Rebecca Steels



Junior Counsel - Under 15 Years

CALLED 2018

"Rebecca has clarity of thought and good awareness of key concepts. Her advice is well reasoned and pragmatic."

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Rebecca is building a busy criminal practice, both prosecuting and defending in the Crown Court. She also acts in regulatory proceedings.

Background and Expertise

Rebecca completed pupillage with Chambers in April 2021 and since then has cultivated a predominantly criminal practice, appearing regularly in trials, including those involving domestic violence, drug supply and dishonesty offences of burglary and robbery. Rebecca is a Grade 3 CPS Panel Advocate and is frequently instructed from advising at the pre-charge stage all the way through to trial.

Rebecca is a thorough, conscientious practitioner and aims to quickly establish a rapport with those involved at each stage of a criminal trial, both professional and lay clients. She has completed the vulnerable witness training and has experience acting in matters involving intermediaries, ground rules hearings and section 28 hearings.

Rebecca also regularly acts to present cases for Social Work England in fitness to practice

proceedings. Her practice spans advising pre-hearing, drafting submissions and the oral advocacy at substantive hearings. As such, she is developing a regulatory element in her practice.

Rebecca has been listed in the 'Up and Coming' ranking for professional disciplinary law in the Chambers and Partners 2026 guide.

In Chambers, Rebecca has an active role within the Pupillage Committee and is committed to the recruitment of successful new pupils.

Notable Cases

Driving

R v N, 2023

Successfully persuaded the court to find exceptional hardship such that N was not disqualified from driving despite having 12 points on her licence. This followed extensive submissions relating to N's rural location, her being a single mother responsible for transporting her son, and her son's poor mental health.

Driving

Drugs

R v C & M, 2023

Prosecuted a two-handed conspiracy to supply Class A drugs in which one defendant changed his plea to Guilty on day three of trial following cross-examination when the judge withdrew his modern slavery defence from the jury; the jury were hung on the other defendant.

R v F, 2022

Defended F, who entered Guilty pleas on a limited basis to drug supply offences, following detailed consideration of phone evidence and liaison with the Prosecution. This led to a reduced sentence.

Drugs

Disciplinary and Regulatory

HCPC v C, 2025

Presented the case for the HCPC. Following calling nine lay witnesses, the Panel concluded that the Registrant operating department practitioner had committed a number of sexually motivated acts against three junior, female colleagues over a c. six month period. This amounted to misconduct and a striking off order was imposed.

SWE v R, 2025

Presented the case for SWE. The Panel found the Social Worker had acted dishonestly across two employers: submitting false mileage claims; dishonestly obtaining petty cash; recording inaccurate information in a court report; and misleading her agency. They found misconduct and imposed a removal order.

HCPC v L, 2024

Presented the case for the HCPC. Resisted an abuse argument, primarily stemming from delay. The Panel determined that the Registrant consultant psychologist had breached professional boundaries with an extremely vulnerable patient who had dissociative identity disorder. The Panel found misconduct and imposed a caution order.

NMC v A, 2024

Presented the case for the NMC. Resisted an abuse argument, primarily relating to article 8 ECHR. The Panel determined that the nurse had engaged in sexual communications with a person he believed was a child (though in fact a paedophile hunter group 'decoy'). The nurse was struck off; his conduct considered fundamentally incompatible with the role of a nurse.

SWE v F, 2023

Presented the case for SWE. The Panel determined that F had worked two full-time jobs concurrently and had failed to disclose this to her employer. As a result, the Panel found misconduct and impairment, and removed F from the social work register.

SWE v M, 2023

Presented the case for SWE. The Panel found M's fitness to practice to be impaired following a finding that she had physically chastised her own child. A suspension from practice was imposed.

SWE v B, 2022

Presented the case for SWE. The Panel found B to have committed dishonest acts, causing harm to

service users, and to have then maintained his deception to attempt to cover up his actions. This amounted to misconduct and his fitness to practice was impaired. B was removed from the social work register.

Disciplinary and Regulatory

General Crime

R v T, 2023

Prosecuted T for a domestic burglary in which the evidence hinged on the identification of T by an officer from a CCTV still circulated on the police identification database. Following submissions from Defence as to the possibility of a mistaken ID, after deliberation, the jury acquitted T.

R v C, 2023

Prosecuted C for harassment of his brother following a family dispute over their mother's will. Advised the CPS extensively given C's significant health problems and the evidential position. The case resolved by way of a restraining order against C to protect his brother.

Crime

Public Order

R v T, 2023

Defending T, successfully persuaded the Crown to offer no evidence on public interest grounds in a case of assault emergency worker involving a defendant with significant vulnerabilities.

Public Order

Violence

R v P, 2021

Defended P who was accused of threatening his housemates with a knife. Successfully applied to vacate his plea due to concerns about the plea being equivocal and P's own mental health. The Crown subsequently offered no evidence.

Violence

Achievements

Memberships

- Middle Temple
- Criminal Bar Association

Appointments

- CPS Panel (Grade 3)
- CPS General Crime (Grade 3)

Education

- 2016 - London School of Economics, LLB (2:1)
- 2018 - University of Law, London, BPTC (Very Competent)

Recognition

"Rebecca is very easy to work with and is always available to discuss matters, even when managing competing demands." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Rebecca has clarity of thought and good awareness of key concepts. Her advice is well reasoned and pragmatic." **Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"Rebecca Steels is a talented junior with a good understanding of the issues that arise in professional discipline matters." **Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"A pleasure to work with and a safe pair of hands on high-profile cases." **Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"She is a delight to work with." **Chambers and Partners, 2026**