies to confiscation orders made before its implementation date.

HMRC v AH – Forfeiture proceedings in which HMRC were applying to further detain £9000 of client’s money under s.298 POCA.

HO v NH – Contested forfeiture proceedings in which it was argued that the client’s money had come from legitimate sources and as such it’s continued detention could not be justified under s.298 POCA

Regulatory

Isobel has significant experience representing companies charged with regulatory offences, such as health and safety breaches and unauthorised advertising. As well as this she has been instructed in a number of various types of cases including: taxi licensing appeal, noise abatement notices, anti-social behaviour orders, temporary stop notices, health and safety, food hygiene.

Notable Cases

Bury MBC v The Dog House Bury Ltd – Instructed to prosecute in complicated 2 day premises licence appeal to the Magistrates’ Court.

Cheshire EC v TLC – Instructed to prosecute a trial in which the defendant was charged with being in breach of a Temporary Stop Notice, contrary to section 171G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The defendant was convicted and fined £7000.

Cheshire EC v AS – Instructed to prosecute an appeal brought by a taxi driver against the decision of the General Licensing Sub-Committee to revoke his Hackney Carriage Private Hire Drivers Licence. The decision of the Sub-Committee was upheld following the appeal.

Stockport MBC v KW & CS – Instructed to prosecute in contested ASBO application. The Magistrates decided the ASBO was necessary and appropriate.

Oldham BC v RN – Instructed to represent shop owner in contested hearing in which he faced losing his licence.

Civil Law

Personal Injury

Isobel has experience in fast-track and small claim trials, acting for both Claimant (often on a CFA) and Defendant. She has particular experience in cases involving road traffic accidents and frequently appears in a variety of hearings: Disposals, CCMCs, CMCs, infant approvals, relief from sanction applications, setting aside default judgment applications etc.

Notable Cases

Instructed to draft advices in relation to liability and quantum, Particulars of Claim, defence, part 18 & 35 questions and schedules of loss.

Acted for the Claimant in a case in which a lorry driver lost his middle finger in an accident at work. Liability admitted. Drafted schedule of special damages in relation to a complex loss of future earnings claim which led to a successful settlement for the Claimant.



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LINCOLN
HOUSE
CHAMBERS

Isobel Thomas

Call to the Bar: 2012

Prior to The Bar

September 2012 - Lewis Nedas Law

Prior to The Bar Isobel gained a real insight into operation of a busy firm of solicitors. She dealt with considerable face to face client contact and handling of the many different problems that clients constantly raise with their solicitors.

She was heavily involved in the preparation and conduct of R v AK & AW, a trial involving Britain's biggest mortgage fraud.

Isobel took instructions from clients in a variety of cases, including assault, drugs and sexual offences. Particular involvement in a historic familial sexual abuse case.

While at Lewis Nedas Law Isobel also completed the preliminary stages of the police station accreditation; represented clients at the police station on a regular basis.



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