

Sarah Taylor

Call: 2014

Contact Sarah Directly: 020 7353 6802 or clerks@goldsmithchambers.com



Sarah accepts instructions in all of Chambers' practice areas and is authorised to conduct work on a Direct Access basis. She is building a reputation as a firm but sympathetic advocate. Sarah has a particular interest in matters affecting criminal justice, including crime, inquests, civil actions and public law.

Sarah is ranked in the Legal 500 2021 edition, Crime (Tier 1 – *Rising Star*).

Before coming to the Bar, Sarah worked as a Research Assistant at the Law Commission of England and Wales, under Professor David Ormerod QC. Sarah worked primarily on reform of the criminal offences of misconduct in public office, kidnapping and child abduction.

Sarah has a particular interest in cases where there are issues concerning mental health. Her masters thesis examined the human rights of those who lack capacity to make decisions on their own behalf, with a particular focus on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the Court of Protection. Sarah has also conducted research in relation to intermediaries and fitness to plead in the criminal context.

Sarah has previously served for a number of years on the committee of the Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association (MTYBA).

Sarah is committed to voluntary and charitable work, working with a number of legal and non-legal organisations. In 2016, Sarah spent 4 months volunteering in Sri Lanka as coordinator of a charity focussing on the empowerment of young girls and the improvement of education and well-being for young persons affected by the tsunami and civil war.

Sarah has volunteered with a number of legal organisations, including BiD (Bail for Immigration Detainees), the Free Representation Unit and the Human Rights Law Centre (University of Nottingham) on projects for the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

Publications

- 'Working for the Law Commission' (2015) *Lawyer2B* (Online)
- 'Bringing them home' (2014) 164 *New Law Journal* 7

Location

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- 'Kidnapping: a move in the right direction' (2014) 178 *JPN* 703 (Criminal Law and Justice Weekly)

Crime

Sarah appears regularly in the Crown, Magistrates' and Youth Courts, for either defence or prosecution.

During her pupillage, Sarah assisted in serious criminal trials; including gross negligence manslaughter, firearms and large-scale drugs conspiracy. She is now developing a thriving practice of her own, including a number of matters under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Notable cases

- *R v C* (Chelmsford Crown Court): Secured convictions for two counts of armed bank robbery. Trial issue was mistaken identification, involving expert evidence and numerous legal arguments concerning the admissibility of evidence.
- *Environment Agency v B* (Worcester Crown Court): Sarah is currently being led in Proceeds of Crime Act matter, where the prosecution assert a benefit figure of £37million and rely on thousands of pages of evidence.
- *R v I* (Lincoln Crown Court): Defendant acquitted of s.18 wounding relating to allegations of glassing resulting in facial laceration.
- *R v A* (Central Criminal Court): Secured conviction in prosecution of defendant charged with being in possession of a lock knife at Notting Hill Carnival after he had performed at the event.
- *R v B and others* (St Albans Crown Court): Sarah was instructed as led-Junior in 18-handed conspiracy to commit fraud. Defendant received a suspended sentence of imprisonment. Subsequently, Sarah negotiated a favourable settlement in the Crown's application under the Proceeds of Crime Act.
- *R v P* (Cambridge Crown Court): Secured unanimous acquittal of defendant charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.
- *R v S* (Guildford Crown Court): Secured unanimous acquittal of Defendant charged with domestic burglary. Crown relied on substantial circumstantial evidence.
- *R v G and others* (Lincoln Crown Court): unanimous acquittal after 4-day trial. Case concerned issues of joint enterprise and mens rea. Co-defendant was unanimously convicted.
- *R v B and others* (Birmingham Crown Court): 7-handed contested hearing under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The prosecution initially sought a hidden assets figure in excess of £1,000,000. After 7 days of evidence an order was made for £30,000.
- *R v T* (Inner London Crown Court): acquittal of joint possession of articles for use in fraud after submission of 'no case to answer'.

Inquests and Inquiries

Sarah is keen to develop her practice in the areas of inquests and public inquiries. Her background in human rights law, in both the criminal justice and healthcare context, provides her with a strong foundation in these areas.

Sarah has recently been instructed by the Government Legal Department in relation to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry,

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and a large civil claim relating to allegations of torture against HM Government.

Civil

Sarah is developing her civil practice and appears in the High Court and County Court on various matters of general civil law.

Sarah recently worked for an extended period on the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry, instructed by the Home Office as part of the Attorney General's Junior Junior Scheme. Sarah was subsequently instructed by the Government Legal Department in relation to a claim against HM Government by thirty-three Cypriots who claimed they were tortured by British forces during an armed uprising in the late 1950s – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46978271>.

Cases concerned with issues of mental health are of real interest to Sarah. Her masters thesis focussed on deprivation of liberty of those who lack capacity to make decisions on their own behalf. She accepts instructions in matters in the Court of Protection.

As a result of Sarah's work at the Law Commission on Misconduct in Public Office, she has a keen interest in cases concerning the conduct of police and other public office holders. During her pupillage, she assisted Head of Chambers, Anthony Metzger QC on drafting numerous advices and pleadings in actions against the police.

Family

Sarah accepts instructions in all areas of family law and appears in hearings in the Magistrates' Court, County Court and High Court. She has particular experience acting in private family law matters.

Sarah also has experience in matters concerning child abduction, which she finds particularly interesting following her in-depth research in this area whilst working at the Law Commission of England and Wales.

Sarah's experience in criminal and human rights law complements her work in family law. As part of her Masters LLM in Human Rights Law, Sarah undertook a specific module on children's rights. This was concerned with the law of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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Appointments

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- CPS Advocate Panel – Grade 2
- Attorney General’s Junior Junior Scheme

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- INQUEST
- South Eastern Circuit

Awards

- Jules Thorn Scholarship, Middle Temple (2013)

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