



Marie Spenwyn

Year of Call: 1999



Marie is specialist criminal defence practitioner who has developed a particular expertise in dealing with both 'difficult' and vulnerable clients including young defendants and those with mental health problems.

She is regularly instructed in cases of violent crime (including murder, armed robbery, aggravated burglary and wounding with intent), sexual offences, fraud, serious drugs offences and prison law.

Increasingly instructed in cases involving serious sexual allegations against young and very young defendants details of which are kept confidential given reporting restrictions.

Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter

R v Lewis [2018] Leicester CC

Instructed to defend, with Queen's Counsel, a football fan charged with a one-punch manslaughter. Crown offered no evidence on the manslaughter after expert evidence on causation forced a review. [The Independent](#) and [BBC News](#).

R v Ahmed [2018] Central Criminal Court

Led by Queen's Counsel in murder trial featuring group attack at a party in East London with a significant number of eye-witnesses. [Evening Standard – Young man stabbed to death as house party rages](#). and [The East London Advertiser](#).

R v Thurston [2018] Chelmsford CC

Instructed in high-profile case of gross negligence manslaughter concerning the death of a seven year-old child on a bouncy castle.

R v Zakaria Bulhan (2017) CCC: Heavily publicised incident in which mentally disordered defendant held responsible for the Russell Square attacks in August 2016. The Honourable Mr Justice Spencer at the Central Criminal Court imposed a hospital order in consequence of his severe mental impairment. Instructed by Ewings Solicitors. The attacks were originally thought to be terrorist in nature although this was soon dispelled when it became plain that the defendant was suffering from a severe mental illness. The defendant was described by psychiatrists as being "floridly psychotic". The ensuing violence led to the death of an American tourist and the stabbing of five further people. Prosecution ultimately accepted pleas to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and s18 wounding. There were significant medical and legal arguments concerning whether the appropriate sentence should be a hospital order pursuant to section 37/41 MHA 1983 or life imprisonment. The sentencing Judge The Honourable Mr Justice Spencer imposed a hospital order with an indefinite restriction at the Central Criminal Court on the 7th February 2017.

You can read more about this case in the following links:-

[Sky News - Teen killer given indefinite hospital order over Russell Square stabbing rampage](#)
[Daily Mail - Chilling CCTV shows teenage killer fleeing the scene after knifing American tourist to death](#)
[Sky News - Man admits stabbing US tourist to death in Russell Square](#)
[BBC News - Russell Square stabbings: Zakaria Bulhan admits killing US tourist](#)
[The Guardian - Teenager admits killing US tourist in Russell Square stabbings](#)
[The Telegraph - Teenager admits killing American tourist in Russell Square knife rampage](#)
[Mirror - Teenager admits killing US tourist and injuring five others during London knife rampage after](#)

['psychotic episode'](#)

R v Lee (2016) Guildford CC: Murder charge relating to death of a night porter in a hotel.

R v L (2016) CCC: allegation of attempted murder using a firearm

R v E Blackfriars CC (2015): Instructed to represent defendant in allegation of attempted murder.

R v D Kingston CC (2015): Instructed to represent female defendant accused of attempting to murder her partner using a knife.

R v B and another Central Criminal Court (2015): Led by Queen's Counsel. Successful half-time submission for client who was 17 years old at the time accused of joint enterprise stabbing.

R v Farah & 2 others Central Criminal Court (2014): Leading junior in relation to a disturbance during which the Crown alleged a murder takes place. Acquitted of violent disorder.

R v Loufimpou Snaresbrook CC (2014): Led by Queen's Counsel on an allegation of attempted murder put on a joint enterprise basis.

R v Thomas & another (2013) CCC: Junior Counsel in murder where Crown's case was a case of mistaken identity of the victim

R v O Central Criminal Court (2011): Led junior instructed in a high-profile multi-handed murder trial.

R v Smith and others - Central Criminal Court (2010): Led junior in a six-handed murder trial put on a joint venture basis and involving further firearms offences.

Fraud and Financial Crime

R v S Nottingham CC (2018) Instructed to defend in multi-handed conspiracy to facilitate immigration for profit

R v Locke [2018] Southwark CC: Defended in six-week pension liberation fraud. [Daily Mail article.](#)

R v T&F (2017) CCC: Trial relating to trademark offences and related money laundering.

R v Anwar Luton CC (2015): Represented defendant charged along with two others with fraud offences relating to theft and utilisation of customer details stolen from a hotel.

R v Chatfield Hull CC (2015): Allegations of fraud relating to an online pet shop over a lengthy period of time.

R v N and others Southwark CC (2014): Multi-handed multi-million pound long firm fraud. Junior Counsel for a company director, the only defendant acquitted at trial.

R v Qureshi Chelmsford (2013): Led in factoring fraud perpetrated on Barclays Bank through use of NHS.

R v Altinbas and others CCC (2013): Represented immigration advisor in case of sham marriages.

R v Kaufman and others Manchester CC (2009): Led junior in a conspiracy to defraud concerning counterfeit clothing on Ebay.

R v Rahim & others - Croydon CC (2008): Junior counsel in a ten-handed conspiracy to defraud insurance companies over a number of years.

R v Hutchinson – Blackfriars CC (2007): Junior counsel in a large conspiracy to defraud the DWP of £2.4 million. (See links to newspaper reports. A documentary filmed by the BBC featuring this case was shown in 2008).

R v Duncan Blackfriars CC (2006): Junior counsel in a conspiracy to defraud alleging exploitation of the elderly by antique dealers.

Sexual Offences

Currently instructed in numerous sexual offences including historic and multi-handed cases, offences of possession of images and sharing images.

Increasingly instructed in cases involving serious sexual allegations against young and very young defendants details of which are kept confidential given reporting restrictions.

R v V & others [2018] Nottingham CC: Defending in multi-handed trial featuring allegations of people trafficking for sexual exploitation and controlling prostitution at Nottingham Crown Court. [Nottingham Post article](#) and [Derby Telegraph article](#).

R v D [2018] Southwark CC: Defended Uber driver accused of raping a customer. [Evening Standard article](#).

R v B [2018] Harrow CC: Instructed in case concerning historic allegations.

R v D [2018] Southwark CC: Instructed to defend taxi driver accused of rape.

R v J (2017) Bristol CC: instructed in multi-handed case alleged to involve grooming of one complainant.

R v H (2017) WGCC: instructed in allegation of male rape.

R v R (2017) Harrow CC: allegations of rape featuring recorded evidence.

R v L (2017) Nottingham CC: representing convicted sex-offender resulting in a reduction of charges from rape down to sexual activity with a child.

R v C (2017) St Albans CC: representing elderly defendant charged with offences against a 6 year old boy.

R v H (2017) Lewes CC: Acquitted of multiple allegations of rape within the context of a relationship. This defendant was convicted of the new offence of coercive/controlling behaviour within a relationship.

R v H (2017) Northampton CC: case concerned defendant with prior convictions for rape charged with similar offences on young grandchildren. For press interest, [click here](#).

R v R (2017) Burnley CC: Instructed in historic abuse case featuring multiple counts and multiple defendants alleged to be an Asian group grooming case.

R v S (2016) Northampton CC: Attempted rape featuring recording of alleged offence.

R v S (2017) St. Albans CC: Instructed in historic sexual assault featuring significant issues relating to prior disclosures and failed previous prosecution. Issues arising as to physical health of 79 year-old defendant

R v W: (2016) Harrow CC: Historic case involving rape and other offences concerning two complainants; not guilty verdict in relation to one of the complainants.

R v S (2016) Northampton CC: Attempted rape featuring recording of alleged offence.

R v R (2016) Burnely CC: Instructed in historic abuse case featuring multiple counts and multiple defendants alleged to be an Asian group grooming case.

R v S (2017) St. Albans CC: Instructed in historic sexual assault featuring significant issues relating to prior disclosures and failed previous prosecution. Issues arising as to physical health of 79 year-old defendant

R v W: (2016) Harrow CC: Historic case involving rape and other offences concerning two complainants; not guilty verdict in relation to one of the complainants.

R v N (2016) Snaresbrook CC: Defendant charged with multiple counts of rape alleged by a 13 year old complainant; acquitted of all rape counts. Sentenced for admitted offences of sexual activity with a child.

R v G (2016) Leicester CC: Acquitted of sexual assault on mentally and physically disabled male complainant where the defendant was the carer.

R v Chandler (2015) Harrow CC: Represented defendant charged with offences of rape and attempted rape; this was a cold case where the police linked the defendant to the allegations through DNA. The defendant admitted the attacks but denied penile penetration. [Evening Standard – Tube Driver found guilty of rape 21 years after the crime took place.](#)

R v KB (2015) Croydon CC: Rape allegations in the context of a long relationship.

R v M (2015) Winchester CC: Represented sergeant in the army accused of multiple counts of rape involving an allegedly incapacitated complainant involving footage filmed on a mobile phone. Acquitted on all counts.

R v S (2015) Isleworth CC: Acquitted of multiple counts of historic rape involving young special needs complainant.

R v A (2014) Woolwich CC: Acquitted of date rape involving significant internet and text communication.

R v F & another (2014) Preston CC: Two counts of assault by penetration with an especially vulnerable complainant.

R v B (2014) Winchester CC Allegations of sexual offences and rape concerning a step-daughter over a long period of time where a prior allegation had been made and withdrawn.

R v D (July 2013) CCC. Acquitted of assault by penetration following a successful argument to exclude a previous conviction for rape

R v Robertson (2013) Ipswich CC. Rape, false imprisonment and threats to kill.

R v D (2013) Inner London CC. Successfully defended a 15 year old accused of rape during a party.

R v Dolan (2012) Woolwich CC. Historic sexual offences ranging over a thirty year period.

R v Voudaskas Isleworth CC (2011): Historic sexual assaults on a female relation.

R v Caswell Guildford CC (2009): Rape of female in her home by a homeless male.

R v Stower Maidstone CC (2009): Case of sexual activity with a child where an emotional relationship had developed.

R v Kendall Kingston CC (2009): Rape and blackmail in the context of a personal relationship.

R v Lewington - Winchester CC (2008): Led by Queen's counsel in case of historic sex abuse. Indictment stayed following a successful abuse of process argument at the start of the trial.

R v Abdul Koyes – Snaresbrook CC (2007): Led by Queens Counsel in a rape case focusing on the issue of the presumption of a lack of consent in circumstances where the complainant is said to have been asleep. Involved expert testimony on sleep deprivation and the effect of medication.

R v Lynch (Attorney-General's Reference No.84 of 2007) (23 October 2007): An IPP was imposed in respect of assault by penetration where bad character evidence relating to previous sexual offences had been admitted. The Attorney-General referred the sentence on the basis that the notional determinate term was too lenient when considering the definitive guidelines for assault by penetration. The Court of Appeal found that the sentence passed was not unduly lenient.

General Crime

R v S [2018] Derby CC: Instructed to defend allegations of facilitating immigration.

R v O [2018] Blackfriars CC: Instructed to defend in multi-handed trial concerning wider operation investigating conspiracy to rob mobile phone stores and handle the proceeds.
<https://metro.co.uk/2017/12/22/moped-gang-jailed-110-years-raids-across-london-worth-1200000-7180190/>

R v B [2017] Nottingham CC: plea to firearm offences where defendant suffered significant mental health problems. Suspended sentence.

R v C [2017] Harrow CC: plea to firearm offence for a young defendant resulting in imposition of a suspended sentence.

R v B [2018] Isleworth CC: allegations of s18 with significant issues relating to Crown's application to adduce multiple sources of hearsay evidence.

R v L [2018] Northampton CC: case concerning supply of drugs between drug users.

R v L [2018] Nottingham CC: child neglect allegations.

R v W [2017] Plymouth CC: affray and assault matters.

R v D and others [2017] Northampton CC: This multi-handed trial concerned allegations of kidnap, possession of a firearm and perverting the course of justice said to arise from local turf war over drug dealing in Northampton. Defence succeeded on submissions in relation to hearsay applications to adduce evidence from a witness not before the court.

<http://www.northants.police.uk/press-release/four-sentenced-northampton-kidnap-case>

R v J [2017] ILCC: possession of firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life.

R v C and another [2017] Northampton CC: charges of affray and assault.

R v R [2017] Croydon CC: represented defendant charged with his brother in relation to s18 wounding.

R v L and others [2017] Nottingham CC: Cash in transit conspiracy to rob.

R v Noga [2016] St Albans CC: conspiracy to import cigarettes. For press interest, click here: http://www.croydonguardian.co.uk/news/14918234.Fraudsters_jailed_after_botched_28k_cigarette_smuggle/

R v M and 9 others [2016] Liverpool CC: instructed to represent defendant alleged to play a leading role in a major drugs supply network in the North of England and linked case involving alleged supply into prison. Acquitted by the jury of Class A supply offences. Acquitted by jury of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs within prison". For press interest, click here: <http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/locked-up-anthony-quigley-last-13219925>

R v L (Snaresbrook CC) 2016: Acquitted of conspiracy to steal where Crown alleged the defendant who was manageress was part of a plan for an inside job where a "robbery" took place. One defendant pleaded, second co-defendant was convicted during first trial; hung jury led to a re-trial where defendant was acquitted.

R v L (Guildford CC) 2016: multi-handed case concerning theft and onwards sale of high-value vehicles.

R v R (Blackfriars CC) 2016: instructed in multi-handed conspiracy to supply Class A and B drugs based on surveillance and telephone evidence; at trial Crown ultimately accepted pleas to Class B which had always been accepted.

R v Aylott & Others [2015] Guildford CC: multi-handed trial representing defendant charged with conspiracy to import and supply Class A Drugs

R v Mohammed (2015) Bristol CC: Represented defendant in multi-handed conspiracy to supply drugs in the Swindon area.

R v Mohammed (2015) Dorchester CC: Defendant accused of travelling from London to supply drugs in the Weymouth area.

R v RJ (2015) ILCC: Six handed conspiracy to commit armed robberies of money exchange premises; case based on cell-site and telephone evidence. Defendant acquitted of all charges.

R v R (2015) ILCC: Instructed to represent defendant in forthcoming trial relating to supply of drugs arising out of an operation concerning over twenty defendants.

R v FC (2015) Central Criminal Court: Represented first defendant in conspiracy to commit armed robbery of an Asda store where significant violence used against employees. For Daily Mail article, click here.

R v S & 3 others (2015) CCC: Allegation of targeted aggravated burglary with elderly and bed bound victims where injury is caused. [Daily Mail - Gang of thugs who battered 81 year old woman with metal bar as they ransacked her home jailed for total of 44 years.](#) Sentence reduced on appeal.

R v K (2015) Wood Green CC: Arson trial relating to a church involving a vulnerable defendant shown on CCTV setting fires.

R v H (2014) Woolwich CC: Witness intimidation in context of allegations of stalking.

R v Jama & others (2014) Woolwich CC: Supply of Class A drugs involving defendants moving around the country operating from a base in London

R v Martin & 11 others (2014) Leicester CC: 8 week case involving allegations of supply of drugs where the Crown presented the evidence based on a spreadsheet with names and figures charged as converting criminal property.

R v Mohammed & others (2014) Exeter CC: Supply of Class A drugs where the Crown rely on expert evidence as to the extent and value of the operation based upon volume of telephone calls.

R v Hashi and others (2013) Basildon CC: Trial in absence of a defendant charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs where the Crown alleged that the defendants travelled from London to Southend in order to conduct the offences.

R v P (2013): Instructed to represent the child's mother in an allegation of s18 wounding to a 22 month old child;

R v M: Represented young defendant facing one of the heaviest indictments which have been prosecuted from the riots in 2011

R v Francis and another (2012): Shooting of a complainant in both legs. Alleged by the Prosecution to relate to rival drug gangs in Southampton. Click here to read the Daily Echo article; click here to read the BBC coverage.

R v T Guildford CC (2012): Instructed as junior counsel in complex case concerning physical abuse and neglect of children. The Crown alleged that the most serious of the assaults led to a ruptured bowel caused by the defendant jumping on the child's stomach. Other allegations assaults included holding the child's feet to a hot radiator and poking both eyes so that the corneas were scratched. The female defendant was convicted of GBH with intent and child cruelty following a five week trial. Click here to read the Daily Mail article.

R v Whyte and others Southwark CC (2011): Complex case involving a large number of youths charged with a serious violent disorder which took place on a train.

R v Kang and others Stafford CC (2012): Junior counsel successfully defending a client accused of significant drug importations from prison whilst serving a lengthy sentence for importing Class A drugs.

R v Coleman Southwark CC (2011): Glassing incident in a nightclub giving rise to charges of s.18 wounding with intent.

R v Adams Maidstone Crown Court (2010): Attempted s18 wounding caused by the defendant mounting the pavement and driving at the complainants.

R v Clarke Croydon CC (2010): Let junior in an attempted murder and conspiracy to rob trial relating to the robbery of a Costco store where £70,000 worth of jewellery was stolen and the security guard was shot.

R v Bogle Woolwich CC (2010): Aggravated burglary and knifepoint robbery involving youth members of a local gang.

R v Braithwaite (2010): Aggravated burglary with firearms.

R v Ndugwa (2010): Junior counsel in a multi-handed conspiracy to rob betting shops in South London.

R v Huggins Croydon CC (2009): Possession of firearms and ammunition with intent to enable others to endanger life based on hearsay evidence through text messages.

R v Meah Blackfriars CC (2009): S18 wounding (glassing in a nightclub) involving identification issues.

R v Green Kingston CC (2009): Multi-handed conspiracy to burgle and handle stolen goods concerning high value vehicles stolen to order.

R v Coeur-Belle Winchester CC (2009): Benefit fraud involving disputed disabilities.

R v Grundy Blackfriars CC (2009): Supply of class C drugs which resulted in a death concerning soon to be banned GBL. The trial involved expert evidence to demonstrate that the drug involved was GBL and not GHB.

R v Joao Inner London CC (2009): GBH with intent, ABH and assault - domestic attack involving the use of a knife.

R v Simpson - Inner London CC (2008): Offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act

R v Djama & others - Harrow CC (2008): Conspiracy to supply class A drugs representing householder; successful half-time submission.

R v Odokama & others - Kingston CC (2008): £1 million conspiracy to rob targeting jewellers.

R v Hussein & others (2008): Blackmail, false imprisonment and kidnap trial.

R v King – Kingston CC and CA (2007) see *R v King* (Kiel) 2007 WL 1729824: Arson with intent to endanger life. The defendant, who was a youth, was sentenced to an IPP for this and a series of other offences. The sentence was successfully appealed on the basis that the Judge had insufficient information to make a finding of dangerousness.

R v Cyprian Southwark CC (2007): Death by dangerous driving

R v Riley – Southwark CC (2005): Junior counsel in a seven-handed major drugs importation trial where the importation had been facilitated by a customs officer.

R v Duong – Snaresbrook CC (2005): Led junior in seven-handed case lasting six months which was the first prosecution of new offences relating to people trafficking for the purposes of prostitution.

Public and Prison Law

Instructed to advise on various prison law matters including parole, categorisation and licence conditions to include:

Parole Board v Williams – Parole issues for a defendant serving a life sentence under the old sentencing regime

Parole Board v Lee – Parole for overseas national

HMPS v Valentine – Categorisation

Commissioner for Metropolitan Police v Vukic – successful application for Judicial review to overturn a caution given to a juvenile.

Confiscation, Civil Recovery and Asset Forfeiture

Regularly instructed in confiscation proceedings arising out of serious and complex offences. Recent instructions include:

R v Aylott [2016] Guildford CC: <http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/barrister-offers-pay-back-drug-11239383>

R v Altinbas (CCC) [2015]: Led in contested confiscation hearing involving dispute over extent of benefit where a definable role/benefit and deduction of expenses.

R v Garrick (Croydon CC) [2015]: Complex confiscation involving properties illegally converted and appropriate assessment of benefit from rents received.

R v Anah (CCC) [2015]: contested confiscation where preservation of matrimonial assets key and was achieved

Appeals and CCRC

Instructed to advise and review numerous 'old' cases.