

Eleanor Laws QC

Call 1996 | Silk 2011



Clerks' Details

 Kate Masher
 0151 242 8841

 Dave Haley
 0161 817 7118

Publications

Eleanor has recently published 'The Sexual Offences Referencer' (Oxford University Press). This book is a definitive guide to Indictments & Sentencing in sex cases dating back to 1950. It also deals with special measures, CPS charging practise, and Ancillary Orders upon conviction. The book is recommended to practitioners at the Criminal Bar Association training days on sexual offences, and also to Judges on the JSB training sessions.

Criminal CV

Overview

Eleanor is regularly instructed in all manner of criminal cases, in particular serious violence (including murder), serious sexual offences and drugs importations. She has considerable experience in homicide cases.

Her particular area of expertise is in the prosecution and defence of serious sexual violence and child abuse cases, involving historic allegations, abuse in children's homes, doctors and hypnotherapists charged with sexual offences upon patients, teachers on pupils, charity workers, and persons in charge of patients at hospitals.

Eleanor was instructed in relation to four of the defendants charged in connection with the child abuse investigation at the Haut de la Garenne children's home in Jersey. She continues to act as Specialist Advisory Counsel to Jersey Advocates in cases involving serious sexual allegations.

Recommendations

“Has a forensic mind when it comes to pulling apart the issues in a case.” “She is an expert tactician, her legal knowledge is near unparalleled and she has a commanding court presence.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“Outstanding. Astonishing performance, breath-taking cross-examination and closing speech. I would have thought the go-to silk for all sexual allegations. Brilliant.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“She is regularly instructed in significant homicide cases, severe sexual offences and drugs importations. Since taking silk in 2011 she has established herself as one of the leading QCs handling sexual offence cases on circuit, and is particularly good on child exploitation cases. ‘She is a barrister of the very highest quality scoring high marks in all categories.’”

Chambers and Partners 2016

“She has a calm manner that radiates power.”

Chambers and Partners 2015

“A jaw-dropping advocate.”

“No doubt one of the best prosecutors and defenders in sexual cases.”

Legal 500 2017

“She prosecutes and defends in high-level sexual offence cases.”

Legal 500 2016

“The pre-eminent barrister for cases involving sexual misconduct.”

Legal 500 2015

Cases

R v Merrick (2012) - Successfully defended a former Head Teacher of a Boys School in Brighouse, West Yorkshire. PM was charged with nineteen charges of serious sexual abuse upon 4 former pupils. He was acquitted on all charges

R v Daniel Pytlarz (2012) - Successfully defended Daniel Pytlarz dubbed “the Celebrity Masseur” who faced 21 counts of sexual assault upon 18 women. He was unanimously acquitted on all counts after a five week trial. The allegations were made by 18 exclients who made their complaints independently of each other

R v Caleb White (2012) - Successfully defended 19 year old on murder charge

R v Leek and others (2012) - Successfully defended Leek on homicide charge

R v Walizada & others (2011) - 7 handed three month murder trial. Mixed verdicts

Inquiry into the Haut de la Garenne children’s home in Jersey (2010) - Child abuse investigation. Instructed by Voisins Advocates in three individual cases:

Re Jordan (2010) - Royal Courts Jersey

Re Wateridge (2010) - Royal Courts Jersey

Re Donnelly (2010) - Royal Courts Jersey

R v Bu (2010) - Defendant murdered his wife and raped his sister-in-law (lead counsel for the Crown)

R v Ba (2010) - Defendant kidnapped and raped his wife, then solicited inmates to carry out her murder (same)

R v Bygrave - Murder by stabbing (same)

R v M & L - Murder - Mother and son in the dock (same)

R v Hutchins - Murder by strangulation

R v Penfold - Murder by “broom”

R v Taylor - Mother drowning 10 year old son; nationally reported

R v Gray - Murder by strangulation

R v B - Murder by strangulation - two child witnesses; nationally reported

R v M & others - Murder by beating; joint attack upon a suspected sex offender by 4 youths

R v G - Victim was stabbed in the back whilst 8 months pregnant by a female defendant

R v R & S - Case involving incest charges of the gravest kind

R v Chinnery - Serious sexual assaults upon a number of women; nationally reported

R v Sharma - Stranger rape involving STR profiling

R v Smith, Parker & Morrison - Kidnap and torture

R v Wenham and others - Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice; 70 offences involved.

R v Baker - Multi million pound fraud; involving famous members of the horse racing world; nationally reported

Reported Cases

Karakaya [2005] EWCA Crim 346: use of Internet by jury in a sex case - leading to the standard judicial direction

Vigon v DPP [1998] CLR 324: exposure case

Burr v DPP [1996] CLR 324: hearsay evidence - public documents