

Claire Brocklebank

Year of Call: 2014



Claire appears regularly at the Crown Court prosecuting and defending trials involving robbery, aggravated burglary, drugs, GBH, violent disorder, offensive weapons, fraud and road traffic offences.

Claire is a Category 3 prosecution advocate, a member of the CPS Specialist Fraud Panel at level 3 and a member of the CPS Serious Crime Panel at level 2.

Claire takes a thorough and forward-thinking approach to cases, seeking to identify and resolve issues as early as possible. She prides herself on her thorough legal research and submissions. She is confident and personable.

Claire was called to the Bar in 2014. Claire completed pupillage in 2016 having been under the supervision of Adam Lodge.

Claire invites instructions in the field of criminal law for both prosecution and defence.

Claire sits as part of the Independent Decision-Making Body of the Bar Standards Board.

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Education

University of York: BA (Hons) in Philosophy (First Class)

College of Law, Manchester: Graduate Diploma in Law

BPP Law School, Manchester: Bar Professional Training Course

- York Townswomen's Prize
- Dickinson Dees Mooting Shield
- College of Law Gold Award
- Sir Thomas More Award (Lincoln's Inn)
- Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn)

Professional Memberships

Northern Circuit

Crown Prosecution Service (Level 3)

Crown Prosecution Service Specialist Fraud Panel (Level 3)

Crown Prosecution Service Serious Crime specialist Panel (Level 2)

BSB Independent Decision-making Body (IDB)

Notable Cases

Defence

R v Pedler – defended 4-week trial involving conspiracy to supply 100kg of Class A drugs. Encro-chat and cell site expert evidence. Defendant acquitted.

R v Reece, McCreery and McCreery – junior defence counsel in murder trial, first on the indictment

R v Aldred – aggravated burglary trial

R v Sawyer – defended. 7-day trial. Robbery and Section 18 in prison involving a £12k watch and the victim's face being cut with an improvised weapon. Convicted but received a 5-year sentence.

R v Wood – defended a trial in absence. Affray and possession of an axe. Defendant had been identified by an eye-witness at a VIPER. Defendant was acquitted.

R v Das – fraud trial listed for 8 days, defendant was employed by a school and was accused of stealing the dinner money by carrying out false accounting to cover his thefts. Cross-examined prosecution accountant. Combed through thousands of pages of printed material to find evidence that the fraud also occurred when the defendant was off work. Successful half time submission.

R v Johnson – million pound fraud in which the defendant had produced a false will and various false documents in order to try and inherit a neighbour's farm

R v Byfield – defended a 5-day section 18 trial. Defendant was acquitted of section 18, acquitted of possession of an offensive weapon and convicted of section 20.

R v Caragiouiu – 5 day stalking trial. Defendant acquitted.

R v Wood – defended a trial in absence. Affray and possession of an axe. Defendant had been identified by an eye-witness at a VIPER. Defendant was acquitted.

R v White – defendant charged with aggravated burglary, negotiated a plea to simple burglary and possession of a bladed article. The defendant received a suspended sentence.

R v Hussain – only counsel to make a half-time submission in a case of Affray. The points raised resulted in acquittals for all three defendants.

R v Holmes – defendant with significant mental health issues. Arson with intent trial, convicted on arson reckless but acquitted of arson with intent

R v Pilkington – applying corrosive substance with intent. Defendant accused of throwing bleach at his neighbour. Acquitted after trial.

R v Roper – blackmail, demands made for £300,000

Prosecution

R v Kareem, Kareem, Lewis, Ojo, Osunde, Oluwa – Worker in a care home and her son defrauded an elderly resident of £28,500 and laundered the money through the bank accounts of various defendants.

R v Bullock – kidnap and robbery of a 1- year old boy with issues of joint enterprise. Prosecuted trial. Convicted.

R v Barber – VAT fraud valued at £140,000 involving a sham business and falsified invoices. Drafted a response to basis of plea. Prosecuted a trial of issue in which the court found in favour of the prosecution. Instructed to prosecute the subsequent confiscation proceedings.

R v Cranston – affray and assault. Defence served a 'defence statement' which purported to argue that there was no case to answer. Drafted and served a response dealing with the legal matters raised. At the next hearing the defendant pleaded guilty.

R v Finch and Naylor – two defendants defrauded their elderly neighbour of £9,000 from her bank account and stole her jewellery. The complainant had passed away.

R v Bashir, Ejaz, Ahmed and Younus – four youths who committed an aggravated burglary

R v Shah and Khan – false imprisonment, ABH, witness intimidation, perverting the course of justice, robbery.

R v Cisse – finding of fact on a Section 18 assault and witness intimidation

