

Sarah is a highly competent and versatile advocate, with a great deal of experience in serious offences within the criminal and regulatory spectrum, enabling her to handle cases involving complicated expert evidence and multi-handed prosecutions.

Sarah was Called to the Bar in 2016 as a transferring duty qualified Solicitor-Advocate, and has since become a member of the Association of Military Court Advocates, accepting instructions from both Courts Martial and members of the military facing prosecution in civilian courts.

She is a level 3 CPS Prosecutor and is also on the CPS Fraud Panel and Serious Organised Crime Panels. In addition to the CPS Panels Sarah is also on the Specialist Regulatory Advocate Panel which enables her to prosecute on behalf of various regulators including the Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency.

Experience prior to the Bar

Prior to qualification as a practitioner, Sarah worked within the field of forensic mental health, aiding those with serious mental illness caught up in the justice system, providing tier-1 support to individuals both in prisons and the wider community, a unique experience from which Sarah regularly draws upon in practice.

During her time reading Law at Cardiff University, Sarah led an Innocence Project team who were responsible for the casework that ultimately led to a murder conviction being successfully overturned at the Court of Appeal, a first for such a team in British legal history.

Cases of Interest

Violence/Youth

R v W et al - Preston Crown Court Series of armed robberies with imitation firearms, hammers and knives.

R v E and F - Barrow Crown Court Prosecuted two men for s.18 GBH

R v P and W - Preston Crown Court Defended one of two men prosecuted at trial for an armed robbery where a finger was severed

Operation Tahiti - Liverpool Crown Court Defended one of ten men prosecuted for football violence

R v T - Redditch Magistrates' Court Assault PC x 2, Obstruct, s.5 POA
Minor celebrity. Secured acquittal for all charges in a privately paid case that attracted a high level of media interest (national press and police professional standards in attendance).

R v A - Liverpool Crown Court Prison Mutiny Defended one of eight teenagers prosecuted for a "wanton orgy" of violent destruction in a YOI

R v C - Preston Crown Court s.18 GBH - defended child accused of the near-fatal stabbing of a teenager. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

Fraud/Money Laundering

Operation Jennet - Preston Crown Court Defended a RNLI volunteer, one of 10 defendants in a conspiracy to supply class A and money laundering



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal Law

Inquest & Inquiry

Courts Martial

Regulatory Law

PROFESSIONAL

Crown Prosecution Service Category
level 3 Advocate – General Crime

Crown Prosecution Service Category
level 3 Serious Organised Crime Group
Panel

Crown Prosecution Service Category
level 2 Fraud Panel

Specialist Regulatory Panel Grade C

Middle Temple

Criminal Bar Association

Northern Circuit

Association of Military Court Advocates

Health and Safety Lawyers Association

Young Legal Aid Lawyers Association

National Association for Youth Justice

R v S - Burnley Crown Court Defended carer prosecuted for long-running £96k fraud against elderly man who passed away pre-charge. Ran abuse argument on basis indictment was bad (successful).

R v P - Preston Crown Court Defended carer prosecuted for long-running fraud against elderly relative who lost capacity pre-trial. Opposed hearsay and made s.78 app to exclude ABE; successful.

Operation Atrium Carlisle Crown Court Defended one of 38 in a conspiracy to defraud motor insurers 'crash for cash'

Drugs

Operation Lawson - Preston Crown Court Prosecution junior, ten defendants, conspiracy to supply class A in Blackpool

R v L and S - Stafford Crown Court Conveying heroin and cocaine into prison

Operation Halogen - Carlisle Crown Court Defended one of seven charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine

R v Hamilton EWCA Crim 78 Conveying articles into prison (cocaine) – this case is the authority for how to sentence conveyance of drugs into prison. Successfully reduced sentence by half.

Courts Martial

R v Y - Catterick Military Court Centre Defended civilian subject to service discipline

R v C - Catterick Defended two counts of attempted s.18 GBH with a knife

Burglary/Arson

R v Sendera - Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court Conspiracy to commit burglary – value £3.5m Defended one Romanian defendant prosecuted alone for his role in a professional multi-handed UK-wide travelling jewellery store raiding gang

Sex

R v R - Preston Crown Court Rape; 18 year old defendant prosecuted for offences when 15 and 16 against 12 year old who then turned 13. CPS had waited to prosecute until he reached 18th birthday.

R v W - Preston Crown Court Successfully defended trial, four count indictment; historic sexual offences against a child

Firearms

R v WD - Carlisle Crown Court Firearms, private case – landowner with multiple weapons; sentence appeal allowed. Precious gun returned.



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