



GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS

Anya Lewis QC

YEAR OF CALL: 1997 | YEAR OF SILK: 2021



Anya Lewis is an experienced criminal defence advocate who specialises in complex and sensitive cases including those involving allegations of murder (including baby-shaking), fraud and serious sexual offences.

She is consistently ranked in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500.

"An extremely persuasive and highly skilled advocate who is always meticulously prepared and offers exceptional client care."

CHAMBERS UK, 2021 (CRIME)

"Meticulous preparation... persuasive skill in advocacy, in particular closing speeches, capture the full attention of the jury resulting in extremely high rates of acquittals."

LEGAL 500, 2021 (CRIME)

"Exceptionally bright, industrious and proactive. She understands the needs of the case, the client and the solicitor, and balances them all beautifully."

LEGAL 500, 2020 (FRAUD)

"Excellent on forensics issues, she has a lot of experience in child murder cases."

CHAMBERS UK, 2019

"Utterly reliable, compassionate and effective."

CHAMBERS UK, 2017 (CRIME)

If you would like to get in touch with Anya please contact the clerking team:

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CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Anya is an experienced criminal defence advocate regularly instructed in cases of complexity and sensitivity including those involving vulnerable defendants and witnesses. She has particular skill and experience in cases involving Non-Accidental Head Injuries and the challenges of the medical issues involved in this area. She appears in multi-handed murder, firearms and drugs cases. She has a wealth of experience in representing defendants charged with sexual offences including historic allegations.

NOTABLE CASES

Baby-shaking cases

R v S (Isleworth Crown Court) leading counsel in a case where the defendant was acquitted of shaking his daughter on his re-trial, after successfully appealing his conviction in the Court of Appeal;

R v TM (Luton Crown Court) the defendant was acquitted of murdering her young son; her violent partner was convicted of his murder. Anya undertook the medical cross-examination in the case which also involved

issues connected to battered-wife syndrome and the calling of experts in that field;

R v S (Central Criminal Court) the defendant was charged with murdering his young son. Anya undertook the cross-examination of the main expert medical witness;

R v Y (Central Criminal Court) the defendant was charged with the manslaughter of his son when his son died 12 years after an alleged shake had left him severely disabled and with a shortened life expectancy; the case, which resulted in an acquittal, involved complex legal argument including abuse of process and medical evidence;

R v A (Central Criminal Court) a young woman was acquitted of shaking her baby son to death in the context of the child having severe Vitamin D deficiency.

Murder, serious violence and firearms

R v DS (Central Criminal Court) defendant acquitted of murder after a man was stabbed to death in a fight;

R v S and others (Kingston Crown Court) multi-handed attempted murder trial where Anya appeared as junior alone which resulted in acquittal of all 3 defendants;

R v P and others (Nottingham Crown Court) multi-handed murder case in relation to a fire-bombing in Leicester;

R v BH (Birmingham Crown Court) multi-handed possession of firearms with intent trial;

R v L-M (Nottingham Crown Court) the defendant was acquitted of murder at half time in a case involving a gang-shooting;

R v B and others (Croydon Crown Court) the defendant was acquitted at half time in a case involving allegations of kidnapping and false imprisonment.

Sexual offences

R v C (Snaresbrook Crown Court) defendant charged with rape and other serious sexual offences against his young daughter;

R v M and others (Harrow Crown Court) defendant acquitted in multi-handed gang-rape trial;

R v K (Aylesbury Crown Court) defendant acquitted of numerous allegations of rape in the context of an arranged marriage;

R v H (Manchester Crown Court) defendant tried in relation to allegations of violent stranger rape;

R v P (Cardiff Crown Court) defendant acquitted of the majority of counts of historic child sex abuse on three step-granddaughters.

Terrorism

R v S (Central Criminal Court) represented a young man charged with travelling to fight in Syria.

Drugs

R v L (Inner London Crown Court) defendant acquitted of importing 1/2 kilo of cocaine;

R v S (Kingston Crown Court) a multi-handed conspiracy to import 87 kilos of heroin. A SOCA prosecution where the defendant was also indicted on separate counts of running a cocaine pressing factory. The defendant was acquitted on all counts;

R v O (Southwark Crown Court) represented first defendant in multi-handed million pound class-A drug importation case;

R v M (Inner London Crown Court) multi-handed large scale Class A drug importation;

R v S (Cardiff Crown Court) large scale drug importation. VHCC case.

Perverting the course of justice

R v A and others (Leicester Crown Court) the defendant was jointly charged on a murder indictment in relation to an allegation of assisting an offender in relation to the shooting of a young woman in a gang related case; he was acquitted;

R v M (Central Criminal Court) Anya secured the acquittal of a vulnerable defendant who was charged with trying to hide the weapon her husband had just used to stab his best friend to death in a drunken incident.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND CONFISCATION

Anya's fraud experience is significant. She is ranked in the Legal 500 2021 for Crime: Fraud.

NOTABLE CASES

R v S and others (Nottingham Crown Court) leading junior in ongoing 11 handed conspiracy to commit fraud

trial.

R v B and others (Southwark Crown Court) defendant acquitted of conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation following 10 handed trial.

R v S (Worcester Crown Court) Anya represented a doctor accused of fraud by false representation in relation to the obtaining of his consultancy role.

R v N and others (Southwark Crown Court) Anya secured the acquittal of a profoundly deaf defendant charged with a million-pound access-to-work fraud.

R v R and others (Southwark Crown Court) Anya was counsel for the first defendant in Operation Tangelo, a £10 million excise diversion fraud, which collapsed as a result of failings in prosecution disclosure. VHCC case.

R v G and others (Harrow Crown Court) a million-pound mortgage fraud case which was stayed as the result of an abuse of process application mounted by Anya.

R v Z and others (Kingston Crown Court) case dealing with offences under Medicines Act 1968 and Trade Descriptions Act 1968. VHCC case.

R v MM and others (Southwark Crown Court) million-pound post-office fraud.

PROTEST RIGHTS

Anya has always enjoyed representing those involved in offences connected to public protest and the challenge of the legal issues which often accompany such cases. She was involved in the early part of her career in representing a number of defendants involved in campaigning against the introduction of GM crops (in both the Magistrates Courts and the Crown Courts). She has also represented those involved in campaigning against the Iraq war, animal cruelty, arms fairs, climate change and the student riots of 2015.

NOTABLE CASES

R v SVH (Winchester Crown Court) Anya represented a defendant who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to blackmail in connection with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign;

R v K (Nottingham Crown Court) Anya represented one of 6 climate change activists in second Ratcliffe on Soar trial which collapsed as a result of arguments on abuse of process and disclosure relating to an

undercover police officer;

Tilly v DPP [2001] EWCA Admin 821 (definition of aggravated trespass).

YOUTH JUSTICE & CHILD RIGHTS

Anya has experience of representing children and young people particularly when they are charged with serious violence and sexual offences in both the Crown Court and on certificates for counsel in the Youth Court. She was invited by the Michael Sieff Foundation to contribute to a roundtable seminar on Youth Justice and has spoken on the issue of jury trial access for children at Just For Kids Law Youth Justice Summit 2018.

NOTABLE CASES

R v L (Central Criminal Court) young defendant acquitted of rape.

R v G (Highbury Corner Youth Court) leading counsel for a vulnerable and mentally unwell young defendant facing serious sexual allegations against other family members. Obtained a hospital order and avoided a criminal conviction.

R v F (Highbury Corner Youth Court) a multi-handed trial where the defendants faced allegations of serious sexual assault.

R v S successfully represented the defendant pro bono at the Court of Appeal on his appeal against sentence for Just for Kids Law.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

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"Exceptionally bright, industrious and proactive. She understands the needs of the case, the client and the solicitor, and balances them all beautifully." Legal 500 (Fraud) 2020

"Excellent on forensics issues, she has a lot of experience in child murder cases." C&P (Crime) 2019

"Fantastically clever, committed and hardworking, she always tells things as they are to clients". Legal 500, 2018

"Utterly reliable, compassionate and effective." C&P (Crime), 2017

"A keen barrister with a thoughtful intellect." C&P (Fraud), 2016

BACKGROUND

Contributing author Blackstones Guide of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

EDUCATION

- LLB (Hons)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Liberty
- Criminal Bar Association (CBA)
- Female Fraud Forum
- Fraud Lawyers Association

LANGUAGES

- French

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