



GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS

Brenda Campbell QC

YEAR OF CALL: 2002 | YEAR OF SILK: 2018



Legal 500 2022, Leading Silk



Brenda is a leading QC in criminal law and Inquests. She is regularly instructed to defend in the most serious of criminal allegations including murder, terrorism and international fraud. She is in addition a highly respected Inquest silk, representing families in Article 2 inquests, including historic or legacy Inquests and police shootings.

"Brenda Campbell QC goes above and beyond."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 (INQUESTS & PUBLIC INQUIRIES)

"Her cross-examination in cut-throat defences are a masterclass."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 (CRIME)

"Brenda is absolutely outstanding. She is passionate and empathetic when representing families at inquests."

"A fearsome defender who is socially conscious and really goes in to bat for her clients."

CHAMBERS UK, 2021 (CRIME)

"Brenda is outstanding. A formidable criminal defence advocate."

LEGAL 500, 2021 (CRIME)

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

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You can also contact Brenda directly:

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CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Brenda is regularly instructed in high profile and complex criminal cases or to act on behalf of vulnerable defendants. She ensures a consistently high standard of representation, working closely with Instructing solicitors, junior counsel and clients to achieve the best outcome.

NOTABLE CASES

Murder

R v LK, Central Criminal Court, (2020)

An allegation of murder by shooting. The defendant shot at the deceased 6 times, hitting him with at least 5 shots. It was the prosecution case that the killing was an act of revenge, the defendant having discovered that the deceased, who was his friend, was having an affair with the defendant's former partner. The defendant was acquitted of murder. The case was reported [here](#).

R v RWR, Central Criminal Court (2019)

The defendant, an 18 year old man with autism, was accused of a joint enterprise stabbing. He was tried alongside 2 other teenage defendants. It was the prosecution case that the defendant had lured the deceased to a park and thereafter participated in a joint attack with knives, including a Rambo knife and machete. The defendant was acquitted of murder. The case was reported [here](#).

R v CF, Central Criminal Court (2019)

The allegation of joint enterprise murder arose out of an arson attack on a residential home in the middle of the night. The defendant was the driver of a motorbike that had transported the arsonist to the scene, waited for him and then sped him away. He was the second of six defendants in this long running trial. He was acquitted of both murder and manslaughter. The case was reported [here](#).

R v SF, Central Criminal Court(2019)

The defendant killed her twin infants before attempting to commit suicide. She initially faced allegations of murder but, following receipt of expert evidence, the prosecution accepted pleas to manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility. The case was reported [here](#).

R v WL, Central Criminal Court (2017)

Allegation of conspiracy to murder from a prison cell. Others with whom the defendant was in very regular telephone contact had already been convicted of conspiracy to murder (shooting). The case relied heavily on the interpretation of telephone and cell site evidence, as well as the character of the alleged protagonists. The defendant was acquitted. The case was reported [here](#)

R v Bell, Central Criminal Court (2016)

Allegation of murder by driving at the deceased. It was suggested that the defendant acted in revenge immediately following an attack by the deceased on another individual. Following the collision the defendant fled the scene & the associated damage to the vehicle was repaired. Defendant was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. The case was reported [here](#)

R v Seamus Daly, Omagh Magistrates Court (2016).

Seamus Daly was accused of 29 murders and offences relating to the 1998 Omagh Bomb. He had already been found liable, on the same evidence, in the civil courts. The case was listed for an old style committal. Following her cross-examination of a key witness, the prosecution sought an immediate adjournment to review, and ultimately withdraw, all charges. The case was widely reported in the global media including [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

R v Nathaniel & others, Central Criminal Court (2013)

Murder, conspiracy to commit GBH. Represented the first defendant in this 10-handed trial. Mr Nathaniel was a high profile sports and celebrity agent, alleged to have planned a revenge attack upon young people who had robbed his business partner. The complex and lengthy trial, which was advanced on a joint enterprise basis against all defendants, ended in the acquittal of all but the stabber. This case was reported by [the BBC](#).

R v SS & others, Central Criminal Court (2012)

Double murder and attempted murder. The case was built upon the identification of one of the accused (the identical twin of another accused) by the surviving victim of this triple shooting, together with cell site evidence and a revenge motive. Following a successful legal argument, the identification evidence was excluded by Fulford J. The ruling amounted to a terminating ruling against all four defendants. It was appealed by the Crown to the Court of Appeal who in turn upheld the High Court Judge's ruling. All charges were the subject of formal not guilty verdicts.

R v Harrison & others, Central Criminal Court (2012)

Murder. Three defendants, all teenagers, accused of joint enterprise stabbing in a stairwell in Battersea in the course of an apparent cannabis transaction. Omar Harrison, the second defendant, was inside the stairwell while the stabbing occurred and had blood from the victim on his clothing. Following a trial involving cut-throat defences, the first and third defendants were convicted of murder while Mr Harrison was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. This case was reported by [the BBC](#).

R v AC & others, Central Criminal Court (2011)

Murder. The defendant faced a second trial on an allegation of murder, the jury having been discharged in his initial trial following a successful severance argument. It was alleged that the defendant was involved in the execution of the deceased, Larry Malone, and moments later had passed the murder weapon (a Mac 10 machine gun) on to another defendant for safe-keeping. The Crown's case relied on telephone evidence, knowledge of the victim and association with the movement of the murder weapon. The defendant was acquitted of murder and convicted of possession of a prohibited weapon and ammunition. This case was reported by the [Daily Mail](#).

R v McPherson & another, Central Criminal Court

Murder / attempted murder. Defendant accused of shooting his co-defendant (Nankani) immediately after Nankani had fatally driven at the defendant's friend outside the Ministry of Sound nightclub.

R v Lee & another, Central Criminal Court

Murder. Defendant was the passenger in a car that reversed over and killed a pedestrian following an argument. Defendant acquitted. Co-defendant, the driver, was convicted on re-trial.

R v C & others, Central Criminal Court

Represented one of seven defendants accused of murder and attempted murder following a shooting at Streatham Ice Rink. Acquitted at half time.

R v S, Central Criminal Court

Allegation of attempted murder following a shooting in which the victim was shot in excess of 14 times and named the defendant as a perpetrator. Unanimously acquitted.

Terrorism

R v Seamus Daly (see above)

R v B & others, ongoing.

Case alleging 32 counts including directing terrorism, membership of a proscribed organisation and preparation for acts of terrorism.

R v Gassama & others, Leicester Crown Court

Conspiracy to kidnap and behead a British Muslim soldier.

Other Serious Crime

R v M & others, ongoing

Allegation MTIC fraud.

R v SS & others, Kingston Crown Court (2018)

Allegations of conspiracy to evade duty & money laundering. Case collapsed when pursuit of disclosure revealed improper conduct of HMRC investigators.

R v A.P. & others, Blackfriars Crown Court (2013)

Money laundering. Allegation of Hawala-style money laundering. Defendant acquitted.

Protest and Direct Action

R v Levin & others, Hove Crown Court

Conspiracy to cause criminal damage. Represented one of seven defendants cleared of conspiracy to cause criminal damage to a Brighton weapon manufacturer allegedly involved in the illegal supply of bomb release mechanisms to the Israeli Air Force. Approximately £200,000-worth of damage was caused to the factory during the protest, which took place at the same time as the Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip, codenamed Operation Cast Lead. This case was reported in the [*Guardian*](#).

INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

Brenda is regularly instructed to represent families in Article 2 inquests. She has particular expertise in representing families in complex, historic inquests in England and Wales, and legacy inquests in Northern Ireland.

NOTABLE CASES

The Hillsborough Inquests

Between 2013 and 2016, Brenda was part of a team of counsel who represented the families of 77 of those who died in the Hillsborough Stadium disaster. Brenda directly represented the families of 14 of those who were unlawfully killed.

Inquest into the death of Joseph Rainey

Joseph was found suspended from a ligature on the first night of his remand at HMPYOI Hydebank Wood. The catalogue of failures that contributed to his death were recorded by the jury in a lengthy and damning verdict.

Inquest into the death of Steven Colwell, ongoing

Steven Colwell was shot by a PSNI officer in 2006. The Inquest is continuing before Belfast Coroners Court.

Inquests into the deaths of 11 people at Ballymurphy, ongoing.

Eleven people, including a priest and a mother of 8 were shot dead by British Army forces between 9 - 11 August 1971.

Inquests into the deaths of Martin McCaughey & Dessie Grew

Brenda appeared in the Belfast Coroner's Court, led by Karen Quinlivan QC, representing the families of Martin McCaughey and Dessie Grew, who were shot and killed by the SAS in October 1990. Appellate proceedings are ongoing.

Inquests into the deaths of Danny Doherty & William Fleming

Representing the next of kin in these fresh inquests, reopened by order of the Attorney General. Mr Doherty and Mr Fleming were shot by British Special Forces in the grounds of a Derry hospital in 1984. The inquest proceedings have been reported in the [*Irish Times*](#).

Inquest into the death of Gareth Myatt

Together with Dexter Dias QC, Brenda represented the mother of Gareth Myatt, a child who died following restraint in the privately-run Rainsbrook detention centre. This is reported to be the longest inquest into a death in prison custody.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

Brenda has an active appellate practice in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). She is regularly instructed to review the safety of historic convictions.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Brenda has worked extensively in the field of human rights, both nationally and internationally, with a focus on women's rights, children's rights and the rule of law. She is a former Executive Committee member of the Bar Human Rights Committee and she worked closely with the International Senior Lawyers Project in a joint project to deliver the Criminal Practice and Procedure Module at the Tanzania Law School.

With a focus on international women's rights, Brenda has represented the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) Asia Pacific on the Steering Committee of the NGO coalition for the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

Having been an active participant in the drafting process at the United Nations Palais des Nations in Geneva, she then became involved in the global campaign for the ratification of the Optional Protocol.

Brenda has advised on lodging communications before UN Human Rights Bodies. She regularly lectures on UN Human Rights mechanisms.

YOUTH JUSTICE & CHILD RIGHTS

Brenda is highly experienced in representing children and young people and ensuring their effective participation in the criminal justice system. She has represented children across the full spectrum of criminal allegations and is an experienced advocate in cases involving young and vulnerable witnesses. Her approach is always young person focused and she has particular expertise in representing children with special educational needs, learning disabilities and autism.

For many years she sat on the Board of Just for Kids Law.

BACKGROUND

Brenda enjoys adventure travel and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of Just for Kids Law. More recently she has run marathons in New York, Florence, England and Ireland. Brenda is on the Board of Trustees of [Just for Kids Law](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Contributing author to *Blackstone's Guide to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008*.

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Brenda has delivered a three-day workshop on the rights of women and children, on behalf of the Bar Human Rights Committee, in Kabul, Afghanistan. On behalf of the Kurdish Human Rights Project, she travelled to Iraqi Kurdistan to deliver cross-border training on the rule of law, and to south-eastern Turkey, to deliver training on the rights of women.

On behalf of IWRAW Asia Pacific, she has participated in conferences and training courses in Nairobi, New York, Warsaw, Geneva and Liechtenstein. She is a regional trainer on the use of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, and regularly teaches related modules in on behalf of national Universities.

EDUCATION

- LLB Common & Civil Law with French, Queen's University, Belfast
- BVC

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- **Criminal Bar Association**
- **Inquest Lawyer's Group**
- **South Eastern Circuit**
- **Bar Human Rights Committee**

LANGUAGES

- **French**

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