

## Curriculum Vitae

### Charlotte Lucinda Surley

Called 2000 Middle Temple

Admitted as Solicitor 2005

Higher Rights of Audience 2008

### Expertise

I specialise in representing those facing sexual allegations including rape, historic sexual offences and indecent images. I have a particular awareness of the unique considerations arising for defendants who are members of the LGBTQ community.

I also successfully represent clients facing allegation of serious violence of s18 level and below and have experience of firearms offences relating to armed robberies and aggravated burglaries.

I have considerable expertise in representing vulnerable and mentally disordered defendants at all levels and have a proven record in retaining clients who sought to transfer to other firms until their brief was given to me.

Colleagues have told me that I am their 'go to' advocate for consistently returning good results in unusual or distressing cases involving complex and/or vulnerable defendants and defences. I am also told that caseworkers and solicitors appreciate my willingness to share the burden of preparing matters for trial. I have earned the loyalty of prolific offenders, many of whom now refuse other advocates for their court appearances. I attribute this success to my down-to-earth, empathic and respectful approach when engaging with clients.

### Notable Cases

Set out below is a selection of the most recent cases Charlotte Surley has conducted as junior alone. It should not be regarded as exhaustive.

#### Serious Violence

##### **R v B 2016**

The Defendant was acquitted of arson with intent to endanger life having successfully argued that she had been 'framed' by her co-defendant.

##### **R v MR 2016**

The Defendant was acquitted of false imprisonment relating to two teenage females who were allegedly detained at a residential address for several hours and threatened with torture. This case also concerned alleged gang membership.

##### **R v T 2015**

The Defendant was acquitted of s18 arising from the stabbing of a male during a gang-related fight at a party.

##### **R v M 2014**

Section 18 and violent disorder arising from a pre-arranged large-scale gang fight. This was a complex matter concerning several co-Defendants, gang sensitivities and the possibility of cut-throat defences being raised.

**R v H 2013**

Attempted armed robbery of a Post Office where the Defendant argued duress arising from his former gang membership. This was a Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) case.

**R v Q 2013**

The Defendant was acquitted of s18 assault concerning the alleged unprovoked stabbing of a neighbour. The Defendant, a highly intelligent graduate, was sectioned during the course of the case and required extremely sensitive representation.

**R v R 2013**

The Defendant faced allegations of s18 and affray in this multi-Defendant trial arising from his actions whilst executing his duty as a member of security staff. There were several Prosecution eyewitnesses and CCTV footage of the incident. The Defendant argued self-defence and was acquitted on all counts.

**R v M 2012**

Aggravated burglary and possession of firearm with intent to endanger life. Two separate trials relating to the apparent gang-related enforcement of drug debts. Both cases involved detailed cell site analysis and concerned the use of sawn-off shotguns. In the latter case the firearm was discharged necessitating the analysis of ballistics and other expert evidence.

<b>Serious Sexual Offences</b>
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**R v H 2016**

The Defendant was acquitted of the rape of a former partner despite forensic evidence. The case occurred against the backdrop of contemporaneous family proceedings. Significant bad character meant that the Complainant required delicate but positive cross-examination which was praised by the Trial Judge at the conclusion of the trial.

**R v U 2015**

The Defendant was acquitted of the rape of a teenager at a 'crack house'. The Defendant's name had been found in graffiti at the address and he had been identified by the Complainant but successfully argued that he had been implicated by a former friend, not party to the proceedings, who was allegedly involved in Child Sexual Exploitation.

**R v B 2015**

The Defendant was acquitted of rape and s47 assault in the context of an allegedly volatile relationship.

**R v R 2015**

This case concerned a 16-count combination of historic rapes and sexual assaults upon siblings in a foster family setting. The abuse spanned at least 6 years and was of a particularly violent nature, demanding very careful.

**R v A 2014**

The Defendant was acquitted of assault by penetration, alleged to have occurred during the course of a playground game. This case concerned several young eyewitnesses and a successful legal argument to exclude bad character evidence.

**R v B 2014**

Historic rape and sexual assault with a family setting. There was a complex family background to the case and several very young witnesses which necessitated skilful and sensitive cross-examination.

**R v M 2014**

Historic sexual assault of a male with cerebral palsy by his carer. The offence came to light when the Defendant made an unsolicited confession. The Defendant was seriously ill and extremely ashamed of his sexuality and so required very sensitive representation.

**R v B 2013**

Defendant acquitted of all counts relating to an alleged 'stranger rape' in a town centre. The defence was consent and use of CCTV footage from the evening in question, served as unused material by the Crown, was a key factor in achieving a successful outcome.

**R v T 2013**

This case concerned sexual activity in the presence of a child and possession of extreme pornography relating to the Defendant's domestic activities as leader of a fetish club.

**R v O 2012**

The Defendant was first on the indictment and named as the alleged ringleader of a sustained 'gang rape'. The lengthy indictment included multiple counts of rape, s20 and sexual assault. This case required the assimilation and deployment of large amounts of unused material served at trial and relating to the Complainant's activities in the weeks after making the allegation. The Defendant argued consent and was acquitted. His co-Defendant received 14 years imprisonment.

**R v L 2012**

The Defendant was acquitted of one count of burglary with intent to commit rape against an 88-year-old neighbour, despite making a threat to carry out the act whilst inside her property.

<b>Miscellaneous</b>
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**R v P 2014**

This Defendant, a member of the LGBTQ community, was acquitted of the alleged robbery of an autistic male. This matter required particularly sensitive advocacy given the vulnerability of the complainant and the Defendant's reluctance to put forward his defence because it required him to expose his sexuality.

**R v S 2013**

This case concerned arson with intent to endanger life, requiring the management of conflicting and detailed evidence from two fire investigation experts at a fire deliberately set in a residential block of flats. The Defendant had serious mental health difficulties and broke down, mid-trial, admitting her guilt. She received a short custodial term and subsequently contacted Instructing Solicitors to thank them for providing such sensitive and effective representation.

**R v W 2013**

A joint-enterprise robbery was alleged where CCTV footage appeared to show the Defendant searching the pockets of a man whom his co-Defendants had violently beaten. A powerful closing speech as to the inadequacies of CCTV evidence secured his acquittal.

**R v K 2012**

A suspended sentence was secured for this prolific burglar with 102 previous convictions for similar matters. Forceful mitigation, the presentation of case law and the ability to engage in lateral thinking

when considering sentencing options secured this result. The client went on to refuse representation from any other advocate for his subsequent cases.

### **R v G 2012**

Undercover police recorded the Defendant taking delivery of a package of cocaine with a street value of £160 000. The Defendant was only able to deny knowledge of the contents of the package that bore his name and address. A powerful closing speech, highlighting the lacunae in the Crown's evidence and urging the jury to apply their personal experience to the facts, secured a speedy acquittal.

## **Contact Details**

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Offices in Cardiff, Swansea, Pontypridd, Cheltenham, Darlington & London.  
Available to meet solicitors and clients at any convenient location.