



# Jane Rowley

**Year of Call:** 1988

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## Overview

Jane Rowley regularly appears in complex and serious cases in London and on the Western Circuit. Since 2008 she has sat as a part-time Judge in the Crown Court (Recorder). In 2004, she attained the highest level of grading, Category 4, on the Unified list. She is recognised as a Senior Junior within the Criminal Justice System, with over 25 years of experience at the criminal bar. Her main area of expertise is in Serious Sexual Offences, such as Rape, often involving the young and the vulnerable. Jane also has considerable experience of dealing with cases involving the use of intermediaries, and experts. She has excellent "team" working relationships with those who instruct her and good client empathy and understanding. In the last 12 months, she has acted for the Serious Organised Crime Unit as Lead Counsel in a major drugs conspiracy involving millions of pounds worth of drugs, and was Lead Defence Counsel in an Attempt Murder, and been involved in numerous Rapes and Sexual Assault cases.

Between 1998 and 2000, Jane acted as Crown Counsel Criminal for the Attorney General (Cayman Islands Government). This post involved liaison with foreign governments and law enforcement agencies as well as advising and presenting cases on the Government's behalf. These cases included, Murder/ Manslaughter, Death by Driving, Rape and Health and Safety cases.

She enjoys an equal balance of prosecution and defence instructions. Her particular area of criminal expertise is in the field of serious sexual offences, often involving vulnerable clients and witnesses. She is particularly sensitive to the needs of vulnerable clients, often involving mental health issues.

Jane continues to specialise in the Defence of person charged with serious sexual assault offences as well as other higher end serious criminal cases in the Crown Courts and Courts Martials.

Jane is qualified to accept direct access work and is particularly experienced in professional disciplinary proceedings involving healthcare workers. She also acts as a legal assessor in such cases for various disciplinary bodies.

Jane has an interest in Sport and has played Hockey at International level in both European, and at World Cup level. She has also sat on sporting disciplinary panels. This compliments her understanding of the regulation of sport from the perspective of her broad experience as a regulatory lawyer before a range of disciplinary bodies and as a participant on the field of play.

### Appointments:

Experienced Part-Time Judge (Recorder) in criminal cases in the Crown Court since 2008, 2016 authorised to deal with Class 2 sex-ticketed cases.

In 2015 authorised to deal with Private Law family cases in the County Court.

In 2019 authorised to deal with Public Law Family cases. This work involves children at risk of suffering significant harm.

Her appointments consolidates her experience as both a practitioner and Judge with experience and training spanning the interface between Criminal and Family cases. This particularly assists when dealing with the vulnerable and very young, and in handling such cases in an appropriate, effective and sensitive manner.

# Recommendations

## Solicitor/Client Testimonials

"I have known Jane professionally for over 20 years and can only speak in the highest terms as to her abilities, personality and commitment....In all the cases that she has handled for me, I was consistently impressed by her efforts and also by the ease with which she related to and communicated with clients, most of whom were disadvantaged and largely inarticulate. Her concern for their welfare, in the context of the outcome of the case, was obvious and this was something the clients were nearly always able to recognise".

"Jane Rowley commands the respect and loyalty of all those who instruct her. Despite her onerous schedule she will ensure that a case receives her full attention from beginning to end. She adopts a tactful yet robust approach in relation to clients facing the most serious of offences, leaving no stone unturned in the preparation of their defence whilst advising appropriately throughout. Jane is a fearless defence advocate in the most sensitive of circumstances and will valiantly continue to do battle for her client to the end regardless of the various difficulties that present themselves. In the face of an unprecedented and relentless corrosion of the Criminal Justice system, it is heartening that there remain a noble few like Jane Rowley who remain committed to providing a thoroughly professional service to those who need it."

"Extremely approachable from a client's perspective, builds good relations with clients hence repeat instructions and a strong following. Easily contactable and has always been flexible when arranging conferences with clients which have often taken place at our offices and even on weekends to fit in with clients commitments. Very thorough in both preparation and presentation. Regarded highly amongst her peers and in the profession generally. With Jane's assistance we have achieved excellent results over the 18 years, which I have worked with her, and longer for the Practice generally. Extremely hard working and committed."

"I have instructed Jane Rowley on many occasions in relation to serious and highly sensitive sex offence cases involving young and vulnerable witnesses as well as challenging high-maintenance defendants. Jane is thorough in her preparation of such cases and diligent in her attention to detail. While listening carefully to the client's instructions she is robust in giving advice which may be unwelcome. Jane is forthright in her dealings with her opponent and conducts her case in court with a direct and fearless attitude. It is always a pleasure to work with Jane as she engages in a team approach which is of great benefit to client relations."

## Academic qualifications

- University of Wales LLB (Hons) Cardiff
- BVC Inns of Court school of Law London

## Professional qualifications & appointments

- 1998–2000 Crown Counsel Criminal, Attorney General's Chambers, Cayman Islands Government
- Legal Assessor to the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Legal Advisor Care Council for Wales 2006–2012
- Recorder (Crime)
- Recorder (Class 2 Authorisation Serious Sexual Offences)
- Recorder Private Law Family
- Recorder Public Law Family
- Grade 4 Prosecutor on the CPS list of Prosecuting Counsel, and on the Rape Panel, Western Circuit

## Professional bodies

- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Western Circuit

## Expertise

### Crime

With over 25 years of experience, Jane regularly appears on behalf of the Prosecution and Defence, in some of the most complex and serious cases before the Criminal Courts. Since 2008 she has sat as a part-time Judge in the Crown Court (Recorder). In 2004, she attained the highest level of grading, Category 4, on the Unified list. She is recognised as a Senior Junior within the Criminal Justice System.

Her main area of expertise is in Serious Sexual Offences often involving the young and the vulnerable. Jane also has considerable experience of dealing with cases involving the use of intermediaries, and experts.

She has an excellent "team" working relationships with those who instruct her and good client empathy and understanding.

She has acted for the Serious Organised Crime Unit as Lead Counsel in a major drugs conspiracy involving millions of pounds worth of drugs.

Often involved in the most serious cases of violence which come before the criminal courts such as murder and wounding with intent. Jane was Lead Defence Counsel in an Attempt Murder.

Jane is a Recorder authorised to try serious sexual allegations (Class 2 ticket of authorisation) by the Western Circuit.

She has been instructed as Lead Defence Counsel for one of the men accused, of conspiracy to facilitate sexual offences against women/children and the supply of drugs arising from Northumbria Police's Operation Sanctuary probe, Operation Wren. The trial is listed for 6 weeks from 21st August 2017.

Between 1998-2000, Jane acted as Crown Counsel Criminal for the Attorney General (Cayman Islands Government). This post involved liaison with foreign governments and law enforcement agencies as well as advising and presenting cases on the Government's behalf. These cases included Murder/Gross Negligence Manslaughter, Drugs Importation/Supply, Serious Sexual Offences, and Death by Driving cases.

Jane has also an equal balance of Prosecution and Defence work in the areas of serious violence drugs, and cases involving death such as Dangerous Driving.

#### **Serious Sexual Offence Cases:**

##### **R v Mullacky**

Courts Martial Bulford Army Camp January 2019

Successfully Defended a Seaman charged with an offence of sexual assault by penetration.

##### **R v Jacobsen**

Portsmouth Crown Court January 2019

Successfully Defended a man in his sixties charged with historic sexual offences.

##### **R v Stephen Thomas**

Bournemouth Crown Court February 2019

Successful Prosecution of a man charged with numerous offences including trespass with intent to commit a sexual offence.

**R v Alex Morris**

Wolverhampton Crown Court March 2019

[\[See news link\]](#)

Jane Rowley was instructed by West Midlands Solicitors to defend a 22 year old man suffering from anxiety and ADHD in a case involving multiple counts of rape, coercive and controlling behaviour by his ex-partner during the three years of their relationship.

The trial involved the services of an intermediary to assist a vulnerable defendant with communication difficulties.

Unanimous verdicts of not guilty were returned on all 8 counts of the indictment after 4 hours of deliberations following a nine day trial.

**R v Neil Adcock**

Wolverhampton Crown Court July 2019

Defended a former Sea Cadet Instructor charged with a number of historic sexual assault allegations against a female trainee youth cadet. Cleared of all matters.

**Recent/Reported cases:****R v Idziak and others**

Southampton Crown Court March 2019

Successfully Prosecuted all Defendants at a trial lasting 3 weeks, in a multi handed case for the Serious Organised Crime Unit involving a conspiracy to supply class A drugs and firearms.

[\[See news link\]](#)

3PB Barrister Jane Rowley successfully prosecutes 4 men who were part of an Organised Crime Group involved in a drugs conspiracy, offensive weapons and firearms offences (Operation Socket) in Southampton Crown Court]

**R v Gary Craven**

Bournemouth Crown Court December 2019

Successful Prosecution of a man facing Death by Dangerous driving and numerous counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

[\[See news link\]](#)

**R v Asad and others (Operation Wren) Newcastle Crown Court 2017**

Lead Defence Counsel for one of 5 men accused of trafficking for sexual exploitation, sexual activity with a child, conspiracy to facilitate the prostitution of children and the supply of drugs. The trial arose as a result of Operation Sanctuary/Wren which was one of the largest police investigations into the sexual exploitation of vulnerable girls/women ever mounted in the UK. The case involved groups of men inciting girls as young as 13/14 to properties in the north east where drugs and alcohol were made available to them in exchange for sexual services. The Defendant was acquitted on two counts of conspiracy to arrange/facilitate the prostitution of a child, and one count of paying for the sexual services of a child.

**R v I and others (Operation Doublet/ Rochdale Child Abuse Cases) Manchester Crown Court 2016**

Between September-December 2016 at Manchester Crown Court, Jane Rowley successfully defended a client, who had been charged with sexual assault/rape in a multi-handed trial arising from the multi-agency Rochdale Child Abuse Enquiry. The trial involved numerous child complainants alleging systematic abuse by a number of Asian males, all of whom were convicted save for her Defendant and one other.

**R v Hedger [2016]**

Defending Counsel in a trial involving historical sexual abuse/rape charges from the 1950's/60's, by two sisters against a family member.

**R v Bovington/Bourne and others (Operation Cowling)[2015]**

Lead Prosecution Counsel in an 8 handed conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs on a significant scale, involving a joint covert surveillance operation between the Hampshire and Lancashire police forces. The total wholesale value of the drugs seized was in the region of 1.7 million pounds.

**R v Reading [2015]**

Prosecuting Counsel in a drug importation case for the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

**R v Haldane [2014-15] Kingston Crown Court**

Defence Lead Counsel in an Attempt Murder involving complex forensic and "fitness to plead" issues.

**R v Anteo and Gonsalves [2014]**

Prosecuted two men accused of the rape and sexual assault of two underage girls following extensive sexual grooming.

**R v Tough [2013]**

Defended a man with significantly limited intellectual functioning accused of rape and sexual assault in a secure accommodation unit. The case involved issues as to fitness to plead and the Defence were assisted by the use of an intermediary.

**R v Wollen [2013]**

Defended in a case involving allegations of serious sexual assaults including rape against a step child. An important aspect of the case was the understanding and interpretation of expert medical evidence on sexually transmitted disease.

**HSE v Calsonic [2011]**

Prosecuting Counsel for the Health and Safety Executive, in a death at work case at a Factory.

## **Military/Courts martial**

During her career Jane has acted for members of the armed forces in proceedings before Court Martials and in the Criminal courts. She has successfully defended service personnel facing serious sexual offences, crimes of violence, drugs, and those facing disciplinary proceedings. She has worked closely with members of the SAS/Welsh battalions during her time in practice in South Wales and the West.

Jane also has considerable experience of disciplinary tribunals both as a regulatory lawyer and as a Legal Assessor advising regulatory panels in professional disciplinary hearings. She is fully aware of the security and sensitivity involved in military cases and has obtained official secret/security clearance through her work as a Prosecutor both on the Attorney General's list of approved Counsel and as Crown Counsel Criminal, both in the UK and abroad.

Jane is qualified to accept direct access work and therefore able accept instructions directly from service personnel in respect of Service Complaints before single Service Boards, which allows timely written representations to the Service Prosecuting Authority often resulting in discontinuance and reduced legal costs.

Jane is known for her forthright approach and fearlessness in defending those facing serious matters which may impact upon their careers and/or liberty.

**Recent/ Reported Cases:****R v Mullacky**

Courts Martial Bulford Army Camp January 2019

Successfully Defended a Seaman charged with an offence of sexual assault by penetration.

## **Motoring offences**

At the start of her legal career Jane Prosecuted for the Crown Prosecution Service dealing with motoring offences from charging decision through to trial.

During her time as Crown Counsel for the Attorney General (Cayman) she was responsible for licensing matters and Prosecuting high profile cases involving deaths serious injury often involving complex scientific/technical issues. She has extensive experience of challenging expert evidence and dealing with complex issues law and fact.

She now deals with the more serious and sensitive cases in the higher courts, often involving death or serious injury. She also sits as a Part Time Judge in such cases, often on appeal from the summary courts.

Another area of specialisation is appearing for Defendants facing motoring charges in the Magistrates Courts where she has an excellent track record of achieving acquittals and avoiding disqualification/bans. These cases are usually handled on a privately paying basis.

**Cases include:**

- **R v Craven 2019/R v Evans 2010** - Death by Dangerous Driving
- **R v Castle 2017/R v Gosling/R v Hodgson/R v Ardley** - Causing Serious injury through Dangerous Driving

## **Public and Regulatory**

Jane is qualified to accept Direct Access work and is particularly experienced in Professional Disciplinary proceedings involving Healthcare Professionals, both as a Legal Assessor for Regulatory Bodies, and also as acting for Professionals.

She has appeared in hearings before the Conduct and Competence Committees of a number of Regulatory Bodies, including Nurses and Midwives, Dentists, Pharmacists, Social Workers and the Police. Her skills as an advocate and excellent client rapport, make her an ideal choice for those facing Professional Disciplinary Proceedings.

In 2006 she was appointed Attorney General's "A" list of Unified Counsel and this appointment has led to her involvement in a full range of regulatory work. She has prosecuted for Trading Standards and the Health and Safety Executive including "death at work" cases and has experience of sitting as an Appeal Judge in this area.

Jane continues to enjoy a multi disciplinary practice representing people in both the magistrates courts and crown courts in regulatory matters. She is assisted in her background and experience in this field due to her work as a legal assessor for Professional Disciplinary Bodies.

**Recent/Reported cases:**

**Care Quality Commission v Sampson**

Jane represented an owner of a care service provider business instructed by Stephenson's LLP who are leaders in the field of Regulatory Law.

**New Forest District Council Licensing Authority v Bachhu – May 2017**

Jane represented the license holder of a restaurant in a review of a premises license hearing following notification of an illegal working compliance order under the Licensing Act 2003 and Immigration Act 2016. She successfully argued that a revocation of the license was unnecessary and that license conditions were sufficient to promote the licensing objectives.

This was the first case of its kind as a result of the interlinking legislative responsibilities between immigration enforcement officers (The Home Office) and the Licensing Authority in the UK.

**HSE v (1) Ghumra Shareef (2) United Foods 2017 – Stephenson's Solicitors (March 2017)**

A HSE investigation as a result of an accident at his industrial premises resulted in criminal proceedings in the Magistrate's Court.

**General Pharmaceutical Council v Smith [21st April 2016]**

Successfully Defended a Registrant before the Fitness to Practice Committee of the General Pharmaceutical Council, instructed by Stephenson's Regulatory Lawyers. Groundbreaking procedure invoked which made it unnecessary for the Committee to embark upon the usual three stage process, which could have led to the Registrant's removal from the register, suspension, or restriction upon his practice. The Committee agreed to accept undertakings from the Registrant rather than make any order against him which permitted him to continue to practice in his chosen profession.

**HSE v Calsonic [2011]**

Prosecuting Counsel for the Health and Safety Executive, in a death at work case at a Factory.

**R v Leatherland and Pritchard [2005]**

Guideline decision of the High Court identifying the duties of the prosecution to preserve evidence.