Jennifer Morris

Junior Counsel - Under 15 Years
CALLED 2018



Jennifer is a calm, focused and meticulous advocate. She is regularly instructed in the Crown and Youth Courts. Her experience encompasses both prosecution and defence work.

Jennifer is establishing a busy criminal practice. She has been instructed in cases involving serious violence, sexual offences, fraud, drugs and driving offences. Jennifer is also a Grade 2 CPS General Crime Panel Advocate.

Jennifer is known for her thorough preparation and attention to detail. She has dealt with complex legal arguments involving hearsay, bad character and no case to answer submissions.

Jennifer is approachable and establishes a good rapport with her clients. She is experienced in representing both vulnerable adults and children.

Jennifer is also instructed to appear in regulatory proceedings alongside her criminal practice. Jennifer acts as a case presenter for the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Jennifer is a member of the Pupillage Committee and is involved in the recruitment and

development of new pupils.

Background and experience

Prior to joining Chambers, Jennifer worked as a paralegal in criminal and regulatory firms. She assisted in the prosecution and defence of several high value and complex frauds covering substantial periods of time.

Jennifer specialised in regulatory enforcement and professional discipline matters. She assisted with all aspects, including registration and fitness to practice. Jennifer successfully made written representations against notices to vary or cancel registration. These cases often involved breaches of professional standards including allegations of misconduct and/or dishonesty.

Notable Cases

Driving

R v FD, 2024

FD pleaded guilty to speeding, which left her at risk of disqualification under the totting up provisions. Jennifer successfully argued that exceptional hardship applied because FD would lose her job. As a result, she could not continue to pay for the house that she lived in with her partner and she would no longer be able to pay for her father's care home fees. The court accepted Jennifer's submissions and did not disqualify FD from driving.

Romford Magistrates Court

R v JH, 2023

JH pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, speeding and possession of Class A and B drugs. The offending involved a high speed police pursuit through a busy residential area where a group of school children were present. The case law suggested an immediate custodial sentence should be imposed. Jennifer distinguished case law and successfully argued for a suspended sentence and 12 month disqualification.

Kingston Crown Court

Driving

General Crime

R v MM, 2023

Jennifer successfully argued for the imposition of a community order for MM, who had pleaded guilty to ten offences and had a lengthy history of previous convictions. Jennifer argued the offending was intrinsically linked to mental health issues and supporting reports were obtained from probation and the court mental health teams. As a result, the court imposed a community order with a mental health treatment requirement

Westminster Magistrates Court

R v JH, 2023

JH was charged with owning a dog which was dangerously out of control and had caused injuries to an adult and a child. The Crown sought destruction of the dog, who had been a family pet for eight years without any previous issues. Jennifer successfully argued that a financial penalty should be imposed and there should be a contingent destruction order with conditions instead of destroying the dog.

Willesden Magistrates Court

Crime

Public Order

R v LN, 2024

LN pleaded guilty to affray. The offending involved a pub brawl ending with LN assaulting another member of public. Jennifer utilised case law and persuasively argued that LN should be given a community order, rather than a custodial sentence. The Judge agreed with Jennifer's submissions and a community order with unpaid work was imposed.

Reading Crown Court

R v MJ, 2023

MJ was charged with an allegation of a racially aggravated public order offence in the context of a neighbour dispute. Jennifer's cross-examination highlighted the inconsistencies in the complainant's account. At the conclusion of the trial, the Court returned a not guilty verdict.

Croydon Magistrates Court

Public Order

Rape and Sexual Offences

R v GP, 2024

GP was charged on indictment with sexual assault of a child under 13. The Crown alleged that GP had groomed his young cousin by buying her expensive gifts, play fighting and playing music together. It was alleged that GP, disinhibited by alcohol, took an opportunistic moment to assault the child.

Jennifer Morris made written and oral arguments to adduce the child's previous allegation of sexual assault against another person as evidence of untruthfulness. Following a 7 day trial at Inner London Crown Court, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Inner London Crown Court

Rape and Sexual Offences

Violence

R v TH, 2023

TH was charged with assault occasioning ABH and common assault by beating as an alternative. Jennifer cross-examined the complainant under a section 38 order in line with instructions that TH was acting in self-defence. As a result of Jennifer's questions, the complainant accepted that she hit TH in the face with her knuckles. The Court returned not guilty verdicts on both charges.

City of London Magistrates Court

R v FN, 2023

FN was charged with assault by beating. Jennifer successfully argued a half-time submission of no case to answer on the basis that the Prosecution had failed to establish the elements of the offence. Jennifer argued the evidence was of such a tenuous nature that a court could not properly convict. The court dismissed the charge.

Stratford Magistrates Court

R v JSC, 2023

JSC pleaded guilty to assaulting an officer and possession of prohibited items and controlled drugs whilst in custody. Jennifer utilised the PSI prison guidelines on parole board sentencing to convince the court to impose a sentence which would have been available at the time of the offending had the Crown not delayed in a charging decision. As a result of Jennifer's submissions, the court imposed a suspended sentence.

Medway Magistrates Court

R v LB, 2023

LB pleaded guilty to two counts of assault by beating and an assault of an emergency worker. Jennifer negotiated a basis of plea that her client didn't kick the police officer as alleged and successfully argued a financial penalty was to be imposed.

Staines Magistrates Court

Violence

Youths

R v RA, 2024

RA, a youth, pleaded guilty to three separate charges of possessing an offensive weapon. He faced a mandatory minimum sentence as he had a relevant previous conviction. A 12 month DTO was imposed leaving him at risk of deportation. Jennifer successfully appealed against sentence and persuasively mitigated for RA. The court accepted Jennifer's submissions and a YRO with ISS was imposed.

Snaresbrook Crown Court

R v NN, 2023

NN, a vulnerable youth, was charged with of possession of an offensive weapon. A NRM positive conclusive grounds decision had found that NN was a victim of exploitation, but the Crown decided to proceed to trial. Jennifer drafted lengthy admissions about potential exploitation concern and questioned NN about the threats establishing a nexus with the offending. She made submissions that another individual with his vulnerabilities would have reacted in the same way. NN was acquitted.

Bromley Youth Court

Youths

Achievements

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- Youth Practitioners Association

Appointments

- CPS General Crime Panel (Grade 2)
- NMC External Counsel

Awards

- Baron Dr Ver Heyden de Lancey academic prize, Honourable Society of Middle Temple

Education

- BPTC LLM, Nottingham Law School
- GDL, University of Law Manchester
- BA (Hons) Classical Studies, University of Liverpool