



Kathryn Hirst

Kathryn has wide experience in defending and prosecuting in cases involving allegations of sexual offences and regularly advises both the defence and prosecution pre-charge. She also has an appellate practice. Her busy diary reflects her specialism in this field of practice. She is a Grade 3 RASSO prosecutor

In her defence work she specialises in difficult trials involving historic sexual allegations, sexual abuse, familial rape, indecent images and sexual grooming. As a result, she is experienced in dealing with complex disclosure involving schools, local authorities and social services as well as issues of capacity, insanity and fitness to plead.

She is trained in the questioning of vulnerable witnesses and is one of chambers' lead facilitators in training others in this important area. She is frequently instructed in such cases on both sides. Kathryn has appeared in high value frauds as both a prosecutor and defence advocate. She has advised in and conducted a number of high value confiscation hearings for the defence and prosecution as well as in trials involving boiler rooms frauds, misconduct in public office and banking frauds.

As well as those specialist areas Kathryn has a thriving practice in a wide range of other offences, appearing on both sides in cases involving murder, drugs, dishonesty, benefit fraud and serious violence.

Qualifications

BA (Hons.) Law
Public Access qualified

Professional Associations

CBA
South Eastern Circuit

Recent Cases

Joseph [2023] successfully defended one of four men charged with a cash in transit robbery foiled by a member of the public who rammed the getaway car with his own vehicle

Bibby [2023] lead by Tana Adkin KC for the first Defendant in a street stabbing murder.

Kent [2023] M'Naughton insanity defence for a man charged with biting a young girl whilst believing he was a vampire.

Serhir [2022] Defendant charged with child trafficking and rape of a vulnerable 12 year old girl.

KH [2022] 15 year old youth charged with murder of a taxi driver. The Defendant aged 15 at the time of the killing had complex learning and emotional needs that were successfully managed during his trial.

Chang [2021] Defended former Royal Ballet dancer charged with widespread sexual abuse of pupils.

Abdulrahman [2020] successfully defended a doctor charged with sexual assault on a nurse.

Siddique (2019) Solicitor charged with perverting the course of justice, false accounting and fraud [defending].

R v Read – (2018) Guilty plea to cyber-crime blackmail. She also argued the sentence in the Court of Appeal [Defending]

R v LM – (2018) Historic rape of step-daughter. Length of sentence and totality successfully argued in the Court of Appeal. The Defendant was also a prominent member of a right wing extremist group.

R v Fani-Kayode – (2017) Representing a 90 year old man with Alzheimer's charged with the historic rape of his daughter.

R v P – (2015) Successful prosecution of a man who had sexually abused all four of his natural daughters over nearly 20 years.

R v RDV – Teacher who pleaded Guilty to sexual activity with pupils at a Scottish boarding school. This involved advising on abuse of process, jurisdiction as well as on sentence in a complex case. The sentence was also argued by her in the Court of Appeal [Defending].

R v Peachey – (2011) attempted murder by son whilst father was in a coma [Defending].

R v HH – (2010) – Operation Retriever. She successfully defended one of those charged in Operation Retriever with grooming young and vulnerable girls in Derby and committing serious sexual offences against them. This was one of the biggest and most extensive sexual grooming investigations in the UK at that time [Defending].