



Sara Johnston

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Call 2004

EDUCATION

- Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
GCSE (1998)
'A' LEVEL (2000)
(2 A's, 2 B's)
- Nottingham Trent University 2003
LLB (Hons), (Class 2; Division 1)
- Nottingham Law School 2004
- Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent)

Practice

Sarah has experience in all areas of criminal litigation acting on behalf of both the Prosecution and Defence in the Crown Court. Her areas of practice include cases involving:

- serious violence
- drugs
- public disorder
- fraud
- sexual offences
- dishonesty
- road traffic offences.
- Court of Appeal

Sarah has also had conduct of ancillary criminal matters such as confiscation proceedings and been instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service (Grade 2 Prosecutor), Department of Work and Pensions, Royal Mail and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in condemnation hearings, cash detention and forfeiture

applications and in VAT Duties tribunal hearings.

She has conducted prosecutions on behalf of several local authorities in criminal and quasi-criminal cases including environmental prosecutions, anti-social behaviour and benefit fraud and has experience in regulatory defence work including cases involving FACT prosecutions.

Sarah is also a specialist in Prison Law where cases have included representing prisoners at adjudication hearings before an Independent Adjudicator and conducting hearings before the Parole Board concerning, for example, recall and classification. She also advises in writing in relation to Prison law matters including Judicial Review and has also given seminars to Solicitors such as "Prison Law: The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008".

She was the Junior Counsel in **Operation Avast** which involved the prosecution of a multi-handed violent disorder.

She regularly appears before the Court of Appeal and her most recent success involved defending a reference by the Attorney General where the Appellate Court upheld a suspended prison sentence imposed for Section 18 Wounding with Intent after a trial (A-G's reference numbers 52 & 53 of 2008/R v Ricketts (Lee) & Ashiker (Bile) (2008) EWCA Crim 2747)

Sarah also advises as an independent lawyer to the Humberside and South Yorkshire Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel.

MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Northern Circuit

Criminal Bar Association