

Sarah Magill is a sought after junior specialising in regulatory, business crime, serious organised crime, fraud, courts martial, service and professional discipline and inquests. She defends and prosecutes complicated and technical matters. Sarah is a robust practitioner with a proven record in dealing with heavyweight cases. She is regularly instructed in multiple defendant cases, including cases of homicide. She has extensive experience in the careful handling of specialist professional witnesses and vulnerable defendants and witnesses.

Sarah is a specialist courts martial advocate and accepts instructions directly from members of the military who are facing disciplinary proceedings. In 2021 Sarah launched website Forces Legal Resources with Matthew Bolt from Cornwall Street Chambers.

Sarah Magill was Called to the Bar in 2016 as an 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 specialist regulatory panel which enables her to prosecute on behalf of regulators including the Health and Safety Executive, the Coal Board and the Environment Agency. She is on the serious organised crime and fraud panels and was appointed to the level 3 CPS general criminal panel in 2018.

Background

Prior to transferring to the Bar, Sarah worked for the country’s leading commercial and regulatory firms and was selected to work on long-running regulatory and fraud cases of significant complexity. With that grounding in enhanced litigation achieved, she then honed her skills as an advocate in the Magistrates’, Crown, Courts Martial and Court of Appeal. Now routinely instructed in cases involving fatalities and evidentially dense, lengthy trials for both the prosecution and defence, Sarah consequently enjoys repeated instructions in an enviable body of work.

Sarah is the Managing Director of Azadi Charity, a registered charity she founded with three other lawyers in 2021 that evacuates and resettles Taliban regime targets, many of whom are now resettling happily in the United Kingdom and comprise Judges and members of the special forces.

Cases of Interest

Regulatory and Business Crime

Sarah is presently instructed in cases involving allegations of gross negligence manslaughter and in cases prosecuted by HMRC.

Animal Protection Society v M. et. al – Preston Crown Court; instructed to defend consumer trading offences in respect of one of 4 defendants prosecuted by the Animal Protection Society who instructed Parry and Welch Solicitors (no longer trading). Advanced complex and detailed legal argument in four tranches that had the effect of terminating the prosecution. The prosecution were robustly criticised and the case received widespread media attention.



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 C; insolvency; director acting when disqualified – Manchester Crown Court at Minshull Street [2021 and 2022] instructed to defend one of two directors alleged to have been acting when disqualified.

R v BN instructed to advise pre-charge in respect of alleged gross negligence manslaughter or manslaughter following an infant fatality.

Delivered expert and specialist witness training to the Health and Safety Executive, to include analysis of historic HSE cases and training thereon.

Sarah has also acted for local authorities in matters of PII and in the civil courts, and for taxi licensing arms of local authorities during matters of licensing appeals.

Crime

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

Operation Highgate – Preston Crown Court 2022 (ongoing); led junior for the crown in the prosecution of a multi-handed class A conspiracy.

Operation Adelite – Manchester Crown Court 2022; led defence junior in 10 handed conspiracy to murder trial involving drill lyrics.

Operations Quebec and Quebec 2 - Preston Crown Court 2021 and 2022; junior alone in the prosecution of multi-handed Operation Quebec and then led junior in the larger more expansive Operation Quebec 2. The prosecutions involved conspiracy to supply class A from Liverpool to Blackpool and elsewhere.

Manchester Arena bombing case; Operation Mantaline – Manchester Crown Court, led junior for the Crown. Prosecuted 5 terror suspects including one in absence for conspiracy to supply class A, offences discovered during the investigation of the arena bombing during the Ariana Grande concert. Later reported within the Inquiry proceedings.

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.

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

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



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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 Kirkpatrick – Carlisle Crown Court – acquitted at half-time after legal argument in a trial involving Turnbull and s.78 argument.

R v J – Manchester Crown Court at Minshull Street – rape, controlling and coercive behaviour and ABH. Marital allegations against spouse. Acquitted of rape and s.47 ABH, hung jury on coercive and controlling behaviour, no retrial and no restraining order.

R v W – Preston Crown Court; successfully defended trial, four count indictment; historic sexual offences against a child. Fully acquitted.

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.

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 Cpl A – Catterick [2022]; allegation of sexual assault inside residence block

R v Sgt C – Catterick [2022]; allegation of ABH involving military police officer

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

R v Y – Catterick; defended civilian subject to service discipline abroad charged with multiple assaults

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

Forces Legal Resources can be found at www.boltandmagill.com



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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').

Presently instructed in two matters involving homicide.



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