

Rebecca McKnight

Year of Call: 2016

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Overview

Rebecca McKnight is a criminal barrister who is instructed to defend and prosecute across the spectrum of criminal offences.

Rebecca has prosecuted on behalf of the CPS and police and was seconded to the Serious Fraud Office as Disclosure Counsel.

Prior to being called to the Bar, Rebecca enjoyed a successful career at the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC).

Recommendations

'I have instructed Rebecca in a variety of cases over the last couple of years. She is thorough in her preparation and very approachable. Her manner with clients, even the most difficult ones, is professional, courteous and informative. Clients often report back to me how impressed they are by her advocacy skills and how confident they feel being represented by her'

Jason Halsey, Instructing Solicitor, Churchers

'You were brilliant, I was so glad it was you representing me, you put me at ease and explained things clearly. You spoke with confidence, and I knew you would fight for me.'

Client

'Rebecca's preparation is detailed and precise. Her advocacy is clear and concise and easily understood... the judiciary have also commented to me about Miss McKnight's excellent trial ability. I can say without hesitation that Miss McKnight is both an excellent lawyer and advocate.'

Senior Crown Prosecutor

'I have instructed Rebecca on a number of my cases and what strikes me the most is how much she cares about getting the best result for her client. Rebecca goes above and beyond to ensure that her client's understand the charges they face and the process ahead of them. You really are in safe hands when being represented by Rebecca.'

Instructing Solicitor

'I have instructed Rebecca on a number of cases, and she is always a pleasure to work with. Rebecca has a particular knack for building a very good rapport with clients of all ages and putting them at ease. Rebecca puts a lot of time and thought into case strategy and in one case of note, she made some particularly clever submissions to the jury which I have no doubt assisted with his acquittal.'

Rachel Wigley, Instructing Solicitor, Churchers

'I would also like to say how amazing professional and an absolute pleasure it was to have Rebecca as my barrister she was outstanding. I can't praise her enough.'

Client

Academic qualifications

- BPTC, City Law School – Very Competent
- BA (Hons) in Law, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge – 2:1

Scholarships

- Droop Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
- Hardwicke Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Level 1, CPS Advocate Panel, General Crime
- Level 2, CPS Advocate Panel, General Crime

Professional bodies

- Member of Lincoln's Inn
- Level 2, CPS Advocate Panel, General Crime
- Western Circuit
- Vulnerable witness training
- NPP advocacy training
- NPP ethics training

Expertise

Crime and Regulatory Crime

Rebecca accepts instructions in general crime and court martial work. Her respectful and fair approach allows her to form strong relationships with clients.

Rebecca's recent work includes defending allegations of a sexual nature, successfully appealing a sentence to the Court of Appeal and defending on a witness intimidation case.

Appellate

R v TG successfully appealed a sentence as being manifestly excessive in the Court of Appeal

Sexual offences

R v SB unanimous acquittal for sexual assault of a child under 13 and sexual activity with a child

R v AH represented a client accused of assault by penetration

R v HA not guilty for client accused of sexual assault

R v SM not guilty following representation to the Crown to offer no evidence for multiple allegations of rape and kidnap

R v RD represented client accused of rape

Offences against the person

R v JaH defendant found not guilty following jury trial of actual bodily harm and other offences

R v OS trial for defendant accused of causing grievous bodily harm with intent

R v JMC acquittal for threats to kill after half time submissions of no case to answer

R v MS acquittal for assault against an emergency worker

R v RE representations successfully made to the Crown to accept an out of court disposal for a youth involved in a serious affray

R v LG successfully opposed a bad character application and res gestae argument and then made a successful submission of no case to answer

R v MS & NC successfully argued to the Crown, YOT and police that a caution could be given for one client and a referral order for the other in a serious ABH where a broken glass bottle was the weapon

R v LN not guilty of assaults and controlling or coercive behaviour following successful representation to the Crown to offer not evidence

Drugs offences

R v SM unanimous acquittal for Possession with intent to supply Class A

R v EC sentence for possession with intent to supply Class A drugs, significant role and fell into category 3. Suspended sentence received by defendant

R v AB community order for defendant sentenced for supplying class A drugs

R v TH not guilty for drugs supply offences after successful representations made for the Crown to offer no evidence

Dishonesty offences

R v JH acquittal for theft from a vehicle

R v OL persuaded the Judge to impose a lower custodial sentence for client, compared to the co-defendants, by distinguishing their circumstances and offending from the others in a very high value theft

R v MR appeared for sentencing of defendant for robbery

R v LW represented defendant accused of conspiracy to burgle and participate in activities of an organised crime group

Other offences

R v MH unanimous acquittal for witness intimidation and perverting the course of justice

R v DS no evidence offered following a successful halftime submission for threats with a blade in a public place.

R v SK written submissions persuaded the Crown to discontinue a case

R v PB successful submission of no case to answer in a breach of Criminal Behaviour Order

R v JG and others appeared for the Crown in a sentencing of multiple young men for kidnap

Courts Martial

R v LD represented a defendant at sentence for conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline

R v RC community order for client accused of stalking

Motoring offences

Rebecca frequently represents individuals accused of motoring offences, from defending them at trial to arguing special reasons and exceptional hardship to prevent disqualification or reduce penalty points.

R v NI client acquitted following trial of speeding and failure to provide identity

R v JW successful exceptional hardship argument prevented disqualification

R v RW persuaded the court that there were special reasons present on appeal, no points and therefore they retained their licence

R v SS represented a client in a Newton Hearing for dangerous driving

Prosecuting

Rebecca prosecutes on behalf of the CPS, Probation and Police.

Other work

- Previously acted as Disclosure Counsel to the Serious Fraud Office.

Articles

3PB crime and regulatory barrister Rebecca Mcknight has written on the new guidelines for strangulation or suffocation/ racially or religiously aggravated strangulation or suffocation.

The new sentencing guidelines will come into force on 1st January 2025. The data in this area is relatively limited given the offences only came into force on 7 June 2022 but practitioners will know that it is becoming increasingly common to see a charge of strangulation or suffocation. There was a clear need for a guideline for these offences.

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As non-fatal strangulation offences are increasingly charged, Rebecca McKnight examines the background to this increase and reviews the injuries in cases of strangulation based on research carried out by Dr Katherine White of the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS). Further, Rebecca looks at the implications for prosecuting and defending such cases and considers what the future might hold in this area of criminal law.

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