



EXPERIENCE

Helen has wide-ranging experience of all types of criminal work, both prosecution and defence. She has been instructed by many of the CPS branches in London and is a Grade 4 prosecutor.

She undertakes work as both leading and junior counsel in serious sexual cases: rape and sexual assault of both adults and children - these include video-link cases involving cross-examination of children as young as four years. Recent rape cases have included offences in which victims have been abducted and threatened with firearms before being sexually assaulted, and a victim followed into her own home by a stranger where she was raped and subjected to other sexual indignities. She has dealt with cases involving familial sexual abuse over several generations. Helen also has much experience in cases in which both complainants and defendants have mental health issues or suffer from learning disabilities. She has conducted trials concerning a defendant's fitness to plead and stand trial, involving both adult and child offenders.

Helen has acted in numerous cases involving offences of violence, including murder, fraud, robbery, false imprisonment and kidnapping, arson, causing death by dangerous driving and the large scale importation and supply of Class A drugs.

She has prosecuted in fraud cases involving conspiracies by bank and building society employees to steal from these institutions. She has acted as junior counsel for the Crown in She has prosecuted in fraud cases involving conspiracies by bank and building society employees to steal from these institutions. She was instructed as junior counsel for the Crown in a trial which involved allegations of money laundering and mortgage fraud.

As junior counsel for the defence, Helen has also been led in cases of murder, kidnapping and large scale importation of cannabis into the UK. She was junior counsel in a trial involving the supply of sub-machine guns to the criminal underworld and the reactivation of illegal weapons. She represented a notorious cat-burglar (who had written a book and appeared on chat shows discussing his exploits) who was arrested trying to sell a stolen Picasso painting to an undercover police officer. She was instructed to prosecute a police officer who had knocked down and seriously injured a well-known TV presenter in a road traffic accident while answering a 999 call.

Helen has represented soldiers, their wives and children who have been court-martialled while stationed in Germany. Offences range from causing grievous bodily harm and violent disorder to criminal damage and indecent assault.

NOTABLE CASES

Sexual offences

R v S – instructed as leading counsel for the Crown. Two complainants, one abducted from the street in South London, were threatened with a knife and gun, before being sexually assaulted by two men. The second complainant, a girl of 16, was raped at gunpoint by two men at the same address to which the first victim had been taken. Allegations of interference with witnesses by a defendant while in custody. Serious witness protection and PII issues. Difficult legal arguments re joinder/severance and similar fact evidence. Witnesses were given appropriate protection and the defendant was convicted on all counts.

R v H - prosecuted a defendant who followed a woman into her own home where he raped her, subjected her to further sexual indignities and videoed her on his phone, requiring her to say that she had permitted the assaults. Defendant convicted after trial and remanded to Broadmoor.

R v T & T – prosecuted individuals from two generations of a family involved in the sexual abuse of children of the third generation. The children spoke out after being placed in care for other reasons. Both defendants convicted after trial.

R v D & M – historic prosecution of two individuals in a family convicted of sexually abusing a male child of the family. Complaint made at time by the child, but defendants not charged. A number of further complainants, now adults, identified more recently, both inside and outside the family, who gave evidence of sexual abuse as children. D convicted of a series of predatory sexual offences over several years.

R v C – instructed by the Crown to prosecute a care worker accused of having sexual intercourse with a severely mentally handicapped woman, incapable of giving consent. The victim was so seriously handicapped she was incapable of providing any evidence. The case was successfully prosecuted relying on forensic and medical evidence.

R v J – instructed to defend in a case in which the accused was charged with assault and witness intimidation of his estranged wife. After giving his explanation that he and his wife were reunited and sleeping together, he was charged with ten counts of rape, after she told the police that she had not been acting of her own free will. Acquitted of all offences.

R v G – defended in a case in which defendant charged with child sex offences of complainants inside and outside the family. Acquitted of all offences after exploration of potential contamination of evidence of witnesses.

R v N – a 13 year old boy charged with a series of sexual attacks on women late at night in North London. Issues arose regarding his fitness to plead and stand trial. He was found to be unfit to plead, but to have committed the acts alleged. He was sentenced to a hospital order under the Mental Health Act.

R v W – defended a woman alleged to have sexually abused her son as a child. Issues as to whether the acts alleged could have been committed by a child of that age; admissibility of evidence from other children of the family as to her 'lack of sexual boundaries'. Acquitted of all counts.

R v M (2003) EWCA Crim 3765; (2004)CLR 373 – a reported rape case in which the Court of Appeal considered the court's approach to s.41 Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (cross-examination of complainant in relation to sexual history). The case provoked considerable commentary of the Court of Appeal's approach in the Criminal Law Review and other academic journals.

Fraud and Offences of Dishonesty

R v W - instructed in the prosecution of a defendant facing allegations of substantial money laundering, mortgage fraud and other offences of dishonesty. Substantial quantities of exhibits had to be reduced to schedules and admissions to make the case comprehensible to the jury

R v B & R - successfully prosecuted employees of a building society who had compromised customer accounts, by reallocating PIN numbers to fictitious addresses thereby diverting funds.

R v H – the prosecution of a police inspector charged with a string of offences of handling stolen goods, often using ebay as an outlet for the stolen property.

R v S – defended a notorious cat burglar (who had written books and appeared on chat shows talking about his exploits) who was arrested trying to sell to an undercover police officer a Picasso painting stolen from a Bond Street dealer in an armed robbery.

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15 New Bridge Street, London, EC4V 6AU
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Offences of Violence, Arson and Robbery

R v W – instructed to prosecute a woman charged with attempted murder of her estranged husband. She was alleged to have stabbed him in the back after he left her for another woman. Sentenced to a substantial term of imprisonment.

R v Y – representing a 13 year old boy, charged with arson with intent to endanger life, after his sister's care home was doused in petrol and set alight. Several occupants jumped from upper storey windows; otherwise the incident would have resulted in considerable loss of life. Complex forensic evidence concerning the setting of the fire and the nature of damage to clothing.

R v C – represented a woman charged with setting fire to her own home after disabling smoke alarms to ensure the fire spread, in protest at her children having been taken into care. Issues of fitness to plead and ability to form intent. Prosecution accepted plea to lesser offence.

R v D – junior counsel for the defence in a murder in which the defendant was charged with murdering his wife following an argument. Incident said to have been witnessed by their child, who gave evidence. Complex toxicology issues in relation to the time of death.

R v S – junior counsel for the defence in a case in which the defendant was charged with supplying firearms to the criminal underworld. These including weapons which had been formally deactivated by licensed bodies, but which had made their way back into criminal hands, indicating that the conspiracy included persons responsible for removing weapons from circulation.

R v L - prosecuted a defendant charged with robbery of a security van outside a supermarket. Chased by employees and customers while shedding several layers of clothing. Clothing seized and matched that worn by the perpetrator on CCTV. Convicted after trial.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Criminal Bar Association
South Eastern Circuit
Association of Military Court advocates

QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (Hons) Birmingham

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