

Sonal Dashani

Call 2002 Lincoln's Inn

Qualifications

LLB (Hons) Brunel University

Professional Memberships/ awards

Criminal Bar Association
Woolfsen Award (2002)

Experience

Sonal is regularly instructed in a wide range of Prosecution and Defence work in offences including Fraud, multi-handed robberies, aggravated burglaries, offences against the person (including GBH with Intent), Public disorder offences, firearms offences and a variety of drug offences. She is also instructed in a number of sexual offences including Rape.

Sonal has experience of appellate proceedings, acting on behalf of the appellant and the respondent.

She is appointed to List C of the Attorney Generals unified List and is a Grade 3 Prosecutor.

Areas of Specialisation

Sonal specialises in Violent Crime, Fraud, Confiscation and Enforcement Proceedings.

Recent Cases of Interest:

Fraud Cases

- **R v B (2011)** Sonal (as a led junior) represented 1 of 4 defendants charged with Money Laundering of \$15m (USD) which was the proceeds of a theft from a bank in Germany. The defendant Solicitor was said to have laundered a proportion of the funds through complex conveyances. The case involved detailed preparation and analysis of numerous conveyancing files and the preparation of cross examination of both a Forensic Accountant (to trace the funds) and a Conveyancing expert. The defendant was acquitted following successful submissions at half time.

- **R v M (2008)** Sonal as junior alone successfully Prosecuted the defendant who had amassed over £2m worth of assets in an offending spree by defrauding various jewellery stores and auctions houses of valuable pieces of Jewellery, Antiques and paintings. This was a complicated Prosecution involving both the Crown Prosecution Service and the Financial Investigation Unit over 3 different Indictments and over 50 charges. The matter proceeded to Confiscation with realisable assets found too be in the sum of over £360k.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7647011.stm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/sep/26/8>

- **R v S (2008)** Sonal as a led junior represented a Company director accused of Siphoning off company money through the use of a complex system set up by him. Following a successful abuse argument on day 1 of the trial the defendant was acquitted.
- **R v K (2007)** Prosecuting on behalf the DWP in a Benefit Fraud matter where the Frau was in excess of £100k. Sonal then represented the DWP in the Appeal in this matter where she conceded the Appeal (based on a change in the law) and argued for a substitution of offences.

Violent Crime

- **R v V (2010)** defending a Youth (one of 7 defendants) on a Causing grievous Bodily harm with intent and Violent Disorder. Following lengthy representations the Crown eventually accepted a plea to lesser charge.
- **R v S (2009)** defending in a blackmail case which involved having to cross examine the complainant (and ex-partner of the defendant) on previous sexual history and previous unsupported allegations of sexual assault. The defendant was acquitted by the jury.
- **R v M (2009)** defending a Man charged with Wounding with Intent where he was alleged to have hit a neighbour over the head twice with a rolling pin. The defence was self defence and the Crown offered no evidence shortly before trial.
- **R v I (2009)** defending a 15 year old boy charged with wounding with intent whereby he hit a fellow classmate over the head with a hammer within the vicinity of his school. He pleaded guilty and following lengthy mitigation he was sentenced to a Community Order.
- **R v H (2007)** defending (as a led junior) a defendant charged with others with Conspiracy to Rob. The case involved a series of car jackings over a period of 3 months and included 25 car jackings. The case involved the examination and preparation of complex cell site analysis expert evidence.
- **R v P(2007)** defending a young man charged with kidnapping and threats to kill where it was alleged that the complainant had been forced to be a drugs runner.

- **R v C (2007)** - defending a 14 year old charged with violent disorder and Actual Bodily Harm. Following an acquittal in this matter, the London Metropolitan Police applied for an ASBO relying for the most part on the facts of this acquittal. Following a 3 day contested hearing, the ASBO application was successfully rejected.
- **R v C (2006)** - Prosecuting a Youth charged Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life and witnesses intimidation where the complainant had been witness to a serious wounding of a 12 year old boy.

Sexual Offences

- **R v A (2009)** defendant was charged with 2 counts of sexual assault of 1 complainant. Following an acquittal on Count 2 in the first trial, Sonal went onto successfully argue the merits of adducing that acquittal in the second trial. Defendant was acquitted.
- **R v B (2007)** defending a man charged with Rape and False imprisonment. The complainant was his ex-partner and had severe mental health difficulties. Defendant was acquitted when the Crown offered no evidence a few days before trial.
- **R v O (2007)** - Instructed to defend in a case where the defendant wished to re-open his plea on various counts of rape and trespass with intent. Issues included fitness to plead.
- **R v B (2006)** - Defending a 13 year old charged with indecently assaulting his 7 year old sister. The Crown's main witness was the mother of the defendant.

Confiscation and Enforcement Proceedings

- **R v L (2010)** Prosecuting on behalf of the Enforcement Unit. Sonal was instructed in respect of enforcement proceedings following convictions for drugs offences. Case involved advising in respect of appointing a Receiver and special consideration had to be given to jurisdictional issues in trying to give effect to a confiscation order on a property in South Africa.
- **R v Z (2009)** Sonal was instructed in the High Court to respond to a case stated involving the issue of a warrant of commitment following non-payment of the confiscation order and the power to revoke such an order. The case was resolved in the Respondent's favour.
- **R v K (2009)** Sonal was instructed in an application to appoint a receiver as part of enforcement proceedings where there was a 3rd party interest registered by the wife and the question of law posed for the court was whether there was a

discretion in respect of interest accrued. Sonal argued there was not. The Court agreed.

Drug Offences

- **R v R (2010)** Sonal was instructed to prosecute in this matter involving the importation of 20 kilos of Cannabis.
- **R v K & P (2009)** Prosecuting in a case concerning the importation of steroids. Case involved special consideration of equivalent sentencing guidelines in the absence of specific precedent cases.
- **R v M (2008)** Instructed to prosecute this matter concerning possession with intent to supply cannabis. A plea was accepted on the basis that the defendant was the courier.

Other cases

- **R v A(2009)** Sonal represented one of 6 defendants charged with public order offences following their controversial protests at the homecoming parade for soldiers of the 2nd battalion Royal Anglian Regiment. The trial centred on the argument of freedom of speech under Article 10 of the Human Rights Act versus using words such as 'British Soldiers go to Hell' that caused harassment, alarm and distress. Sonal secured one of the 2 acquittals in this case.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/beds/bucks/herts/8452203.stm>