

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 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: "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."

Chambers UK 2023/Crime/Western Bar

`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

"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 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

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)