

Megan Edwards

Year of Call: 2021



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Megan specialises in all areas of Criminal Law and welcomes instructions for both defence and prosecution. She has developed and maintains a broad and busy practice in the Crown Court across Manchester, the Northern Circuit and beyond, across a range of offences; including drugs, fraud and dishonesty offences, domestic violence, and serious violent offences involving arson with intent, firearms, gang violence, and homicide.

Megan is known for her personable and affable nature, being able to develop rapport quickly with her clients regardless of their background. Her calm and adaptable person-centred approach often proves invaluable in her client management and in-court advocacy. She enjoys a strong success rate in both jury trials and mitigating at sentence. Her persuasive and compelling style also extends to her drafting skills, with a track record of making successful legal arguments in respect of Applications to Dismiss, Res Gestae, Hearsay, Abuse of Process, Modern Slavery and Half-time arguments.

Megan's attention to detail and dedicated work ethic have equipped her well to undertake serious work that would otherwise be considered beyond her year of call.

Megan was instructed as junior defence counsel on a multi-handed youth murder case that dealt with varying principles of joint enterprise. Her legal research and understanding of this complex and somewhat convoluted area of law led to the case against her client being stopped at half-time following legal submissions, resulting in her client being acquitted of Manslaughter.

Megan also accepts private instructions on road traffic and driving matters and has a successful record in Exceptional Hardship and Special Reasons arguments in the Magistrates' Court.

Prior to coming to the Bar Megan worked for a national firm of solicitors within the Public Law Human Rights department on Court of Protection and Judicial Review matters alongside an Honorary King's Counsel. She was graded a 'Distinction' in the Bar Practice Course, and was called to the Bar by The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in 2021, as the first ever Mansion House Scholar from the island of Ireland.

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Education

LLB Law (Hons); Queen's University Belfast – First Class Honours

LLM Human Rights Law; Queen's University Belfast – Commendation

PgDip Bar Practice Course; Northumbria University – Distinction

Awards

Rachel Lawrence Scholarship Award
Mansion House Scholarship Award
Northumbria Bar Course Scholarship Award
James MacQuitty Law Scholarship Award
The K N Cheung and S K Chin Scholarships Award

Notable Cases

R v Youth [2025] – Instructed to defend in an Importation of Class B drugs case against a youth. Matter discontinued following submissions with regards to law and guidance on Modern Slavery and Abuse of Process arguments.

Operation Rose [2025] – Instructed to defend the ‘President’ of a Motorcycle Gang in a multi-handed indictment, charged with causing damage to a rival Motorcycle Gang’s clubhouse with intent to danger life therein.

R v DN [2025] – two separate sets of proceedings involving numerous allegations of domestic violence including Strangulation and ABH. Crown ONE and client acquitted of all counts following successful submission of legal argument on Res Gestae and admissibility of evidence.

R v BH [2025] – matter involving 9 allegations of domestic violence (2x Controlling or Coercive Behaviour, 1x s20 Wounding with Intent, 3x ABH and 3x Strangulation). Successful Abuse of Process argument saw Crown ONE on all counts and Defendant acquitted.

R v CK [2025] – Defendant charged with Improper Importation of Goods in that it was alleged he had bought online from China and illegally imported what was a child sex-doll. Successfully argued for the charge to be dismissed given the evidence in the case and the elements of the offence. Client thereby released from proceedings.

R v DD [2025] – Instructed to defend in multi-handed Youth knife-point Robbery where complainant was left with long-lasting injuries affecting his mobility. A1 on Sentencing Guidelines, which has a starting point of 8 years custody. Defendant changed his plea on day of trial and therefore only entitled to 10% credit. In spite of the same successfully argued for a Suspended Sentence Order.

R v BJ [2025] – Sentence of 3 years in total for 2x offences of Violent Disorder; one being involvement in the Southport Riots while the Defendant was on bail for being involved in a football Violent Disorder (*Wigan Athletic v Bolton Wanderers*) a year prior. Later represented the Defendants nephew for involvement in the same football Violent Disorder and successfully argued for the imposition of a Community Order in his case.

R v CP [2025] – Defendant was a 36x time dwelling house burglar charged with 4x offences of dwelling burglaries committed on different dates across two sets of proceedings. Mitigation submissions saw the Defendant receive a total sentence of 32 months for all four burglaries.

R v YC [2025] – Instructed to defend in case where Defendant was charged with 5 counts of concerning IIOC, one of which was Distribution of Category A images. Change of plea on day of trial which ordinarily would attract 10% credit only. Successfully argued in mitigation for more credit which the Judge awarded due to complicated chronology of case which saw counsel only instructed for day of trial, as well as imposition of a Suspended Sentence.

R v RL [2025] – Instructed to defend in matter involving Threatening with a Bladed Article in a Private Place. Basis of plea entered at PTPH and subsequent Trial of Issue which resulted in concessions made during complainant’s evidence, such that Defendant was not required to give evidence. Successfully argued for a Suspended Sentence Order at sentence.

Operation Shape [2024] – Instructed as junior defence counsel for client charged in multi-handed youth homicide following the death of his friend who was stabbed by a ‘rival’ in self-defence. Successful half-time submissions saw the Defendant acquitted of Manslaughter.

R v SW [2024] - Instructed to defend in case involving allegations of Controlling or Coercive Behaviour encompassing physical, financial and emotional abuse. Defendant acquitted by jury following trial.

R v AD [2023] - Instructed to defend in a multi-handed drugs case involving Possession with Intent to Supply and Possession of Criminal Property. Successfully applied and argued for dismissal of all charges against my client.

R v KZ [2023] - Crown Court - Instructed to prosecute sentence for a fraud where the Defendant had stolen over £250,000 from his elderly mother who had lost capacity. Reported nationally.

R v KP [2023] - Crown Court - Instructed to prosecute sentence for a transgender prisoner who had sexually assaulted prison guards while on remand. Reported nationally.

R v FB [2023] - Crown Court - Successfully persuaded the Court to impose a Community Order for a s47 Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm where the Defendant had been drinking and assaulted the Complainant in two separate incidents.

R v DD [2023] - Crown Court - Prosecuted sentence where a drunk passenger had been removed from a Ryanair flight.

R v CF [2023] - Instructed to represent Defendant in multi-handed Affray where incident went on for prolonged period of time, in view of children, and Defendant had knocked out one of his co-Defendants during the incident. Successfully persuaded the Court to impose a Suspended Sentence Order.

R v H [2023] - Crown Court - Instructed to defend a youth in appeal against sentence for 4x counts of Robbery and Possession of a Bladed Weapon . Successfully persuaded the court to reduced the sentence by 1/3rd, from 15 to 10 months custody.

R v J [2023] - Crown Court - Instructed to represent Defendant who pleaded guilty to 2 counts of Breach of a SHPO and Failure to Comply with Notification Requirements, one of which was committed in breach of a Suspended Sentence Order. Successfully persuaded the court to impose a further Suspended Sentence Order, and mark the breach of the other SSO by imposition of additional RAR days.

R v SY [2023] - Magistrates' Court - Instructed to represent the Defendant in an Exceptional Hardship application where had pleaded guilty to 2 offences: speeding and s172 (failure to furnish) and was liable for disqualification as a 'totter'. Successfully persuaded the Bench to not impose any penalty points, and disqualify for a discretionary period of 14 days.

R v LW [2023] - Magistrates' Court - Instructed to represent the Defendant in a Special Reasons Hearing following a guilty plea for driving without insurance, where the imposition of penalty points would result in disqualification. Successfully persuaded the court to find special reasons, avoiding the endorsement of any penalty points on the Defendant's licence, and Defendant receiving an absolute discharge for the offence.

R v JL [2023] - Magistrates' Court - Instructed to represent Defendant for a Stalking offence which was prolonged and caused very serious distress to Complainant (A1 on Guideline). Successfully persuaded the Court to impose a Community Order.

R v LA [2023] - Magistrates' Court - Instructed to represent Defendant for drink driving where blew 94mg in breath. Successfully persuaded the Court to move out of the band on Sentencing Guidelines and impose a financial penalty, rather than Community Order.