



Helen Butcher

YEAR OF CALL: 1999



Helen combines intellect with forceful advocacy and makes an impressive Jury advocate. She has an exclusively criminal defence practice with particular expertise in challenging sexual offence cases. She is increasingly instructed in large-scale organised crime cases.

"Easily gets along with clients, and her knowledge of the law is undeniable."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 (CRIME)

"Tenacious and brave in her advocacy defending clients in court. Also meticulous in preparation of cases, identifying pertinent issues with efficiency and thoroughness."

LEGAL 500, 2021 (CRIME)

"An excellent cross-examiner and particularly skilled when dealing with

sexual offences."

LEGAL 500, 2020

"An excellent cross-examiner and particularly skilled when dealing with sexual offences."

LEGAL 500, 2020

"An excellent trial strategist with the ability to think outside the box."

LEGAL 500, 2019

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

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You can also contact Helen directly:

helenb@gclaw.co.uk

CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Helen is a highly experienced criminal defence specialist, with particular expertise in challenging sexual offence cases. Her practice consists of serious sexual, violent, drugs and financial crime offences. She is increasingly instructed in substantial organised crime group allegations.

She has a flair for cases involving children, sexual allegations and vulnerable clients. She is often instructed in cases involving vulnerable clients, which call for extremely sensitive cross-examination, and in cases where key expert evidence requires robust challenge.

NOTABLE CASES

Organised Crime

R v CJC, Leicester Crown Court 2018

Instructed for trial importation/supply conspiracy involving multi million pound importations and seizures

and well practiced organised crime group. Main defendant, represented by QC and junior, ran cut throat defence against the client which was successfully rebutted. Reported in [Leicester Mercury](#).

R v A, Birmingham Crown Court 2015

Instructed to be lead Counsel in a conspiracy to supply drugs trial involving several organised crime networks operating nationally.

Terrorism

R v XX, Birmingham Crown Court 2017

Instructed for trial of two allegations of rarely prosecuted Terrorism Offences (54 Counter Terrorism Act 2008). The allegations spanned a number of years. Client acquitted of one allegation. Reported by BBC.

Violence

R v S, Reading Crown Court 2019

Junior in Murder trial where there was a background of domestic violence and extensive psychiatric issues.

R v C, Hove Crown Court 2015

Led Junior Instructed for Conspiracy to Murder trial, where the Prosecution alleged that the intended victim was someone different from the actual victim of the shooting.

R v C, Chelmsford Crown Court 2015

Stabbing by a female partner with extensive background of domestic violence offences committed against her by complainant.

R v M, Blackfriars Crown Court 2015

Instructed to represent a man accused of being part of a conspiracy to rob jewellery shops in smash and grab raids committed on mopeds and involving weapons.

Sexual Offences

R v DX, Kingston Crown Court 2018

Instructed to represent man accused of lying about his gender in order to engage in sexual activity with multiple complainants he met on line. The case was reported on in *the Independent*.

R v AC, Luton Crown Court 2018

Leading Counsel defending allegations of stranger rape and stalking.

R v IB, Nottingham Crown Court 2018

Instructed to represent a man accused of historic sexual offences against daughter and stepdaughter spanning two decades.

R v KT, Wood Green Crown Court 2017

Instructed for trial of a man charged with extensive historic sexual offences against child in care, client already serving substantial sentence for other historic sexual offending.

R v EO, Luton Crown Court 2017

Instructed for trial of psychiatric nurse accused of sexually assaulting a psychiatric in-patient. Extensive cross-examination of forensic expert.

R v DG, Birmingham Crown Court 2017

Instructed for trial of man alleged to have groomed a child he met online with the intent to commit sexual offences.

R v XX, Aylesbury Crown Court 2017

Instructed for trial of sexual assault against five-year-old allegation where client had Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and complex needs.

R v F, Winchester Crown Court 2017

Instructed for trial of four allegations of Rape against two complainants. Legal argument regarding the admissibility of parts of the Prosecution expert (bruising) evidence successful.

R v C, Winchester CC, 2017

Instructed to represent a convicted sex offender accused of multiple breaches of SOPO through encrypted use of a home-built computer, described by the Prosecution expert as the most complex he had seen in his career. Careful cross-examination of prosecution expert resulted in successful half time submission.

R v X, Lewes Crown Court 2015

Instructed for trial of man accused of raping a woman whom he had just met and was allegedly incapable of giving consent through intoxication.

R v X, Youth Court 2015

Instructed for trial of a 12-year-old accused of rape, when he was 10, of a six-year-old.

R v S, St Albans Crown Court 2014

Man accused caught Internet grooming a 14-year-old girl by a vigilante paedophile hunter who extensively publicized this on Facebook pre charge. Additional historic sexual offences came to light. Detailed written

advice provided on the issues raised by the unusual manner in which these offences came to police attention.
Detailed skeleton argument drafted re contested SOPO terms.

Public order offences

***R v B*, Central Criminal Court 2013/14**

Instructed for trial of man investigated by SO15 and said to have links with proscribed organisations, accused with nine co-defendants of a violent disorder

***R v L*, South End 2013**

Instructed for trial and appeal of offences arising out of a Right to Work protest where section 14 public order notice was issued.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND CONFISCATION

***R v EG*, Inner London Crown Court 2019**

Fraud of multiple victims stemming from hacked data

***R v RK*, Inner London Crown Court 2019**

Charity commission offences and associated frauds.

***R v D*, Southwark Crown Court**

£1.3million pounds internet fraud and £70k cheque fraud. Representing the first defendant in a four-week long trial. Covered in [*The Evening Standard*](#).

***R v G*, Harrow Crown Court**

Conspiracy to Defraud and eight substantive counts of Fraud arising out of a sophisticatedly planned and executed lottery scam.

BACKGROUND

Before coming to the Bar Helen worked for the Howard League for Penal Reform. Helen qualified as a US Attorney in 2008. She volunteered with Human Rights Watch Refugee Policy Program in Washington, DC where she drafted submissions to the ECtHR and analysed the compatibility of domestic law with international law.

EDUCATION

- BA Jurisprudence, Oxford University

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