

Sophie Shotton

1999 (Inner Temple)



Qualifications

MA (Cantab)

Erasmus student of European and International Law at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands

Professional Associations

Criminal Bar Association Committee 2004-to date

Criminal Bar Association Education and Training Committee 2008-to date

External Examiner for BPP Bar School 2008- to date

Elected Chairman, Young Barristers' Committee 2007

Elected Bar Council Representative 2004-2007

General Management Council of the Bar Council 2006-2007

Professional Practice Committee 2006-2007

South Eastern Circuit

Association of Military Court Advocates

Proceeds of Crime Lawyers Association

Areas of specialisation

Restraint and Confiscation

Condemnation

Courts Martial

Experience

Recognised in the editorial section of the Legal 500 as someone who “stands out”, Sophie undertakes all aspects of criminal work and has been instructed in a wide range of Crown Court cases including murder, conspiracy to defraud, importation and production of drugs, money laundering, aggravated burglary, offences of violence, rape, false imprisonment and witness intimidation and is regularly instructed for the defence in Courts Martial proceedings. Sophie has prepared successful human rights arguments in a number of her cases.

Although she predominately defends, Sophie is a Grade 2 prosecutor and has been appointed to the Attorney-General's Panel of prosecuting advocates (C List). Sophie is regularly instructed by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and has particular experience in confiscation and restraint. She also acts for companies charged with regulatory offences.

Sophie has undertaken secondments at HMRC and RCPO in the condemnation and asset forfeiture units respectively.

Sophie was elected to the Bar Council in 2004 having been sponsored by the Criminal Bar Association. Following her election to the office of Chairman of the Young Barristers' Committee she frequently met with government ministers and the Legal Services Commission, organised the Young Bar Conference and Young Bar Magazine and drafted numerous responses to government, LSC, Bar Council and Bar Standards Board consultation papers.

She is an external examiner for BPP Bar School in the subjects of criminal litigation and advocacy.

Notable Cases

R v White (2009) defended the former managing editor of Esquire magazine on charges of theft from his employer.

SPA v Trooper (2009) defended a soldier accused of cutting the throat of a colleague with a razor blade

SPA v SSgt Martin (2009) defended a Staff Sergeant charged with 13 counts of making indecent images

R v Ali (2009) defended a man accused of a hammer attack

RCPO v Edwards (2008) - Instructed as junior in application for confiscation of £12m

R v P (2008) - Defended a man charged with 24 offences of indecency involving children dating from the 1970s, successfully arguing against the admission of bad character evidence

DWP v Halai and Others (2007) - Successfully defended (as junior) a Work and Pensions prosecution (the "biggest counterfeit drugs bust in British history") brought against pharmacists, directors of pharmaceutical wholesale companies and pharmaceutical sales representatives in respect of the supply of counterfeit medicines to the American internet market via the Bahamas

R v Hines and Others (2007) - 14 handed violent disorder, legal argument on identification procedures resulted in an acquittal before the opening of prosecution case

R v A and V [2007] EWCA Crim 57 - Appeal against conviction regarding the complainant's unreliability in a case involving allegations of historic sexual abuse

R v H (2007) - Historic rapes and sexual assaults against girls aged 6-8 years old

R v Simms and Others (2006) - Instructed as junior in a conspiracy to import £3.3 million worth of heroin involving undercover officers, phone tapping and covert surveillance

R v Hinton [2006] EWCA Crim 1115 - Appeal against sentence and against the imposition of and the terms of an ASBO

R v Humes and Others (2006) - Instructed as junior in an eight handed car ringing conspiracy to handle stolen goods

R v Nguyen and Others (2005) - £½ million money laundering and conspiracy to produce cannabis involving four cannabis factories

R v A-H (2005) - Successfully defended a man charged with sexual assault on a four year old following cross-examination of a 12 year old eye witness

R v Kiffin (2005) - Fitness to plead trial and trial of the issue in respect of allegations of aggravated burglary and possession of an offensive weapon in which the defendant was found to be unfit and the jury persuaded to find the trial of the issue not proven

R v Sullivan (2005) - Successful application made for writ of habeas corpus which led to a change in the statute concerning the power of a judge to issue summons in Drug Treatment and Testing Order cases

R v McCrudden [2005] EWCA 466 - Appeal against conviction in a Trade Marks Act prosecution

R v White [2003] EWCA 2013 - Appeal against sentence concerning the complications that can follow when a judge sentences for breach of licence following the revocation of that licence by the Secretary of State

R v Sidhu and Others (2003) Five handed conspiracy to supply heroin to undercover officers

R v Mash and Mash (2003) - Successfully defended a church treasurer on an allegation of a £56,000 fraud on the church

R v Griffin (2003) - £38,000 theft from employer and false accounting charges

R v Mohamed (2003) - Successfully defended an aggravated burglary involving an attack with a samurai sword during which a finger and an ear were completely severed and left at the scene

R v Wiltshire (2002) - Defence junior in a five week trial on 17 counts of robbery involving difficult issues relating to similar fact evidence