

Sarah Magill specialises in serious organised crime, courts martial, service discipline, professional discipline and inquests. She defends and prosecutes serious and complicated criminal matters. Sarah is a robust criminal practitioner with a proven record in dealing with heavyweight cases. She is regularly instructed in multiple defendant violence, firearms, drug and money laundering cases requiring meticulous analysis of case papers. She has extensive experience in the sensitive handling of vulnerable defendants and witnesses.

Sarah represents serving and former military personnel in the civilian criminal justice system and the service justice system. She also accepts public access instructions directly from members of the military who are facing disciplinary proceedings. In 2021 Sarah launched website Forces Legal Resources with barrister Matthew Bolt from Cornwall Street Chambers, a project that stemmed from the publication of jointly written articles in regimental magazines.

Sarah Magill was Called to the Bar in 2016 as an already established criminal advocate. Described as **“knowledgeable, warm but assertive when needed”** with clients and **“articulate and fearless”** in court. She impresses **“with her command of detail and with her obviously high level of skill at deciding the really important points to go at. She is also clearly someone who knows what is right and is prepared to stand her ground.”**

Sarah is on the serious organised crime and fraud panels and was appointed to the level 3 CPS general criminal panel in 2018. Sarah is also on the specialist regulatory panel which enables her to prosecute on behalf of various regulators including the Health and Safety Executive, the Coal Board and the Environment Agency.

Experience prior to the Bar

Prior to qualification as a practitioner, Sarah worked within the field of forensic mental health, providing tier-1 support to individuals in prison and the community, Sarah regularly draws upon this unique experience.

Cases of Interest

Crime

Sarah is presently instructed in various large operations involving alleged organised crime groups. Sarah has been instructed to prosecute multi-handed conspiracies both alone and with a leader.

Operation Atrium Carlisle Crown Court; defended one of 38 in a conspiracy to defraud motor insurers ‘crash for cash’

Operation Lawson – Preston Crown Court, led junior for the Crown, ten defendants, conspiracy to supply class A in Blackpool.

Operation Jennet – Preston Crown Court; defended RNLI volunteer, one of 10 defendants in a conspiracy to supply class A and money laundering.

Operation Tahiti – Liverpool Crown Court; defended one of ten men prosecuted for football violence.



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

Operation Halogen – Carlisle Crown Court; defended one of seven charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine.

R v A, B E et al – Manchester Crown Square, led junior for the Crown, five defendants including one in absence. Conspiracy to supply class a. This was a matter linked operationally to a sensitive high-profile case and therefore required careful attention.

R v W et al – Preston Crown Court; defended man charged with a series of armed robberies with imitation handguns, hammers and knives.

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

R v T – Redditch Magistrates' Court; assault PC x 2, obstruction, 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 S – Burnley Crown Court; defended carer prosecuted for long-running £96k fraud against elderly man who died 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.

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

R v FB – Preston Crown Court – Firearms – question of antiquity. Defendant was an antiques dealer with a large range of militaria for sale.

R v BR and R v AK – Preston Crown Court – separately defended two former members of proscribed organisations charged with crimes of serious violence involving firearms.

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.

R v H – Carlisle Crown Court; appeared for the defendant who was acquitted after trial of an allegation of digitally penetrating the vagina of a woman in a hot tub during a party.

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 WO2 – Catterick Military Court Centre; defended senior NCO charged with conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline

R v Sgt C – Catterick MCC; defended soldier charged with s.20 GBH on a subordinate.

R v Y – Catterick MCC; defended civilian subject to service discipline charged with s.47 ABH and common assault.



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R v C – Catterick MCC, defended soldier charged with two counts of attempted s.18 GBH with a knife.

Inquests

Inquest touching on the death of a prisoner; Stafford, represented the family in a death in custody case where the cause of death was the consumption of novel psychoactive substances ('spice').



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