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SARAH JONES KC

"Sarah is excellent. She is loved by the judges and really fierce in her defence practice."

Chambers & Partners 2025

Call: 1996 / Silk: 2019

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Sarah Jones KC is a very busy and highly sought-after silk, instructed for both the Crown and the Defence. She has extensive experience leading in the following areas:

- Murder
- Manslaughter (including gross negligence manslaughter)
- Court Martial (including defence of high-ranking individuals)
- Serious crime involving children (in particular FII and child destruction)
- Sexual Offending (Historic or recent, multi-complainant and multi-defendant)
- Fraud
- Appellate work where she was not instructed in the original trial.

Sarah is Head of Pump Court's Criminal Team.

Criminal

Sarah made her mark in prosecuting and defending in cases involving multiple allegations of historic sexual abuse and other serious sexual allegations. Having taken silk, she now undertakes the most serious and complex of cases and is routinely instructed by both prosecution and defence in cases of fatal violence, complex child cruelty and neglect, serious sexual violence and fraud. She accepts publicly and privately funded work and can in suitable cases be instructed on a direct access basis.

She is expert in the questioning or representation of those considered vulnerable either by reason of their extreme youth or age, capabilities, health or the nature of the offences with which the case is concerned. She is often instructed for challenging clients – those requiring careful handling due to psychiatric or other reasons. She has an

approachable manner but can be firm or authoritative as required.

Sarah has a punctilious approach to trial preparation with careful attention to disclosure and she is known for her rigorous disclosure applications. She is used to the management of extensive third party material. She is well-practised in seeking appropriate expert evidence, advising as to its clearest presentation and challenging the same in court.

Selected Cases

R v Oliver (Defending)

The defendant was accused of the murder of his brother by stabbing after causing 5 separate knife injuries in a row over pillowcases. He was acquitted of both murder and manslaughter in a trial at Winchester Crown Court.

Operation Tunis (Prosecuting)

Highly complex case of Factitious or Induced Illness alleging multiple offences of Causing/Attempting to cause GBH with intent and Child Cruelty by a mother on her infant son. The victim was a premature baby whose mother claimed he suffered complex medical needs. For almost two years her son suffered injury and ill treatment at her hands as doctors searched for rare genetic disorders or other medical diagnoses that might explain his symptoms before realising this was a case of FII. The case involved marshalling two years' worth of medical records from 6 different hospitals and expert evidence on a variety of medical issues (neurology, endocrinology, brain injury, radiology, emergency medicine, speech and language therapy and general paediatrics). Defendant convicted of multiple assault and cruelty charges before receiving 13 year prison sentence.

Operation Carr (Prosecuting)

3 Defendants prosecuted for offences arising out of the murder of a young man involved in County Lines drug dealing. The Prosecution case was that the victim was fatally stabbed when the three Defendants conspired to rob a rival drugs line. The Defendants were all convicted of robbery, conspiracy to rob and one Defendant convicted of murder and a second of manslaughter.

R v Crook (Defending)

Defendant with psychotic illness killed both parents. Prosecuted for murder. Jury convicted of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

R v Middleton (Defending)

Defendant acquitted of attempted murder following a trial where it was alleged he had stabbed ex-girlfriend multiple times.

Operation Brace (Defending)

6 defendants charged with conspiracies to kidnap related to organised crime. Case involved 3 separate trials and an interim appeal to the Court of Appeal.

R v Evans (Prosecuting)

Multiple complainants over 30 year span, alleging serious sexual offences following grooming against the Defendant. Sentenced to 26 years' imprisonment. Judge commended "an impeccable prosecution".

R v Salmon (Defending)

Multiple historic allegations against a former Stoke Mandeville Paediatrician which arose out of the Operation Yewtree investigation. The case involved historic guilty pleas to similar offences in the past, further allegations being made during the course of the investigation and complex factual, medical and psychiatric evidence. There were connections to Savile enquiries and press attention was intense. Instructing solicitors commented "We have found Miss Jones to be outstandingly professional and capable."

R v Goldswain (Defending)

Prosecution of man entrapped by vigilante self-proclaimed paedophile hunters. Stayed as an abuse of process.

R v Nursing (Defending)

In second ever mental capacity case prosecuted in Hampshire concerning allegations. Mrs Nursing's conviction was overturned in the Court of Appeal. Reported.

R v Urbanowicz (Defending)

Acquittal multiple allegations of enslavement where Polish workers were allegedly brought into the country to be exploited.

Courts Martial

Sarah has dealt with and advised on a huge variety of offences tried in court martial (most recently serious violence, fraud and sexual assault) and for a wide variety of ranks (Major General down to Private) and across all Services.

Selected Cases

LBdr W

Pleaded guilty to a serious assault but retained rank and career path.

Major S

A psychiatric Nurse on allegations of Sexual Touching.

SSgt C

On sexual assault charges in a court-martial.

Civil Fraud

Sarah is experienced in fraud and was regularly instructed by both defence and prosecution including defending in one of largest VAT fraud prosecutions in Hampshire, Operation Autovia.

She has extensive experience advising at earliest stages of investigations as to lines of enquiry, presentation of evidence and analysis and disclosure obligations. In so doing, Sarah regularly works with other organisations such as the MOD or DWP in preparing prosecutions.

Sarah has experience in advising commercial entities on criminal subject matter – for instance advising a security firm on legal obligations/liabilities and best practise when commencing investigations into misuse of a client's property on the dark web.

Selected Cases

R v A (Defending)

Multiple victims (large number alleged to be vulnerable) defrauded by their financial adviser.

R v W (Defending)

Long-term fraud conducted in breach of trust through company's financial systems

Qualifications

- Hardwicke Scholar, Lincoln's Inn
- Thomas More Bursary, Lincoln's Inn
- MA (Hons) Jurisprudence, University College, Oxford

Professional associations

- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Western Circuit

Professional activities

Sarah is an advocacy trainer for new practitioners and for the Vulnerable Witness Advocacy Training programme.

Outside Interests

Sarah loves making homemade preserves, enjoys musicals and is almost obsessive about both!

Publications

Sarah's most recent essay was published in Chambers quarterly crime bulletin and was on the subject of the Code of Practise for Interviewing Defence witnesses.