

Nichola Higgins

2005 (Lincoln's Inn)



QUALIFICATIONS

Bar Vocational Course (Outstanding)
BA (Hons) Law with Spanish
Universidad de Salamanca (Diploma in Law)
Called to the Inns of Court, Northern Ireland (2007)

AWARDS

Buchanon Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn 2005)
Taylor Prize (2005)
Thomas More Bursary (Lincoln's Inn 2004)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Bar Council elected member (2010-2012)
Young Barristers' Committee (Chairman)
Criminal Bar Association
Extradition Lawyers' Association
Member of the South-Eastern Circuit
European Young Bar Association
American Bar Association

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

A barrister who both defends and prosecutes, Nichola specialises in fraud, corruption, violent crime, and extradition.

Nichola has particular expertise in the Bribery Act 2010. In addition to lecturing, she is the author of two published articles on the subject, together with David Aaronberg Q.C.

Nichola is a 'C' panel advocate for the Serious Fraud Office.

LANGUAGES

Nichola is a fluent Spanish speaker.

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RECENT AND NOTABLE CASES

Fraud & Corruption

SFO v. S & S, Southwark Crown Court 2011

Currently instructed as junior counsel in complex and serious fraud to cheat a private bank of €20 million.

SFO v. M, Southwark Crown Court 2010

Nichola was instructed by the Serious Fraud Office in one of its first prosecutions for overseas corruption. The case was the culmination of a four year investigation and involved the payment of bribes by a London reinsurance company to officials in Costa Rica. The high profile nature of the case attracted national media interest:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/mobile/uk-11629094>

<http://www.sfo.gov.uk/press-room/latest-press-releases/press-releases-2010/insurance-broker-jailed-for-bribing-costa-rican-officials.aspx>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/oct/22/city-ceo-bribes-overseas-contracts>

R v R, Inner London Crown Court, 2009

The administrator of a nursing home was charged with false accounting have been accused of stealing from deceased residents.

R v K, Maidstone Crown Court, 2009

Defended in multi-handed conspiracy to burgle involving professional raids of some 70 commercial premises.

Violent Crime

Nichola conducts the whole range of violent crime from domestic violence to murder.

R. v. B & others, Luton Crown Court 2011

Operation Shelton, currently instructed to defend B, accused of corruption, converting the proceeds of crime and attempted murder.

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R. v. U & 8 others, Blackfriars Crown Court 2010

Multi-handed, football violence occurring on the London Underground.

R. v. NT, St. Alban's Crown Court, 2010

Nichola represented a young mother accused of child neglect following a baby shaking incident. The case involved detailed, forensic analysis of expert and complex medical evidence.

R. v. GB, Luton Crown Court 2009

Arson with intent to endanger life. Nichola represented a young girl accused of burning down her best friend's house while the friend was inside the property in an act of revenge.

R v T, Luton Crown Court, 2009

Defending former police officer charged with domestic violence and perverting the course of justice. Case terminated following successful legal argument on abuse of process and autrefois acquit.

Drug Offences

Nichola has extensive experience of representing those, in particular youths, accused of drug related offences

R. v. MD, Northampton Crown Court and Ipswich Crown Court, 2007

Youth accused of multiple conspiracies to supply Class A.

R. v. LD, Hove Crown Court, 2007

Defended a grandmother accused of possession with intent to supply Class A and possession of a prohibited weapon.

R v R & 11 others, St. Alban's Crown Court, 2007

Operation Crystal, Conspiracy to supply Class A drugs to an undercover police officer.



Serious Sexual Offences

R. v. AT, Court of Appeal, 2009

Represented on appeal, a man with mental health difficulties accused of historic sexual assault on minors. The imposition of a sentence of imprisonment for public protection was reversed following legal argument.

R. v. A, Northampton Crown Court, 2007

Junior counsel for man accused of downloading indecent images. Case involved forensic analysis of large quantities of computer material.

R. v. B, Chelmsford Crown Court, 2007

Man, found unfit to plead, accused of sexual assault on a mentally ill complainant who was unable to give evidence.

Extradition

Islam v. Cyprus [2009] EWHC 2786 (Admin)

Represented a person wanted for extradition by Cyprus. The case required legal argument on the construction and specificity of the European Arrest Warrant.

Representation of the Profession

Nichola has represented the Bar at the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association annual conference (2011) and at the American Bar Association Young Lawyers' Division annual conference (2011).

Nichola is currently Chairman of the Young Barristers' Committee of the Bar Council.

ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS:

"All hail the Bribery Act: the toothless wonder" (Archbold News, July 2011)

http://www.15nbs.com/articles/2011/07/06/all_hail_the_bribery_act_the_toothless_wonder.asp

"The Bribery Act 2010: all bark and no bite?" (Archbold News, June 2010)

http://www.15nbs.com/articles/2010/06/21/the_bribery_act_2010_all_bark_and_no_bite.asp

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“Something in Common: A report on the 17th Commonwealth Lawyers’ Association Conference”
(*Counsel*, June 2011)

“Positive Transformation”, an article on the future of the Young Bar (*Counsel*, June 2011)

“The Advocates Panel Scheme and the Bar”, an article written with Max Hill Q.C. on the CPS Advocates Panels (*Counsel*, May 2011)

“Taking a case to the Court of Human Rights: An overview”:

http://www.15nbs.com/articles/2006/02/24/taking_a_case_to_the_court_of_human_rights_an_overview.asp

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