



Elena Papamichael

YEAR OF CALL: 2021, SOLICITOR WITH HIGHER RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE SINCE 2018



Elena is a passionate and thorough advocate. With expertise in representing young adults in the Crown Court, she is a meticulously prepared and tenacious advocate.

Elena has an impeccable knowledge of the law, with a special interest in cases involving technical legal points, police powers, defending victims of modern slavery and cases involving gang evidence.

Social justice and racial equality are at the heart of Elena's work and she has written several articles on topics such as racism, youth justice and drill music. Elena's comment piece on the prosecution of peaceful protest was published in *The Times* and she has been quoted in *The Guardian* in relation to the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders and their implications for our civil liberties.

"In court, Elena was incredibly erudite, knowledgeable, and persuasive. Her passion for youth justice is genuine and obvious. I cannot recommend Elena highly enough."

LAY CLIENT, CROWN COURT

"Elena is a pleasure to instruct. She is precocious beyond her years in

terms of legal knowledge and strategy. She is an impressively capable, resourceful and likeable advocate."

KATH JATTER, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, GT STEWART SOLICITORS

"My barrister was amazing! Completely thorough, didn't miss anything and ultimately brought the prosecution to it's knees."

LAY CLIENT

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

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You can also contact Elena directly:

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CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Elena regularly represents clients in the Crown Court and has successfully defended young people and adults, including those charged with serious assaults, affray, weapons, drugs, robbery and burglary.

NOTABLE CASES

Past notable cases can be viewed below. [Click here to see a list of recent notable cases.](#)

CROWN COURT

Acquittal in burglary trial

The defendant had many previous convictions for burglary. The Crown relied on CCTV footage and recognition evidence from a police officer in relation to a non-domestic burglary allegation. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Acquittal in domestic actual bodily harm case

The defendant faced an allegation of domestic actual bodily harm with injuries and a witness. The defendant was acquitted by the jury.

S.18 acquittal

The defendant was charged with wounding with intent and it was alleged the client stabbed the alleged victim. The jury acquitted after a full trial.

No case to answer for offensive weapon allegation

The defendant was alleged to have rammed a police van. When police searched the vehicle he was driving, they found a mallet under the seat and the client was charged with possession of an offensive weapon. Upon a successful application to dismiss, the defendant was found not guilty of this count on the indictment.

Young adult avoids extended sentence for knife-point robbery

An 18-year-old defendant with a previous conviction for knifepoint robbery pleaded guilty to knifepoint robbery, dangerous driving and carrying a bladed article. The pre-sentence report concluded that the client was dangerous. Elena persuaded the Court to not make a finding of dangerousness and decline to impose an extended determinate sentence.

Young adult female avoids finding of dangerousness

A young female adult defendant pleaded guilty to dwelling robbery and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. She bit the finger of an elderly female complainant and stole her wedding ring from her finger. She also pleaded guilty to blackmail of a vulnerable male. She had a previous conviction for robbery and was on licence. The pre-sentence report and psychological report concluded she was dangerous. Elena persuaded the court that she was not dangerous and decline to impose an extended determinate sentence.

Immediate custody avoided for dangerous driving involving police chase

A 25-year-old defendant with previous custodial sentences for robbery and Class A drug dealing on his record received a suspended sentence for dangerous driving which involved a police chase and a helicopter pursuit.

No case to answer in firearm and drug supply case

Successful application to dismiss counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and possession of a firearm which resulted in his immediate release from prison where he was on remand in relation to those proceedings.

YOUTH COURT

Acquittal for young person

15-year-old defendant charged with affray. Acquitted after a full trial.

Acquittal in joint enterprise robbery

Child client charged with Robbery with another child defendant on a joint enterprise basis. Client acquitted

followed a successful submission of no case to answer.

No case to answer in assault on police

Child client charged with an assault on a police officer. Cross-examination of the officer as to the lawfulness of his actions towards the client resulted in an acquittal following a submission of no case to answer.

PROTEST RIGHTS

Elena has represented several Extinction Rebellion demonstrators at trial resulting in acquittals and has given a lecture on protest law to solicitors.

COURT OF APPEAL

Elena has appeared in the Court of Appeal, on each occasion with leave having been granted on the papers in relation to all grounds.

NOTABLE CASES

Leave to appeal granted in robbery sentence

Previously convicted defendant pleaded guilty to an assault occasioning actual bodily harm and attempt theft of an 83-year-old female. Leave to appeal a sentence of 3 years imprisonment was granted and Elena represented the appellant in the Court of Appeal.

Leave to appeal granted in relation to extended sentence

A young adult client with a previous conviction for an armed robbery was sentenced to 2 years 8 months and an extended licence period of 2 years. Leave to appeal was granted in relation to all four grounds and Elena represented the appellant in the Court of Appeal.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Chambers, Elena worked as a solicitor at Hodge Jones and Allen in the Specialist Youth Team, Protest Law Team, General Crime Team and as a Higher Court Advocate at GT Stewart Solicitors & Advocates.

Whilst studying for her law qualifications, Elena volunteered for the School Exclusions Project, representing

young people who had been excluded from school. She also interned for Release, a drugs and Human Rights Charity and Runnymede Trust, a race equality think tank. Elena was a mentor at a youth project for several years and has run workshops for young people in schools, youth clubs and for the youth offending service about stop and search and the law and rights. She was previously a director of 4front, a social enterprise that seeks to tackle the root causes of youth violence.

PUBLICATIONS

Cut Short: Youth Violence, Loss and Hope in the City by Ciaran Thapar - Elena contributed to the criminal justice chapter by way of an interview

The Times - ~~Extinction Rebellion: Climate crisis in criminal courts~~

Criminal Law & Justice Weekly – Getting to the heard of knife crime in the UK

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

The Modern Slavery Defence post the Court of Appeal Decision in R v Breani – GT Stewart Solicitors in-house training

Young Legal Aid Lawyers – Fighting racism in a systemically racist legal system

Garden Court Chambers- Challenging the admissibility of drill music in criminal trials

Protest law introduction – GT Stewart Solicitors in-house training

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