Joanna Curtis

Junior Counsel - Under 15 Years
CALLED 2023



Joanna has experience in crime, extradition and regulatory work.

Before coming to the bar, Joanna practised for 8 years as a solicitor - first at Ashurst LLP and then at Brown Rudnick LLP - where she focused on high-profile civil fraud and commercial litigation matters, with a number of her cases involving a crime or extradition element.

Joanna's degree was in Spanish and Russian and she has spent time working and studying in both Madrid (2016) and Moscow (2010-11).

Crime

Joanna regularly defends in the Crown and Magistrates Courts, representing clients charged with a range of offences. She is appointed to the CPS Advocates Panel Level 1 for General Crime.

She has also acted in confiscation proceedings, account forfeiture proceedings, and proceedings for stalking protection orders, sexual risk orders and a slavery and trafficking prevention order. Joanna also acts in Youth Court proceedings.

Extradition

Joanna has a growing extradition defence practice and regularly represents clients in full extradition hearings and interim applications.

International

As a solicitor and during pupillage, Joanna assisted on matters in relation to international sanctions and international crime.

Disciplinary and Regulatory

Joanna also has experience as a solicitor advising on financial regulatory disputes, as well as experience in pupillage of police disciplinary proceedings.

Notable Cases

Crime

R v R, 2026

Joanna secured an acquittal in the Crown Court for possession of a bladed article, based on the defence of good reason.

Inner London Crown Court

R v H, 2026

The Crown offered no evidence in a case of assault against an emergency worker.

Central Criminal Court

Crime

Extradition

Netherlands v Z

Joanna successfully defended her client against an extradition request, on Article 8 grounds. Read more here

Joanna is also instructed in Part 1 cases where issues are raised under s. 10/65 (extraterritorial

jurisdiction), section 12A (decision to charge or try), section 20 (conviction in absence), Article 3 ECHR (prison conditions), Article 5 ECHR (lawfulness of detention) and Article 7 ECHR (lack of foreseeability).

Extradition

Achievements

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Women in Criminal Law
- Defence Extradition Lawyers Association

Appointments

- CPS Advocates Panel Level 1 for General Crime

Education

- Solicitors' Higher Rights of Audience (Crime and Civil)
- LPC with LLM: Distinction
- Graduate Diploma in Law: Distinction
- BA in Modern and Medieval Languages (Russian and Spanish): Double First, Robinson College, University of Cambridge. Third year abroad studying Russian and Sociology at Moscow Lomonosov State University. Scholarship of Robinson College 2008-2012; College Prize for Modern Languages (2008)