
Highly experienced defence counsel with particular expertise in serious sexual offences and organised crime.

Cathy is a robust and conscientious defender who has represented clients charged with a wide range of offences including murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, child sex offences, kidnap, blackmail and people trafficking. She has an excellent rapport with clients including very young defendants and those with psychiatric or other mental health issues.

Recent cases which attracted media attention include the first UK case where a man has been accused of holding his wife in slavery, a “spiritual healer” charged with rape and fraud offences and a man accused of the attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend whom he had met in her professional capacity as a sex worker.

Cathy is a member of the Criminal Bar Association and South Eastern Circuit.

She is a registered pupil supervisor and vulnerable witness training facilitator.

Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter

R v SU; Central Criminal Court (2016): Led by QC in case where defendant charged with murdering fellow rough-sleeper and depositing his remains in the river.

R v KD; Central Criminal Court (2015); Court of Appeal (2016): Led by QC in case where defendant was charged with joint enterprise murder of criminal associate who owed money. Conviction successfully overturned on appeal.

R v SN; Central Criminal Court (2015): Led by QC in case alleging defendant and three others were involved in a shooting of innocent bystanders causing the death of one and serious injury to another. Prosecution depended on evidence of former gang member. Following repeated requests by the defence for disclosure of circumstances in which witness came forward, prosecution offered no evidence.

R v HS; Croydon CC (2014): Fight between rival businessmen where defendant alleged to have wielded a meat cleaver causing multiple skull fractures leaving the brain exposed, a fractured patella and partial amputation of two fingers. Defendant acquitted of attempted murder.

R v AK; Kingston CC (2014): Defendant charged with attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend whom he had met in her capacity as a sex worker.

R v HA; Woolwich CC (2012): Defendant charged with attempted murder following unprovoked knife attack on random member of the public. Plea to GBH accepted following submissions regarding the defendant’s low IQ, history of vulnerability and suspected foetal alcohol syndrome.

R v TH; Central Criminal Court (2012): Led by QC in manslaughter case where defendant alleged to have pursued victim in course of a robbery attempt. Victim fell into the road and was killed.

R v SZ; Central Criminal Court (2012): Led by QC in murder trial. First time a defendant attended court in a hospital bed throughout the proceedings owing to extensive paralysis following a suicide attempt.

R v WK; Wood Green CC (2012): Defendant tried for attempting to kill the ex-husband of his partner after the victim had secured custody of the children in bitterly contested family proceedings.

R v CL; Central Criminal Court (2011): Defendant accused of murdering owner of a “crack house”.

R v TJ; Central Criminal Court (2010): Led by QC in murder trial where defendant alleged to have lured victim to location where he was killed by co-defendant who bore him a grudge following their time together in prison. Defendant acquitted.

R v GD; Central Criminal Court (2009): Led by QC in trial alleging the joint enterprise murder in the course of inter-gang violence.

Sexual Offences

R v IA; Wood Green CC (2016): Defendant accused of taking tourist he met at a club home with him where she alleged she was detained and repeatedly raped over two hours. Defendant acquitted.

R v AG; Wood Green CC (2016): Man charged with 3 counts of sexually assaulting a child. Acquitted on all counts.

R v AP; Blackfriars CC (2015): Defendant charged with 28 historical counts of rape and buggery of his two cousins when they were between ages of 8 and 16. Psychiatrist who claimed the defendant had confessed to her in 1999 that he sexually assaulted his cousins was cross-examined via a video-link with New Zealand. Defendant was acquitted on all counts.

R v KB; Wood Green CC (2015): Defendant accused of rape and sexual assault of 8 year old child. Acquitted of rape.

R v BB; Wood Green CC (2014): Defendant (15 years) accused of 3 counts of sexual activity with a child (14 years) and procuring the rape of the same complainant. The latter count was dismissed on defence application. The remaining counts were dropped following defence submissions that the prosecution had not acted in accordance with their own policy concerning consensual sexual activity between underage parties.

R v SD; Wood Green CC (2013): 16 year old defendant accused with two others of gang rape of 13 year old girl. Complainant cross-examined on her Facebook page. All defendants acquitted.

R v ZE; Wood Green CC (2013): 16 year old defendant accused of 3 counts of rape of 16 year old girl. Both the defendant and complainant were found to be vulnerable. Defendant acquitted.

R v AK; Snaresbrook CC (2012): Defendant charged with fraud and sexual offences. Alleged he claimed to cure women of evil spirits by engaging in sexual acts for a fee. Acquitted of several counts of rape.

R v MT; Blackfriars CC (2012): Defendant and other actor colleagues fell asleep together in a theatre venue following a party. One of the colleagues claimed to have woken to see defendant raping the complainant while she slept. Defendant acquitted.

R v JW; Snaresbrook CC (2010): 16 year old defendant on the autism spectrum was charged with the rape of his 6 year old sister. Following negotiations with the prosecution a plea to sexual activity with a family member was accepted on a favorable basis, leading to the imposition of a non-custodial sentence.

Organised Crime

R v YN; Bristol CC (2016): Defendant charged with 12 others of conspiring to supply drugs. “County Line” case where defendants were said to travel from London to run drug supply networks in the midlands. Defendant was alleged to be right-hand man and “muscle” for principal conspirator. He was the only defendant acquitted.

R v SA; Woolwich CC (2016): First UK case of man charged with conspiring to hold his wife in slavery. Plea to less serious offence accepted on favorable basis. GBH count dismissed following legal argument about the admissibility of the diagnosis of PTSD.

R v AS; Snaresbrook CC (2015): Defendant charged with significant role in multi-handed conspiracy to import cocaine of a value in excess of £6 million.

R v CS; Snaresbrook CC (2014): Defendant charged with conspiracy to commit armed robberies. Prosecution case relied on CCTV and cell site evidence. Defendant was acquitted on all counts.

R v LD; Central Criminal Court (2014): Defendant charged with money laundering proceeds of crime through car wash business. Defendant acquitted.

R v OG; Wood Green CC (2011): Defendant charged with five others with false imprisonment and blackmail offences arising from gang turf wars. Prosecution offered no evidence following defence submissions re admissibility of hearsay.

General Crime: Section 4A hearings (CPIA 1964)

R v SB; Wood Green CC (2012): Defendant charged with arson with intent to endanger life. Her niece alleged that she set fire to a curtain which she pushed back through the letter box. Owing to a schizoaffective disorder, the defendant was found to be unfit to stand trial. The case proceeded as a “trial of the facts”. The jury found that the defendant had not done the act.

R v YD; Blackfriars CC (2012): Defendant charged with joint enterprise stabbing. Defendant found unfit to stand trial owing to severe autism. His “trial of facts” took place at same time as his co-defendant’s trial. The case against the defendant was dismissed at half time following submissions that his condition prevented him from having foresight of the co-defendant’s actions vis a vis the knife.