



Charlotte Atherton

Call 2003



Clerks' Details

 Kate Masher
 0151 242 8841

 Suzanne Dutch
 0151 242 8873

 Denise Sheen
 0151 242 8874

 Graeme Hipkiss
 0151 242 8868

Memberships

- Northern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- Gray's Inn
- Young Fraud Lawyers of the North

Education

- 1998 - 2002 - University of Sheffield
Degree: LLB Law
Classification: First Class Honours
- 2002 - 2003 - Nottingham Law School
Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent)

Overview CV

Acting for both the prosecution and defence, Charlotte is a specialist criminal practitioner with experience in a broad range of criminal matters, including the following:

- Fraud and money laundering offences
- Violent offences
- Drugs offences
- Public Order offences
- Sexual offences
- Dishonesty offences
- Road traffic offences
- Environmental offences
- Confiscation proceedings and Asset recovery

Charlotte has wide experience of large and complex VHCC cases and has developed a strong fraud practice. She is used to dealing with voluminous case papers requiring extensive and detailed case preparation and is adept at the complex evidential analysis that these cases require both when prosecuting and defending.

Charlotte has a particular interest and specialism in large scale disclosure cases. Most notably, Charlotte acted as Disclosure / Junior Counsel in the Prosecution of the Hillsborough Disaster Trial and Re-trial.

Charlotte prosecutes on behalf of the CPS (Category 3), DWP, Local Authorities, Health and Safety Executive and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. She has been admitted to three CPS Specialist Panels - the Fraud panel, the Serious Crime panel and the Counter-Terrorism panel. Charlotte is also appointed to the Specialist Regulatory panel (Category B).

Charlotte is always thorough in her preparation and is renowned for her ability to get to the crux of the issue in an expedient manner. She is able to bring together her legal expertise, much-praised client care skills and a robust approach to her cases that those who instruct her really value. She works well as part of a team and has strong strategic and tactical awareness.

Charlotte has completed Vulnerable Witness training, and is able to deal with sensitive issues with compassion and tact.

Disclosure

Since 2015, Charlotte has developed a specialism in large scale disclosure cases both in the criminal and civil / commercial spheres. The experience and skills she has amassed as a result of her large and voluminous complex fraud cases has enabled her to excel in the organisation, management and review of material for the purposes of disclosure. Charlotte's adaptable legal skills and knowledge allow her to foresee legal arguments, plan effectively and identify relevant material for the purposes of scoping and disclosure.

Charlotte delivers webinars and talks on the criminal disclosure regime and has provided guidance and advice to police investigations on the most effective methods and processes to be adopted for the purposes of disclosure in cases with a significant evidence base.

Her skills and ability to work collaboratively are frequently recognised by professional clients. Senior Specialist Prosecutor, John Law, praised Charlotte's "*professionalism, skill and tenacity*" with which she carried out her "*vital role*" in the Hillsborough Prosecution which he described as "*one of the most high profile and complex prosecutions ever brought*" involving "*the largest disclosure project yet undertaken in criminal proceedings*" and would have "*no hesitation in recommending her instruction in the most sensitive, complex and fraught disclosure exercise*".

Antonia Grieve-Yates, Managing Associate at Addleshaw Goddard (Middle East), commented on how she was "*extremely impressed*" with Charlotte's ability in a large international arbitration to "*grasp the key issues quickly in what was a very complex case at an advanced stage*". She also described Charlotte as a "*real pleasure to work with*".

Cases

- **Hillsborough** - Disclosure/ Junior Counsel in the Prosecution of the Hillsborough Trial and Re-trial at Preston
- **R v G and I** - prosecution junior in successful baby murder and s. 5 Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 prosecution.
- **R v W & O** - VHCC - 2nd Junior representing the Director of a company in a multi-million pound bank fraud with attempts to launder the proceeds internationally resulting in a Trial of 4 months and proceeds of crime application (Southwark, London)
- **R v D & Ors** - VHCC - 2nd Junior for the defence in a large-scale, multi-handed red diesel fraud resulting in a Trial lasting 3 months (Leeds). Issues involving RIPA.
- **R v S & Ors** - VHCC - 2nd Junior for the defence in a multi-million pound international advanced fee fraud resulting in a Trial lasting 4 months (Liverpool).
- **R v H & Ors** - VHCC - 2nd Junior acting for the Financial Director of a large distance learning company. Trial arose out of the collapse of the Government's Individual Learning Account scheme. The fraud attracted widespread national reporting including Watchdog, The News of the World and the Today programme. Trial lasted 5 months (Teesside). Involved challenging expert financial evidence.
- **R v S & Ors** - 2nd Junior for the defence in a large, multi-handed cigarette VAT tax evasion case (Manchester).
- **R v P D** - 2nd Junior in a Conspiracy to Defraud where it was alleged that the defendants represented that they could buy the Ritz hotel. National reporting.
- **R v S K** - VHCC - 2nd Junior acting for the lead defendant charged with corruption offences involving the Merseyside Police Authority.
- **R v H & Ors** - VHCC - 2nd Junior defending in a large Conspiracy to Cheat the Revenue case. International evidence.
- **R v S L H & Ors** - VHCC - 2nd Junior defending the wife of the first defendant in a multi-million pound Mortgage Fraud and proceeds of crime application. Issues re proper Restraint proceedings.
- **Operation Hilmar** - prosecution Disclosure Junior in a case involving fraud and regulatory offences in relation to high ranking police officers which attracted national attention. International disclosure and LPP issues.
- **R v LB** - successful prosecution of man charged with Child Cruelty in respect of his four children. Vulnerable witness handling.
- **R v M L** - defence of a retired man of good character for Inciting a Child under 13 to Engage in Sexual Activity.
- **R v NG** - defence of woman charged with Attempted Murder of her newborn baby. Psychiatric evidence.
- **R v LL** - prosecution of man charged with Committing an Offence (namely false imprisonment) with Intent to Commit a Sexual Offence and Threats to Kill on 3 female victims.