



# Laura Deuxberry

**Year of Call:** 2013

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## Overview

Laura Deuxberry handles criminal, regulatory, public law and quasi criminal/civil matters.

Laura is praised for her tenacious and robust approach in court. She has an approachable and reassuring manner with clients, with whom she is quick to establish a rapport. Laura is known for her sensible, realistic advice and her ability to manage her client's expectations, whilst ensuring that they feel that their instructions have been listened to.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Laura gained four years of experience working as a Paralegal at a start-up company, a common law chambers in London and at a boutique law firm. These roles provided her with excellent experience of the process of preparing and managing cases, as well as an understanding of solicitors' expectations of counsel.

Laura is a Level 2 Prosecutor on the CPS Advocate Panel General Crime List.

## Recommendations

### Recommendations from instructing solicitors

'Thank you very much for your help in this matter, kind call yesterday and comprehensive note – first class'

'Laura, that is an absolutely amazing outcome!! Thanks so much.'

'Thank you for getting your attendance notes over so quickly and thank you for your work on these, my instructing client is always extremely complimentary of you!'

'Many thanks for your help in all of this which has to be said, to be very difficult circumstances and of course your representation and expeditious notes.'

'Excellent result...not an easy achievement in a Magistrates' Trial so very well done...Congratulations on the result again – and for all your help with this case.'

'I must congratulate you on X's comment that you were 'excellent' it being a significant achievement in light of his concerns about a change of barrister before trial. I am grateful to you and will be very happy to recommend you in future.'

'Thank you for your excellent representation & prompt & detailed attendance note. A very good result!'

## Academic qualifications

- BPTC, The University of Law, 2013 – Very competent

- LLB (Hons), The University of Bristol, 2012 - 2:1

## **Scholarships**

- President of the Bar Society, 2011-2012
- Benefactors' Scholarship, The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, 2012

## **Professional qualifications & appointments**

- Level 2- CPS Advocate Panel-General Crime

# Expertise

## Crime

Laura prosecutes and defends in all areas of general crime.

Laura has also defended in Youth Court proceedings. Her reassuring and approachable manner means that such clients and their parents/carers are put at ease. In the recent matter of R v LH (2019) at Basingstoke Youth Court, she represented a youth who pleaded guilty to possession of a lock knife in a public place and as a result of his plea, he received a referral order.

Laura regularly appears on behalf of the National Probation Service in breach proceedings.

Laura has defended in court martial hearings and is a keen supporter of military charities. She also spent time shadowing a prosecutor from the SPA.

During her pupillage, she assisted a lawyer at the Metropolitan Police Legal Department dealing with disclosure applications relating to linked criminal and family proceedings.

### Recent cases include:

- R v HS (2020) Southampton Crown Court- ongoing, possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply
- R v AR (2020) Southampton Crown Court- ongoing, threatening another with an article blade or point, having bladed articles in a public place
- R v SC (2020) Newport (Wales) Crown Court- ongoing, Section 4A stalking causing serious alarm or distress
- R v MK (2020) Southampton Crown Court- drove with excess alcohol (118mg in 100ml breath) and two charges of child neglect (children in the car when drove with excess alcohol), avoided custodial sentence and obtained suspended sentence
- R v KB (2020) Lewes Crown Court- successful appeal against conviction relating to two charges of assault by beating
- R v BR (2020) Westminster Magistrates' Court-obstructing a highway and criminal damage caused to a police station by flares thrown during a protest by members of the Yellow Vests movement
- R v VP (2020) Bournemouth Crown Court- attempted robbery, obtained a suspended sentence
- R v JW (2020) Portsmouth Crown Court- successful application to vacate guilty pleas, possession of indecent photos of children and attempted sexual communications with a child
- R v JB (2020) Salisbury Magistrates' Court- public order offence, the CPS offered no evidence and the Defendant agreed to a restraining order upon acquittal
- R v HS (2020) Newport (IoW) Crown Court- affray, CPS accepted plea to common assault
- R v MM (2019) Salisbury Magistrates' Court- sexual assault
- R v DA (2019) Portsmouth Crown Court- being concerned in the supply of Class A and Class B drugs
- R v AC (2019) Newport (IoW) Crown Court- sentencing, possession of an offensive weapon in a public place, criminal damage and possession of Class B drugs
- Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council v SE (2019)- application for committal for breach of ASBI withdrawn due to no further anti-social behaviour and the injunction having expired.
- R v IG (2019) Southampton Magistrates' Court - successful half time submission in relation to a public order offence
- R v FS (2019) Southampton Crown Court- Successful appeal against conviction for theft from a stall. The case relied solely upon identification evidence which was discredited
- R v SW (2019) Salisbury Magistrates' Court- Successfully defended a client at trial accused of assaulting her son. Evidence from a psychiatrist was relied on to show that her reaction was a result of her PTSD

- R v SP-B (2019) Bournemouth Crown Court- conveying list A and C articles into prison, CPS agreed to offer no evidence in relation to the list A articles
- R v MH (2019) Bournemouth Crown Court- racially aggravated ABH
- Portsmouth City Council v SB (2019) Portsmouth Crown Court- forgery and fraud relating to parking permits
- R v BD (2019) Southampton Crown Court- aggravated vehicle taking and dangerous driving

## Motoring offences

Laura prosecutes and defends in driving matters. She has been instructed on a private basis by clients whose ability to drive is vital to their jobs and/or personal lives:

- R v VD (2020) Thames Magistrates' Court- driving with excess alcohol, (99 mg in 100ml breath) avoided a community order and received a curfew
- R v JG (2020) Northampton Magistrates' Court- careless driving, the Defendant had hit an elderly lady causing her to suffer two leg fractures, after strong mitigation the client received a fine and 6 points avoiding disqualification
- R v RW (2019) Poole Magistrates' Court- careless driving, the CPS offered no evidence after weaknesses in the case were highlighted
- R v CW (2019) Portsmouth Crown Court- dangerous driving, suspended sentence
- R v DP (2019) City of London Magistrates' Court, Careless driving and failure to stop - successfully defended a London taxi driver at trial.
- R v WT (2019) Weymouth Magistrates' Court- avoided disqualification for a client being sentenced for driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence and driving without insurance
- R v NC (2019) Weymouth Magistrates' Court- successful exceptional hardship argument
- R v VB (2019) Weymouth Magistrate's Court-successful exceptional hardship argument
- R v EP (2019) Southampton Magistrates' Court- speeding and s.172 offence- the CPS offered no evidence in relation to both offences after documents were produced supporting the client's defence
- R v PC (2019) Weymouth Magistrates' Court - speeding (83mph in 50mph limit) points imposed instead of disqualification

## Public and Regulatory

### Professional discipline

During pupillage, Laura undertook a two-week secondment to the Nursing and Midwifery Council, during which she case presented at substantive order review hearings.

Her experience prior to coming to the Bar provided her with an excellent grounding in this area. She worked in conjunction with law firms to prepare a large professional negligence class action against financial advisers who had mis-sold complex tax schemes.

### Taxi licence appeals

Laura has been instructed by Councils to resist such appeals.

### Education offences

Laura has prosecuted numerous hearings on behalf of Councils relating to education offences under the Education Act 1996.

### Police matters

Laura has been instructed to represent the police in applications for domestic violence protection orders and in relation to

shotgun appeals.

## **Environmental matters**

Recent matters:

- Buckinghamshire County Council v SS (2019) Aylesbury Crown Court- breach of statutory duties relating to controlled waste
- PT v Blaby District Council (2018) Leicester Crown Court- appeal against conviction and sentenced for failure to comply with community protection notice, represented the Respondent Council, appeal dismissed

## **Inquests**

### **Inquests and inquiries**

At the beginning of this year, Laura undertook a three-month secondment to the Inquest Team at Capsticks Solicitors LLP. During the secondment, she provided advice to NHS Trusts that were interested persons in upcoming inquests. Laura assisted the Trusts to prepare for the inquests, by advising on the likely issues, reviewing witness statements and advising on the Trusts' disclosure obligations. Laura also provided advice on the risks of a preventing future deaths report being issued by the Coroner. Laura was instructed to represent the Trust at pre-inquest review hearings and full inquest hearings. Laura also represented a Clinical Commissioning Group at a Court of Protection hearing.

Laura is a member of the UK Inquest Lawyers Group.

Laura was instructed to on a watching brief at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse in Custodial Institutions and assisted Nigel Pascoe QC with drafting a press statement for the client.