

Curriculum Vitae

Kate Roxburgh

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- **1989** St John's College, University of Cambridge - BA, English Literature, 2:1
- **1999** University of North London - Common Professional Examination in Law, Distinction and 1999 Year Prize
- **2001** College of Law - Legal Practice Course, Distinction

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **2004** Admission to the Roll of Solicitors
- **2005** Awarded Duty Solicitor Status
- **2007** Awarded Higher Rights (all courts)
- **2018** Called to Bar (Middle Temple)

Profile:

Kate has 24 years' experience across the full range of criminal defence work, from the police station to the Court of Appeal. Since gaining higher rights in 2007, she has focused on serious Crown Court trials, including rape, attempted murder and drug importation. She has acted as junior for King's Counsel in numerous murder trials, and as a leading junior in a large-scale people trafficking trial. Specific areas of interest include:

- Historic, familial and child sexual offences
- Defendants with serious mental health issues, including contested fitness hearings, insanity defences and trials of issue where a defendant is found to be unfit;
- Cases where a defendant is a victim of trafficking;
- Cases involving article 10 freedom of expression.

Before joining the PDS, Kate was in-house counsel with one of the largest criminal defence firms in East London. She therefore has extensive first-hand knowledge of the pressures under which solicitors work. Then, as now, she regularly provided advice at every stage of a case, including the police station and magistrates' court stages where requested.

She is also an experienced creator and presenter of training sessions for advocates, solicitors and police station representatives/paralegals. Topics have included:

- Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Conditional consent to sexual offences
- Prepared statements at the police station
- Vulnerable witnesses

Kate is always happy to research and create new training programmes on request.

Before qualifying in law, she worked for 10 years in services for people with learning difficulties and mental health problems. This experience enables her to work effectively and sensitively with this client group within the criminal justice system.

NOTABLE CASES

Sexual Offences

Met Police v AGB (2023): civil application for a Sexual Risk Order. Numerous allegations of sexual misconduct had been made against the client but CPS decided not to prosecute. The police sought a 15-year SPO with draconian conditions. Client denied all allegations and opposed the imposition of an order.

R v DA (2023): allegation of a campaign of rape by a father against his daughter between the ages of 7 to 13. The case required in-depth investigation of 3rd-party materials due to complainant's involvement with educational, mental health and social services.

R v DR (2022): abduction and rape of a child under 13. Complainant was 12 years old with learning difficulties.

R v DS (2022): s38 instruction in a rape trial. Defendant was representing himself by choice. He refused to provide instructions or any indication of the nature of his defence. Cross-examination of the complainant and 2 expert witnesses had therefore to be put on various alternative bases.

R v JO (2021): elderly client with dementia accused of a campaign of rape against his stepdaughter in the 1970s. Defendant initially found fit to plead but had an intermediary and was treated by the court as a vulnerable witness. The jury were hung in that trial. By the time of the second trial, his dementia had progressed, and there was a contested fitness hearing, following which he was found to be unfit and the Crown offered no evidence.

R v MP (2020): client was accused of historic rape of his 7-year-old niece.

R v JB (2019): allegation of rape of a 17-year-old girl with learning difficulties. The issue was whether she had capacity to consent.

R v KM (2017): elderly client accused of a campaign of rape against a relative dating back to the late 1960s.

R v NA (2016): father accused of rape of his teenage daughter.

R v IP (2015): a young man with learning difficulties accused of rape of 13-year-old.

Murder

R v LN (2020): gangland shooting.

R v GR (2016): defendant accused of kicking his girlfriend, causing fatal internal bleeding; the case involved complex medical evidence relating to causation.

R v RT (2015): defendant fatally stabbed her boyfriend. Issues of self-defence and provocation.

R v KB (2013): fatal stabbing of a stranger by 14-year-old defendant with severe ADHD. The issue was diminished responsibility: complex medical and psychological evidence.

R v LB (2012): gangland stabbing with anonymous witnesses.

R v PB (2011): allegation of deliberate fire-setting causing death: complex scientific evidence relating to the flammable properties of fabric.

Violence and Firearms

R v RK (2023): serious gang violence within the Tamil community.

R v SE (2021): large-scale drugs and firearms conspiracy with over a million pages of phone evidence.

R v JE (2019): attempted murder. First defendant in gang-related stabbing.

R v MG (2018): attempted murder. Defendant was a young man with learning difficulties who had stabbed his brother during a row. 3 psychiatrists gave live evidence at a contested fitness hearing. The court found him fit to plead, but in the light of the psychological evidence presented at that hearing, the Crown accepted a plea to s20 GBH.

R v TI (2017): attempted murder; Ds alleged to have shot at police officers during a car chase.

R v HA (2016): 5-handed conspiracy to obtain firearms (namely a loaded Uzi and a shotgun) with the intent to endanger life.

Other

R v SP (2024): malicious communications. The defence relied on the defendant's article 10 rights to freedom of expression, particularly as it relates to political speech (following R v Casserly [2024] EWCA Crim 25).

R v EK (2023): possession of class A drugs with intent to supply. The defence was initially a straightforward denial of involvement. Defendant changed his instructions mid-trial, accepting involvement but saying he was a victim of modern slavery. He gave extensive evidence over 2 days about North London gang culture

R v GD (2018): leading counsel in 8-week people-trafficking trial involving international intercept evidence.

R v TT (2017): the defendant was one of 3 accused of large-scale selling of fake degrees to overseas students.

R v GN (2014): conspiracy with 8 others to rob cash-in-transit vans.

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