



# Berenice Mulvanny

**Year of Call:** 2009

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## Sexual offences

Berenice Mulvanny has extensive expertise in sexual offences including rape, including historic allegations, voyeurism, buggery, inciting underage sex and other serious sexual offences. She has experience of ancillary orders such as Sexual Harm Prevention Orders and Criminal Behaviour Orders and is a level 4 CPS and specialist rape and serious sexual assault prosecutor.

Berenice is an exceptional and persuasive advocate. Her strength is her ability to deal with sensitive and difficult allegations with tact and confidence, especially with cases involving young and vulnerable witnesses. She often acts for defendants who have no experience of the court process, who hold positions of responsibility and find themselves charged with serious and (if proven) potentially career ending sexual offences. She has successfully defended police officers, teachers, care workers and military personnel. She also acts for vulnerable, elderly and young defendants.

### Examples of recent cases

**R v P 2024:** Portsmouth Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with non-fatal strangulation and rape. Acquitted after trial.

**R v M 2024:** Southampton Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with two counts of rape. Acquitted after trial.

**R v G 2024:** Portsmouth Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with three counts of rape. Acquitted after trial. After cross-examination, the Crown offered no evidence on two counts.

**R v C 2024:** Portsmouth Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with four counts of sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder by a care worker. Acquitted after trial. The trial involved the pre-recording of the vulnerable complainant's evidence.

**R v M 2023:** Bournemouth Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with sexual assault. Acquitted after trial. Legal argument included non-defendant bad character of the complainant and previous false allegations.

**R v W 2023:** Salisbury Crown Court. Prosecuting multiple counts of historic rape of a child. Convicted after trial.

**R v B. 2023:** Winchester Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with two counts of rape. Acquitted after trial. The complainant's evidence and cross-examination was pre-recorded.

**R v H 2022:** Guildford Crown Court. Defending allegations of rape, controlling and coercive behaviour and false imprisonment. Prosecution offered no evidence after extensive legal argument at trial.

**R v Y 2022/2023:** Winchester Crown Court. Prosecuting kidnap at knife point and rape. Life sentence imposed and upheld in the Court of Appeal.

**R v M 2022:** Bulford Court Martial Centre. Defending a Naval Officer charged with sexual assault. Acquitted.

**R v M 2021:** Portsmouth Crown Court. Prosecuting a multi complainant allegation of multiple rapes against a football coach.

**R v S 2021:** Southampton Crown Court. Defending a vulnerable client charged with rape of a child under 13, Acquitted after trial

**R v B 2021:** Oxford Crown Court. Defending a bailiff charged with rape. Acquitted after trial.

**R v C 2021:** Winchester Crown Court. Prosecuting a rape of a child under 10. Conviction after trial

**R v S 2021:** Portsmouth Crown Court. Counsel for the defendant charged with multiple counts of non-recent sexual activity with a child when the defendant was a secondary school teacher.

**R v M 2020:** Southampton Crown Court. Prosecuting attempting to pay for the sexual services of a child. Convicted after trial. Conviction upheld in the Court of Appeal.

**R v W 2020:** Winchester Crown Court. Counsel for defendant charged with sexual assault and kidnap.

**R v B 2020:** Southampton Crown Court. Counsel for defendant on a 17 count indictment including arranging the commission of a child sex offence and possession and distribution of indecent images of children

**R v G 2019/2020:** Poole Youth Court. Youth charged with assault by penetration

**R v D 2019:** Southampton Crown Court. Counsel for a 90 year old defendant charged with sexual assault of a child under 13 and sexual activity with a child family member

**R v R 2019:** Southampton Crown Court. Historic rape dating back to 1959

**R v H 2019:** Bournemouth Crown Court. Disclosure Counsel. Rape of an escort and witness intimidation

**R v L 2018:** Bournemouth Crown Court. Counsel for a vulnerable defendant requiring an intermediary charged with assault by penetration

**R v A 2018:** Southampton Crown Court. Counsel for defendant charged with exposure and sentenced to a suspended sentence

**R v B 2018:** Southampton Crown Court. Prosecuting a transgender woman for numerous offences of inciting a girl under the age of 13 to engage in sexual activity

**R v H 2018/2019:** Winchester Crown Court. Led by Adam Feest QC prosecuting a high-profile defendant charged with 50 counts of historical sexual abuse.

## Recommendations

Berenice Mulvanny is a well-respected criminal barrister with experience in cases involving sexual offences and child abuse. She is a Grade 4 RASSO prosecutor for the CPS.

Strengths: "She is very talented and she has great client care skills and she is very respected by local judges."

### Chambers UK 2025/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "Berenice is a very articulate and persuasive advocate."

"Her advocacy is excellent and she is particularly good with vulnerable witnesses, especially children."

"Her communication is superb, as is her timeliness."

### Chambers UK 2024/Crime/Western Bar

Strengths: "Berenice has an amazing work ethic and is very knowledgeable of the law."

'Berenice is a thoughtful advocate. She is well-prepared.'

**Legal 500 2025/**Crime (General and Fraud)/Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

'The combination of skill, hard work and compassion which Berenice brings has earned her an excellent reputation amongst instructing solicitors, colleagues and judges alike.'

**Legal 500 2024/**Crime (General and Fraud)/Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

'Berenice is a very impressive barrister – she is extremely combative whilst also being very pleasant to deal with. She is extremely well prepared and a very engaging advocate – clear, incisive, organised. Judges are impressed by her.'

**Legal 500 2023/**Crime (General and Fraud)/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

"I just wanted to say that Berenice Mulvanny has been without a shadow of a doubt the greatest recommendation from any chambers that I have taken a punt on in my more than 35 years of doing this job. I know both the case and I would have driven her mad at times, but she has been sensational from start to finish. I sat through the majority of the trial and her advocacy and client care were simply first class.....I just cannot speak highly enough of her, will absolutely look to instruct her moving forward (for anything out in the sticks of course), and have no doubt that she is destined for greatness."

**Steve Foster, Foster and Coleman**

"If at all possible, can Berenice Mulvanny from 3PB be allocated to this brief. I suspect that a joinder application will have to be made, she has the relevant grade 4 qualification. From a previous court case I was very impressed with her. Her overall manner and comprehensive grasp of sexual offences along with covert tactics were excellent."

**Regional Organised Crime Unit**

I just wanted to say that Berenice Mulvanny has been without a shadow of a doubt the greatest recommendation from any chambers that I have taken in my more than 35 years of doing this job. I sat through the majority of the trial and her advocacy and client care were simply first class. I promise you that I have very rarely written about counsel to their chambers in such glowing terms, but she deserves all the plaudits in what has been an incredibly trying case for a number of reasons.

**Instructing solicitor**

"I was really impressed with the client care that Berenice provided to my youth client throughout his Crown Court trial and her obvious understanding of the adaptations that should be made when dealing with youth clients. She skilfully negotiated a less than straightforward trial whilst establishing rapport with my client and ensuring he fully understood developments in his case. Her preparation of the case and advocacy were first class and she was a pleasure to work with."

**Instructing Solicitor**

"I am very pleased with the outcome and what has been achieved on my behalf. This was the best experience of solicitor and barrister care out of the 25 years I have been going through the Courts. I would like to thank everyone involved and I have recommended Eric Robinson Solicitors to someone else, who has already written to you over the weekend in order to represent him. Thank you so much."

**Criminal Defence client**

"I would like to thank you for your amazing work with a somewhat challenging client. The correct verdict is entirely down to your hard work and superb presentation of his case. I cannot thank you enough. I would be saying the same even if he had not had this outcome as I have been highly impressed with the work seen and it is evident that you have done your utmost on his behalf."

**On behalf of a Criminal Defence client**

"From a previous court case I was very impressed with Berenice. Her overall manner and comprehensive grasp of sexual offences along with covert tactics were excellent. So much so, I have asked for her to be allocated to another case."

#### **Criminal Prosecution client**

"Words cannot express how grateful we are to have you provide X's defence. From our first meeting you provided confidence and reassurance, obviously recognising the pressure X and the family were under. You have not only enabled X to pursue the life he planned but lifted a massive weight from the whole family. Many thanks."

#### **Criminal Defence client**

## **Academic qualifications**

- BVC, College of Law
- LLB(Hons), University of Kent, Canterbury

## **Scholarships**

- Middle Temple Harmsworth Scholarship

## **Professional bodies**

- Criminal Bar Association
- Grade 4 Prosecutor
- Middle Temple
- Western Circuit
- Rape and Serious Sexual Assault accredited prosecutor
- Counter Terrorism specialist prosecutor
- Serious Crime specialist prosecutor
- Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)