Katrina Charles



Head of the Criminal Practice Group

CALLED 1999

"You know you will not be let down when instructing Katrina. She is hardworking, diligent and fantastic..."

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2027

Katrina has an established defence and prosecution practice. A persuasive criminal advocate who regularly leads in multi-defendant complex cases. A fraud specialist with a background in accountancy.

She has extensive experience in the conduct of trials involving serious crime which include novel and complex points of law and fact. She is included on the rape and serious sexual offences panel and deals with highly sensitive sexual offences involving vulnerable complainants.

Katrina is also a Pupil Supervisor.

Notable Cases

Drugs

R v SW and Others, 2024

Lead Counsel prosecuting 12 defendants charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. Case reliant upon surveillance, phone evidence, cell site and photographic evidence. Advised on how to create an event schedule in order to present the evidence to a jury in an efficient and effective manner. Advised on how to plug the evidential lacunas which resulted in early guilty pleas and reduced the trial from 12 defendants to 6. Advising on whether to cross-serve defence statements and whether to instruct a psychologist with respect to 2 defendants.

Wood Green Crown Court

Drugs

Financial Crime

R v Y et al January, 2023

Leading counsel prosecuted multi-handed Fraud straddling 2 jurisdictions.

R v T, 2021/22

Leading counsel prosecuted 'Rogue Trader' in 3 month trial at Isleworth CC. The defendant was convicted of multiple counts of fraud. He targeted elderly and vulnerable affluent homeowners by posting flyers and/or business cards purporting to be from an established auction house offering to collect items value and sell them. However he sold their valuable items without their permission for huge personal gain.

Read more on the Daily Mail

Isleworth Crown Court

R v I et al, 2019

Leading junior prosecuting 9 defendants charged with fraud concerning the high street store Boots.

Croydon Crown Court

R v H et al, 2018

Leading junior prosecuting a multi-handed commercial insurance fraud considered to be the largest insurance fraud investigated by City of London police. It has led to conferences and seminars being held so that the insurance companies can gain an understanding of the methods deployed to

defraud and alter their internal criteria.

Inner London Crown Court

R v L, 2018

The widely reported case concerning a defendant charged with two counts of sending an article conveying false information contrary to the Malicious Communications Act. The defendant had written a book 'Behind the Artichokes' which she published privately and sent to members of her sisters' community. The jury were invited to read the book in the privacy of their room and The Times reported that Observers said that the most recent case they could recall in which a jury had been told to read an entire book was the obscenity trial of Penguin Books over Lady Chatterley's Lover by DH Lawrence in 1960.

R v R et al, 2017

Leading junior prosecuting a multi-handed 'crash for cash' insurance fraud. Factually and legally complex involving two solicitors' firms and attracting an interest by the SRA. The main defendant absconded during examination in chief and 'new' bank accounts were discovered attributed to one of the defendant's (a doctor) during the trial.

Inner London Crown Court

Financial Crime

Firearms

R v B

Possession of firearms and grievous bodily harm (shooting), the defendant was 17 years old.

Inner London Crown Court

Firearms

General Crime

R v S and K, 2023

A case which involved a series of armed robberies of Central London hotels. The commission of the offences was sophisticated as the defendants researched the inner working of the hotels by taking a

job at one of them and using stolen vans to flee the scene. Prison recordings were relied upon as one of the defendants discussed his plan to minimise his involvement. Katrina advised on the drafting of the indictment, strength of the evidence, worked closely with both the reviewing lawyer and flying squad officers to secure convictions. Dangerousness provisions applied and lengthy custodial sentences passed.

Snaresbrook Crown Court

Read more:

- Daily Mail
- Newham Recorder

R v S, 2017

Indecent images in the possession of a school teacher. Raised jurisdictional issues and attracted media coverage. The case was wholly dependent on expert evidence.

Croydon Crown Court

R v L, 2015-2016. Confiscation 2017

Leading junior prosecuting a multi-handed conspiracy to steal involving high value motor vehicles and PII. This was one of four trials as a result of a large scale operation involving officers from the National Crime Squad. Having attended the locations where the cars were stored to examine them with the assistance of the vehicle examination expert for the purposes of satisfying an audit trail as part of the PII consideration Katrina can assert that ‘what she doesn’t know about cars isn’t worth knowing’.

Two of the defendants Franckevicius and Baraka’s appealed their convictions, the full court heard the application and ruled the convictions safe. The judgement handed down by LJ Hallett makes for an interesting read.

Snaresbrook Crown Court, CoA June 2017

R v S, 2016

Leading Junior in a Graffiti case spanning a number of years and two jurisdictions. It required counsel with a specialised knowledge of the intricacies of the sub-culture and a forensic eye.

Blackfriars Crown Court

She is considered to be specialised counsel with respect to graffiti cases as she has an understanding of the intricacies involved in unravelling the sub culture which is prevalent. Most recent case R v S November 2016, undertook a leading role.

Crime

Murder and Manslaughter

R v AM, 2023

Defence junior represented a 80 year old male charged with murder arising out of a historical review of unsolved homicides. The defendant was acquitted of Murder and convicted of Manslaughter.

Read more on BBC

R v R and others, 2020-2021

Led by Justin Rouse KC in largest criminal trial staged under Covid conditions prosecuting a multi-defendant trial involving gang murder of teenager. Youngest defendant was 14 at time of offence. Convictions for murder, manslaughter and knife offences followed.

Woolwich Crown Court

News report here

R v B et al

Defence Junior, Murder arising out of gang warfare.

Central Criminal Court

Murder and Manslaughter

Rape and Sexual Offences

R v KS, 2022

Prosecuted the defendant who was charged with rape. He and his friends met the victim and her friends on a night out. They all returned to the victim's flat. She retired to her bed alone. He raped her whilst she was unconscious in her bed. She woke to find that she was naked and the defendant was next to her bed dressing himself. The case was pieced together reliant upon CCTV, forensic and

telephone evidence along with eye witness accounts of the victim's demeanour before and after the rape. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.

Read more on the Daily Mail

Central Criminal Court

R v S, 2021

A victimless prosecution of a defendant charged with sexual offences concerning an elderly lady with mixed dementia. A case requiring sensitive handling when dealing with the 'victim's' family as they were witnesses. A case wholly reliant on psychiatric evidence, third party material and body worn evidence to ascertain the 'victim's' demeanour and her mental health. This was a factually and legally complex case. It is presumed that a person has the mental capacity to consent until this presumption is displaced. A legally intricate process reliant upon case law both civil and criminal.

Isleworth Crown Court

R v B, 2017

Sexual assault involving young and vulnerable witnesses.

Blackfriars Crown Court

R v D et al, 2017

Defended in trial involving keeping a brothel used for prostitution.

Woolwich Crown Court

Rape and Sexual Offences

Violence

R v B, 2024

The defendant and his wife were married in South Africa and moved to the UK. Shortly after the marriage the defendant became increasingly controlling and abusive. He used their difference in age and life experience to denigrate her concerns and protestations about his behaviour towards her. She was vulnerable by virtue of being away from her family but also because she suffered in terms of her mental and physical health. He raped her repeatedly during the course of their marriage

including when she pretended to be asleep. He was convicted of multiple rape offences and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Woolwich Crown Court

R v P-E et al, 2022

Defended Mr P-E who was acquitted of Violent Disorder. Multiple defendants charged with violent disorder and s.18. The defendants were seen rampaging through the streets of central London armed with knives and a gun.

Southwark Crown Court

Violence

Achievements

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- WICL

Appointments

- CPS Panel (Grade 4)
- Rape Panel (Grade 4)
- Fraud Panel (Grade 3)
- Serious Crime (Grade 4)

Lectures

- Katrina gives seminars at both Secondary and Primary schools to share her experience and educate children and teenagers on the issues surrounding consent and sexual offences.
- Cybercrime
- Fraud

Education

- BVC
- Law LLB (hons)

Recognition

"Katrina is a considered and effective prosecutor of serious crime." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Katrina did everything very efficiently." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"You know you will not be let down when instructing Katrina. She is hardworking, diligent and fantastic at advocacy." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Katrina was someone who let the good points speak for themselves and she didn't overdo it." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Katrina is a fighter, clients love her as a result." **Legal 500, 2026**

"She is dedicated and extremely hardworking." **Legal 500, 2026**

"Katrina is a clever, hard-working and determined advocate." **Legal 500, 2025**

"She has good judgement and advances arguments in a constructive, yet well-judged way." **Legal 500, 2025**

Activities and Interests

- Member of the V&A, enjoys skiing and HIIT classes