

Maja Wilkins

Maja joined Chambers as a tenant in October 2022 following the successful completion of her pupillage. She defends and prosecutes in the Crown Court, Magistrates' Court, and Youth Court.

Solicitors have been "impressed by her level of preparedness... in order to be able to make detailed legal submissions and achieving some excellent results".

"Maja's ability to get to the heart of the relevant legal issues in the cases we instructed her on at SKB Legal to be that of a more senior advocate".

Maja is described as "hardworking, conscientious, diligent and approachable".

Prior to joining Chambers for pupillage, Maja worked at Oxford Crown Court where she gained a unique insight into advocacy and criminal practice.

Whilst studying on the Bar course, Maja volunteered as a mentor for Vocalise, a student-led initiative, attending HMP Pentonville to teach prisoners to debate. She also volunteered as a case worker for the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV).

During the GDL, Maja won the prestigious ESU-Essex Court Chambers National Mooting Competition and went on to represent Oxford Brookes University in the Inner Temple Magna Carta Moot.

Notable cases

R v M – Southwark CC

Pre-caution comments excluded after successful section 78 PACE submissions. Defendant acquitted of having a bladed article in a public place after defence of good reason advanced at trial. The jury deliberated for less than an hour before delivering a unanimous not guilty verdict, preserving the defendant's good character.

R v K – Southwark CC

Represented client at trial charged on indictment with racially aggravated harassment and breach of a civil injunction. At sentence, persuaded the Judge that the custodial threshold had not been crossed, and to pass an 18-month community order.

R v H – Reading CC

Defendant of previous good character had been convicted of domestic assault and pleaded guilty to criminal damage. At appeal against conviction and sentence, inconsistencies in the complainant's evidence were exposed under cross-examination. Both appeals were allowed.

R v B – Oxford CC

Instructed by the Crown to Prosecute trial of defendant charged with child cruelty.

R v M – Woolwich CC

Instructed to represent defendant at trial for assault an emergency worker and possession of a bladed article. The Crown offered no evidence.

R v B – Central Criminal Court

Instructed to represent defendant at trial for assault occasioning actual bodily harm. The Crown offered no evidence.

R v B – Birmingham CC

Instructed to represent defendant at trial for violent disorder. The Crown offered no evidence.

R v K – Isleworth CC

Successfully distinguished facts of case from that of R v Akrofi-Daniels [2022] EWCA Crim 589 and persuaded Judge to sentence defendant under category 3 harm (street dealing) rather than category 2, significantly reducing sentence for a first-time offender.

R v S – Oxford MC

Secured the acquittal of defendant charged with assaulting a steward at a football match, thereby preserving his good character.

R v DS – Stratford MC

Secured the acquittal of a defendant charged with domestic assault against his ex- partner.

R v B – Barkingside MC

Successfully persuaded Magistrates' Bench that particular circumstances arose rendering it unjust to impose the mandatory minimum sentence of 4 months' DTO and instead impose a 12-month YRO for this defendant who pleaded guilty to a second strike knife offence.

R v A – Thames MC

Persuaded the District Judge to step outside of the sentencing guidelines and impose a community order for defendant who pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article.

R v T – Bromley MC

Successfully secured a suspended sentence for defendant facing mandatory minimum sentence six months' imprisonment for possession of a bladed article. Sentence was also reduced from six months to four.

R v K – Romford MC

Successfully argued exceptional hardship preventing mandatory totting disqualification.

R v MA – Highbury MC

The District Judge was inclined to sentence the defendant, who turned 18 after entering guilty pleas, to custody for possession of offensive weapons, PWITS and possession of cannabis. Persuaded the Judge to impose an intensive referral order instead.

Memberships

Criminal Bar Association

Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Women in Criminal Law

Qualifications and Education

Grade 1 CPS Panel Advocate

The University of Law (2020), BPTC, Very Competent

Oxford Brookes University (2018), GDL, Distinction

University of East Anglia (2017), History and Politics, First

Scholarships

Jules Thorn Scholarship (Middle Temple, 2019)

Advocacy Scholarship (The University of Law, 2019)

Languages

Swedish – fluent