



NATASHA PATEL

SOLICITOR

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Natasha joined Lloyds PR Solicitors as a Case Worker in June 2011. She has since qualified as a Solicitor in November 2013 and became a Duty Solicitor in August 2014.

Natasha is approachable, passionate and charismatic when dealing with a range of clients involved in various criminal offences ranging from murder, fraud, robbery, sexual offences, breach of UK immigration law, human trafficking and drug conspiracies. These cases are prosecuted by a number of organisations including the CPS, HMRC, National Crime Agency and Serious Fraud Office.

Dealing with cases from the offset of police investigations, through the Magistrates Courts and Crown Courts, Natasha has the advantage of seeing the evidence through early stages and navigating clients through their cases efficiently.

Natasha has great experience when it comes to those who are vulnerable. Over the years she has worked well with clients who are youths or gang affiliated. She communicates well with her clients who require the extra support through the grilling criminal and Court process.

Natasha is not only an analytical solicitor when it comes to the evidence, she is a fierce advocate in the Youth and Magistrates Court, always pushing for the best outcome for her clients.

Recognised in the Legal 500 as *'a fantastic solicitor. She gets to the issues very quickly, is excellent with clients and is incredibly organised.'* And *'clients love her caring approach. Especially adept at dealing with younger clients facing the most serious of allegations.'*

Area of Practice

White Collar & Financial Crime

Operation Skybox, Woolwich Crown Court

The defendant was charged with 8 others with conspiracy to defraud Lloyds Bank through “Apple pay”. In this case the defendants had used “Apple pay” to fraudulently obtain items which valued to £134,111.90.

Operation Gallant, Lewes Crown Court

The defendant was charged with conspiracy to launder criminal property with others, which arose from a conspiracy to defraud HMRC. The repayments fraudulently claimed was £179,411.80. The money was then laundered through the accounts of the defendants.

Operation Klister, St Albans Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with 17 others with conspiracy to commit fraud and conspiracy to drive dangerously over a two year period. This was a “crash for cash” case where there were induced/staged accidents to allow insurance claims to be made. This fraud valued at over £1 million.

R v G, Harrow Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation. The total fraud value attributable is £2,375,360.63 across a total of 221 fraudulently opened bank accounts.

Operation Roach, Inner London Crown Court)

A financial investigation dealing with fraud by abuse of position by a Santander employee.

Operation Pudic, Inner London Crown Court

The defendant was charged with fraud by false representation and POCA. This was a courier fraud against vulnerable people – value of £255,479.75 over 2017.

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Operation Falcon, Blackfriars Crown Court

The defendant was charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering which is a part of a fraud investigation of over £12 million which included 10 defendants.

Homicide

R v J, St Albans Crown Court

Assisted in preparation of the case where the defendant was charged with the murder of his father and the body had been buried in the garden. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

Operation Lightpill, Central Criminal Court

Assisted in the preparation of a case where the defendant was one of eight that was charged with one count of murder, four counts of attempted murder and one count of violent disorder.

R v M, Central Criminal Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with the murder of his father. The defendant was vulnerable and suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. The defendant pleaded to a lesser offence of manslaughter with diminished responsibility.

Operation Manfield, Central Criminal Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with murder. The defendant had hit the deceased with a metal pole twice causing the death. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/london-student-murdered-man-with-trolley-handle-in-street-row-a3449126.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/mustafa-farah-murder-trial-gasps-in-court-as-basketball-player-cleared-of-young-mans-murder-a3465756.html>

R v Newes, Central Criminal Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with murder by way of a shooting in East London. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

Operation Leweston, Central Criminal Court

Represented the defendant who was a youth and the youngest of eight defendants. He was charged with conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm which was linked to a murder. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-37288234>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-37927199>

http://www.kilburntimes.co.uk/news/crime-court/teenager_found_guilty_of_che_labastide_wellington_knife_killing_in_kenton_1_4769006

Operation Centas (youth), Luton Crown Court

Represented a 14 year old defendant charged with murder. A stabbing which involved three defendants under the age of 16.

R v F, Reading Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with murder. The defendant was extradited to the UK from St Vincent to stand trial three years after the incident took place. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

Operation Rouf, St Albans Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with conspiring to murder her husband with her boyfriend. The body was not found until 6 months after the start of proceedings on deceased's own land.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-50344906>

Operation Rawlins, Central Criminal Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with murder with one other. The case was alleged by the Crown to be a "robbery gone wrong" where the deceased was stabbed. The defendant required an intermediary and he was acquitted of murder.

Operation Rosriver, Inner London Crown Court

Defendant was charged with murder with 2 others. this was a stabbing and the case involved complex legal arguments on bad character of the deceased.

R v F, Inner London Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with attempted murder. The defendant was found not guilty by reason of insanity and given a hospital order.

R v B, Reading Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with perverting the course of justice which was linked to a murder. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

Operation Bolden, St Albans Crown Court

18 year old female charged with perverting the course of justice linked to an attempted murder (shooting) of a 16 year old in Hertfordshire. A number of prison calls are to be used in evidence in this case between defendant and co-defendant.

Firearms

R v L, Wood Green Crown Court

Represented a defendant charged with the supply of class A drugs and possession of a disguised firearm. The Crown accepted pleas to possession of class A drugs and through defence expert evidence we successfully argued that the firearm was not disguised and had dual purpose which therefore fell out of the guidelines of a minimum 5 year sentence.

R v K, Kingston Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The Crown accepted a lesser offence to possession of the firearm only.

Serious Violence

Operation Chaka, Woolwich Crown Court

The defendant was charged with attempted murder and GBH with 13 others. The Crown relied on expert evidence from a member of the Met Police Gangs Unit to establish that this was a revenge attack on a rival gang member. We were able to exclude gang evidence which led to his acquittal. The defendant was unanimously acquitted following a lengthy trial.

Operation Rizal, Harrow Crown Court

Represented the lead defendant charged with 12 others with conspiracy to blackmail/false imprisonment/kidnap/burglary in relation to what the Crown claimed was a "drugs debt". The defendant was acquitted after a lengthy trial.

Operation Cyclaman, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Complainant was driven to various locations from London then kept in a hotel room in Nottingham. Ransom request for £200000 from complainants family. Motive is alleged "snitching" by complainant brother on another for a stabbing.

Operation Karoo, Reading Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was a teacher charged with GBH. The case involved the defendant acting in self-defence to remove people from his property. He was acquitted at trial.

R v B, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Represented the defendant charged with violent disorder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

R v S (youth), Isleworth Crown Court

Represented a youth who was charged with two others with GBH and possession of a firearm. It was argued that the firearm was an imitation which was accepted by the Court and Crown.

Human Trafficking, Slavery, Prostitution & Facilitation

Operation Widow, Southwark Crown Court

Investigation by Criminal Financial Investigation team and Immigration Enforcement in the use of ex-Ocado vans which were adapted to smuggle approximately 60 non-EU nationals into the UK in 2016. This involved 8 defendants.

Operation Gesticulate, Kingston Crown Court

Assisted in preparation of the case involving large scale operation of facilitating entry into the UK.

R v EA, Canterbury Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with facilitating illegal entry into the UK. The defendant was vulnerable with severe mental health issues. He was acquitted after a trial on fact.

Operation Emohawk, Wood Green Crown Court

The defendant was charged with conspiracy to manage a brothel and sell drugs. During trial we successfully got the Crown to concede no evidence on supply of class A and won a half-time submission regarding the brothel charges. He was also acquitted of the POCA.

Operation Supermarine, Swindon Crown Court

Represented the defendant charged with conspiracy to control and manage a brothel. The Crown alleged a Romanian organised crime group luring in females in the pretence of love, the "lover boy" theory, then getting the females to work in brothels which they would then run.

Theft, Burglary & Robbery

R v HW, Harrow Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was vulnerable and charged with conspiracy to commit high value burglaries.

R v MM, Kingston Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with two robberies and an attempted robbery, and possession of a firearm, of three different betting shops in North West London, along with another. The investigation was conducted by the Flying Squad.

Operation Hade, Luton Crown Court

This case involved 11 defendants charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and violent disorder in Welwyn Garden City. The defendant was a youth at the time. The defendant was the only one out of the eleven that was acquitted of all offences.

R v M, Isleworth Crown Court

Represented a youth who was charged with possession of a firearm with intent and aggravated robberies.

R v A, Central Criminal Court

Represented a youth charged with three knife point robberies. He required an intermediary for the proceedings.

Drugs

Operation Hackneyman, Manchester Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with conspiracy to import approximately 30kg of cocaine, class A drugs, from Jamaica to the UK via various airports through packages hidden in suitcases.

Operation Castle, Bristol Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was involved in county line drugs supply in Yeoville and surrounding areas in Somerset. It involved large scale police surveillance from London to Somerset.

Operation Rate (youth), Winchester Crown Court

This case was called Operation Rate. This involved county line drugs supply from London to Hampshire. The case involved 16 defendants.

Operation Dowlas, Kingston Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was initially charged with 9 others for conspiracy to supply class A drugs in Bedfordshire. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

Operation Weapon, Woolwich Crown Court

This case was a county line drugs case. The drugs line operated between London and Kent supplying class A drugs. Represented the defendant who was 17 at the time of the offence and was then 18 during the time of the proceedings. The defendant was referred to the National Referral Mechanism Team and found to be a victim of exploitation under the Modern Slavery Act. The Crown offered no evidence in this case leading to a successful acquittal of the defendant.

Operation Keswick, Harrow Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with conspiracy to supply 15kg of class A drugs. It was argued to reduce to 5kg.

Operation Bettergates, Southwark Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was involved in a large conspiracy to supply of 200kg of class A drugs between March and October 2020. The case involved encro chat telephone evidence.

Operation Callanish, Snaresbrook Crown Court

This case involved 21 defendants who have conspired to supply class A drugs in London and is currently ongoing which will involve a number of legal arguments in relation to the evidence.

Sexual Offences

R v W (youth), Isleworth Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with 9 counts of historic sexual assaults, including rape. The complainant was 12 years old and had learning difficulties.

R v P, Harrow Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with a number of arsons and sexual assault arising from drug use.

R v B, Blackfriars Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with facilitating an offence of a sexual against a child. The Crown were not able to proceed with the prosecution and the defendant was acquitted.

R v R, Inner London Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was a taxi driver and was charged with sexual assault of the female customer. Counter allegations were made during trial and the defendant was acquitted.

R v M, Isleworth Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with multiple rapes of his ex-partner including strangulation. The case involved reviewing the defendant and complainants phones. The defendant was acquitted on re-trial after a hung jury in the first trial.

Operation Wrothy, Luton Crown Court

Represented the defendant who was charged with the rape and kidnap of a 17 year old who had learning difficulties. This case was classified as a "stranger rape" case.

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