



Yvonne Kramo

YEAR OF CALL: 2014

Yvonne has developed a busy practice defending in Magistrates' and Crown Courts across the country. She has acted on behalf of individuals facing a wide range of allegations, from violence and public disorder to fraud and drug supply. Yvonne also has experience of appellate work in the Crown Court and applications for leave in the Court of Appeal. She has a keen interest in criminal/civil crossover cases and is adept in representing clients in both jurisdictions.

EXPERIENCE

Yvonne prides herself on her commitment to her clients and has considerable experience representing vulnerable individuals, notably youths, victims of trafficking and those with mental health difficulties. As a result, she is regularly instructed in difficult cases which require careful client care. In addition Yvonne has been commended on her ability to deal with sentencing and has enjoyed success securing non-custodial disposals in cases where immediate custody appeared inevitable.

Yvonne completed a 12-month common law pupillage which provided her with a solid grounding in criminal, general civil and immigration law practice. Prior to coming to the Bar, Yvonne worked primarily in the fields of human rights and legal policy. After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked at the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development as a legal policy and governance intern. She then spent some time working in Brussels, first as a *stagiaire* at the European Parliament (Subcommittee on Human Rights) then at the Open Society Institute's EU office. Upon her return to the UK, Yvonne gained experience in financial regulation working as an adjudicator at the Financial Ombudsman Service. She also built upon her academic study in immigration and EU law while working as a legal caseworker at the AIRE Centre and volunteering for Bail for Immigration Detainees.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

R v HR, Lewes Crown Court: Defendant charged with six counts of sexual assault. Crown offered no evidence following a report from a cell-site expert. A significant case that demonstrates the importance of a properly-funded legal aid system, particularly extensive defence case preparation and the ability to fund expert reports.

R v PB: Represented the first defendant on the indictment at trial in a benefit fraud brought by a private prosecutor in a five-day trial at Blackfriars Crown Court before HHJ Worsley.

R v SM: Appeared in the Court of Appeal on a renewed application for permission to appeal out of time.

R v TK, Southwark Crown Court: Secured a conditional discharge for a burglary (dwelling). Although the client had absconded for a period of nearly seven years, the judge took this exceptional course upon hearing submissions in mitigation. Successfully argued that a Bail Act offence should not be laid as the client had been mistakenly released from prison and had not been bailed to attend the previous sentencing hearing.

R v SB, Ipswich Crown Court: Defendant initially charged with possession of Class B drug in a prison. Crown persuaded to accept a plea to simple possession. Defendant received a conditional discharge.

R v CF: Successful submission of no case to answer in a s.4 public order offence on the basis that the Crown had failed to adduce evidence that CF was not acting in self-defence.

R v LG: Defendant had been convicted in absence of driving with no insurance. The Crown was persuaded to re-open the case and withdraw the charge having been persuaded the client's insurance company had led him to believe that he was adequately insured at the relevant time.

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R v LF: Secured an acquittal in a racially aggravated public order offence where the defendant suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

R v PD: Successful appeal against sentence on the grounds that a concurrent rather than consecutive sentence should have been imposed on conviction following trial.

R v WM: Defendant was charged with two counts of assaulting female police officers. Acquitted on the basis that the officers had not been acting in the execution of their duty and had applied unreasonable force on the defendant.

O v SSHD – Obtained bail for an immigration detainee who had been detained for nine months upon completion of his criminal sentence. Successfully argued that the strict terms of his licence combined with reasonable immigration bail conditions would provide sufficient oversight.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Criminal Bar Association
Pro bono counsel, Bail for Immigration Detainees
Young Legal Aid Lawyers
Howard League for Penal Reform
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Prison Reform Fellow

QUALIFICATIONS

2012 - MSc (Criminology and Criminal Justice) - University of Oxford, New College
2008 - Bar Vocational Course, College of Law, London
2006 - European International and Comparative Law (LLB Hons), University of Sheffield/ University of Hong Kong

Scholarship/Awards

2013 - Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow 2013, Prisons and Penal Reform
2013 - Shelford Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
2012 - Oxford Pro Bono Publico, Faculty of Law, The University of Oxford
2008 - Robert Schuman Award, European Union
2007 - Lord Denning Major Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

Publications

'Community involvement in detention oversight: An international perspective', Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 2015

'The European Union's Response to Irregular Migration and the Problem of Criminalisation', New Journal of European Criminal Law, Vol 1, Intersentia, 2014

'The illusory right to liberty: improving access to immigration bail'. Bar Council Law Reform Essay Competition, 2012

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