



Clare Dowse

Clare is a highly sought after criminal defence advocate, who is in huge demand at a national level for her meticulous case preparation and her persuasive and engaging court presence. She has experience of criminal advocacy at all levels up to and including the Court of Appeal.

Clare is a leading junior who is instructed to defend in cases at the highest level of complexity involving serious sexual, drugs or violent offences. In particular, her skills are in demand for exceptionally complex sexual allegations, including historic abuse cases. Clare is experienced at dealing with sexual allegations involving additional complexities such as the involvement of intermediaries, parallel Family Court proceedings, third party materials held by various third party authorities and those necessitating the cross-examination of children.

Clare enjoys strong relationships with her numerous professional clients. She is known for fighting extremely hard for clients, for providing robust and pragmatic advice when required, and for her ability to deal effectively and efficiently with complex matters of law and evidence.

For her lay clients, Clare is a confident and reassuring presence no matter at what stage of the proceedings she appears.

She also has substantial experience in advising upon and conducting cases with a mental health element, particularly relating to hospital order cases and M'Naghten defences or trials of issue.

Clare has exceptional strength in written work and is able to advise both private individuals/ companies and public authorities on criminal and other regulatory issues.

Clare is able to accept instructions under the Public Access Scheme, for those cases which are suitable to be dealt with on a direct access basis. She is happy to accept private and publicly funded instructions in criminal and quasi-criminal matters.

Outside court, Clare trains undergraduate law students in the skills of advocacy and mooting in a highly successful programme at University of London (Birkbeck College).

Clare has regularly been invited to appear on radio to comment on topical issues related to the criminal justice system, including appearing on Radio 4, Radio 5Live and BBC Radio London.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Clare travelled extensively in Europe and the US in her work as a journalist in the music business.

Notable Cases

R v H – Guildford Crown Court (2022) – Leading Junior for the Defence in Operation Hydrogen, a complex case of historical sexual offending involving eight separate complainants and complex issues of bad character, reported nationally. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11251689/Paedophile-football-coach-abused-boys-young-11-1996-2000-jailed-10-years.html>

R v B & Ors – Court of Appeal (2022) – representing in successful appeal against conviction in 'small boats' cases which identified widespread errors of law, reported nationally. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossing-court-appeal-jail-b2010191.html>

R v M – Wood Green Crown Court (2022) – Led Junior in trial involving multiple serial stranger rapes at knifepoint, reported nationally. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/rapist-who-filmed-attacks-may-26859883>

R v G – Aylesbury Crown Court (2022) – successfully defending in re-trial of masseur accused of sexually assaulting three clients (original jury having been unable to agree on verdicts).

R v G – Bournemouth Crown Court (2021) – defending in familial sexual abuse allegations, involving cross-examination of children.

R v T – Norwich Crown Court (2021) – defending in historic familial sexual abuse allegations.

R v K – Harrow Crown Court (2021) – successfully defending in coercive and controlling behaviour trial involving complex cultural issues.

R v B – Huntingdon Crown Court (2020) – successfully defending in rape trial, where allegations dated back to when both complainant and Defendant were teenagers.

R v C – Snaresbrook Crown Court (2020) – defending 15-year-old client in street stabbing case which Crown contended was “millimetres from being a murder”. Acquitted in 40 minutes after a 7 day trial.

R v J – Maidstone Crown Court (2020) – instructed post pleas to represent Defendant for sentence in exceptionally complex case involving sexual offending against children of the highest degree of seriousness.

R v H – Winchester Crown Court (2020) – successful defence to murder as led junior in ‘Operation Highlander’.

R v O & Ors – Harrow Crown Court (2020) – defending in Operation Bolshoy Kamen, multi-handed firearms case with alleged ‘gang’ background, including successful complex legal arguments to exclude alleged ‘police expert’ evidence of both gang activity/background and cell siting/telecoms. Acquitted.

R v R & Ors – Maidstone Crown Court (2020) – defending in lengthy trial relating to large scale public disorder arising from proceedings in coroner’s court.

R v T & Ors – Liverpool Crown Court (2019) – defending in Operation Anvil, a huge scale conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs case involving over 30 Defendants, centred on Liverpool but involving offences nationwide. Clare’s client was one of only two Defendants in this Operation who were acquitted of the conspiracy at trial. <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/notorious-gang-who-flooded-exeter-3666676>

R v H & Ors – Harrow Crown Court (2019) – defending in multi-handed knife point robbery featuring young and vulnerable Defendants.

R v S & Ors – Bristol Crown Court (2019) – defending in alleged aggravated burglary, said to be linked to ‘county lines’ drugs operation in the South West.

R v B-P – Isleworth Crown Court (2018) – successful defence of not guilty by reason of insanity for client who had committed a series of extremely serious assaults over a two-month time period.

R v D & Or – Basildon Crown Court (2018) – defending in ‘baby shaking’ trial involving serious injuries suffered by nine week old child, featuring extremely complex medical evidence.

R v H – Blackfriars Crown Court (2018) – successful duress defence against mother accused of trying to supply drugs to her son in prison.

R v G & Or – St Albans Crown Court (2018) – defending in Operation Pickard, trial alleging serious multiple sexual allegations.

R v G – Cambridge Crown Court (2018) – defending doctor accused of substantial insurance fraud. Following provision of psychiatric and psychological reports and legal argument, the Crown offered no evidence.

R v T – Inner London Crown Court (2018) – defending in Operation Penela trial, relating to alleged £600k fraud against an NHS Trust.

R v R – Basildon Crown Court (2018) – defending in s18 stabbing, involving life-threatening injuries. This was followed by winning a very substantial sentence reduction for her young client in the Court of Appeal.

R v R – Maidstone Crown Court (2017) – defending on 14-count indictment of alleged historical rapes and sexual assaults against grandmother and step-daughter. Acquitted on all counts.

R v B – Wood Green Crown Court (2017) – defending in Operation Garland, allegations of multiple rapes of two child complainants.

R v G – Cambridge Crown Court (2017) – defending in allegations of child sex involving school caretaker, attracting national media attention.

R v L – Harrow Crown Court (2017) – defending in historic indecent assault case involving complex arguments on admissibility and cross-admissibility.

R v W – Croydon Crown Court (2016) – defending in multiple rape allegations in family setting, including elements of coercive control.

R v R – Croydon Crown Court (2016) – defending in multiple rape allegations involving alleged involvement in BDSM scene.

R v B – Wood Green Crown Court (2016) – Operation Fable, defending lorry driver in large scale allegations of conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration to another member state.

R v A – Isleworth Crown Court (2016) – defended uncle accused of serious sexual offending against nephew, involving complex issues on admissibility.

R v M – St Albans Crown Court (2016) – represented client accused of bizarre blackmail plot involving a prominent local businessman, Operation Boast.

R v R – Leeds Crown Court (2016) – defended step-grandfather in allegations of sexual activity with step-granddaughter, in case involving pre-recorded cross-examination of complainant.

R v M – Gloucester Crown Court (2016) – defending at trial of man accused of multiple rapes on his former wife in the context of an allegedly abusive ‘coercive control’ relationship.

R v R – Guildford Crown Court (2016) – defending at trial of male accused of multiple rapes on previous partners.

R v D & Ors – Swindon Crown Court (2016) – representing young client who was charged with violent disorder following the largest illegal rave ever dealt with by Wiltshire police. Non-custodial sentence achieved.

R v C & Ors – Plymouth Crown Court (2015) – defended mother in historical allegations of child cruelty against offspring, involving allegations of providing children to others for sexual purposes. Case featured widely in national newspapers.

R v B – Bristol Crown Court (2015) – defended in trial involving multiple historical counts of sexual activity with child step-daughter.

R v L – Woolwich Crown Court (2015) – defended in allegations of multiple historical counts of rape against step-daughter.

R v J & Or – Central Criminal Court (2015) – led junior for Defence in Operation Kalgary, allegation of ‘torture’ murder.

R v H & Ors – Oxford Crown Court (2015) – Operation Reportage, multi-handed multi-complainant indictment involving child sex allegations.

R v M & Or – Snaresbrook Crown Court (2015) – originally instructed in case of alleged complex historic abuse in a familial setting.

R v K – St Albans Crown Court (2014) – allegation of sexual activity with a child, involving ‘vulnerable witness’ provisions.

R v J – Inner London Crown Court (2014) – defending in case alleging stranger rape.

R v T & Ors – Bristol Crown Court (2014-15) – Operation Albatross, alleged conspiracy to produce class A drugs on an industrial scale.

R v S & Ors – Isleworth Crown Court (2014) – originally instructed in Operation Chrome, alleged conspiracy to gang rape.

R v R – Wood Green Crown Court (2014) – defending allegations of multiple rape in family setting.

R v W – Chelmsford Crown Court (2014) – defending in alleged arson with intent to endanger life.

R v O – Wood Green Crown Court (2014) – defending in historic rape and sexual abuse allegations with multiple complainants.

R v H – Wood Green Crown Court (2014) – defending in alleged multiple rape.

R v B – Gloucester Crown Court (2014) – defending in near-fatal stabbing in domestic context, originally charged as attempted murder.

R v L – Wood Green Crown Court (2014) – defending in high profile case of outraging public decency.

R v F – Bristol Crown Court (2013) – defending in allegations of attempted s18 and dangerous driving related to road rage incident.

C v Lancashire Constabulary – Preston Crown Court (2013) – acting for Applicant in appeal against revocation of firearms licence (civil).

Reported Cases

R v Whitton [2007] 2 Cr.App.R.(S.) 67(15), CA, CLW issue 24, 25.6.07 – sexual offences prevention orders.

‘Clare forensically considers the evidence in a case, no matter how voluminous, and provides detailed analysis and advice. She is then able to implement this level of knowledge into her advocacy, allowing her to achieve excellent results.’ (Legal 500 – 2024)

Qualifications

BA (Hons) 2:1 Drama and English (University of London, Goldsmith’s College)
LLB (Hons) 2:1 (University of London, Birkbeck College)

Membership & Associations

Inner Temple
Criminal Bar Association (Chambers Representative)

Areas of Work

General Crime
Asset Forfeiture & Confiscation
Firearm Legislation
Fraud (commercial & serious)
Judicial Review
Legal Professional Privilege

Licensing & Regulatory
Money Laundering
Murder
On-line Child Abuse Offences
Organised Crime
Prison Law
Public Access
Road Traffic
Serious Sexual Offences
Tribunals & Inquiries

Clare Dowse's client acquitted in rape trial

Nadine Radford QC and Clare Dowse secure murder acquittal of 19-year-old in street stabbing trial

Clare Dowse's client, 15, acquitted in s18 stabbing trial

Clare Dowse represents 'extremely dangerous' offender in life sentence case

Nadine Radford QC and Clare Dowse commence murder trial at Winchester Crown Court

Clare Dowse's client acquitted in drug-related aggravated burglary trial

Clare Dowse wins substantial sentence reduction in the Court of Appeal

Clare Dowse's client found not guilty by reason of insanity in unusual trial at Isleworth Crown Court

Clare Dowse commences in 'baby shaking' trial

Clare Dowse succeeds with 'duress' defence at trial