



Susannah Proctor

Year of call 2005



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Susannah is an outstanding and passionate advocate; she is regularly instructed in a range of serious and complex cases including sexual offending, serious violence, organised crime and firearms.

Susannah specialises in cross examination of expert witnesses and witnesses who are vulnerable due to age or capacity, including those unable to participate in the trial process. She balances empathy with a tenacious and relentless pursuit of justice.

Susannah has been led by distinguished silks in a variety of cases including violent sexual offending, murder and drug importation cases for both the prosecution and defence.

Expertise

Crime

Notable Crime cases

R v F Newcastle Crown Court [2024] Rape

Led junior. The complainant was in the early stages of Alzheimer's dementia at the time of the alleged incident and had sadly lost capacity at the time of the trial. The case involved preparation and consideration of multiple prosecution and defence expert reports as to the nature and onset of the disease, at the time of the incident and in the intervening months.

R v H. Newcastle Crown Court [2023] Section 18, rape, child neglect.

The two complainants in this case were born 6 weeks premature and were 6 weeks old at the time of the alleged offending. The complainants presented to hospital with severe rectal damage and broken ribs. The case required multiple expert witnesses

Leeds

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relating to the level force required, level of injury, level of distress caused and identifying any predisposition to injury. Alternative causes for multiple non-accidental injuries of this kind also had to be explored.

R v B Durham Crown Court [2022] Rape, section 18 GBH, controlling and coercive behaviour

The complainant was 6 years of age at the time of the alleged offending. They had presented to hospital with a burst duodenum and neither guardian accepted responsibility for the injury. The case involved preparation for and cross examination of paediatricians and pathologists in relation to the circumstances, the predisposition of the child and alternative causes for the injury.

R v W, Bradford Crown Court 2022 (Murder)

Led by Alistair McDonald KC prosecuting a defendant for murder involving knife crime and perverting the course of justice.

Instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service

<https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/first-picture-vicious-revenge-killer-23323976>

R v M Newcastle Crown Court 2022 (Sexual Offences)

Serious offences of rape and other violence sexual offending against multiple woman with whom the defendant was at the time in relationships with, offences included allegations of controlling and coercive behaviour.

Instructed by Westgarths Solicitors, Newcastle

R v A 2022 Newcastle Crown Court (Sexual Offences)

Defendant on a deprivation or liberty order, alleged to have carried out a rape on a stranger, issues of fitness to stand trial.

R v K Newcastle Crown Court 2022 (Sexual Offences)

Historic rape allegations against a family member.

Instructed by Hay and Kilner Solicitors Newcastle.

R v S Leeds Crown Court 2022 (Sexual Offences)

Defending historic sexual abuse against young boys in the defendant's care whilst he was working as a priest.

Instructed by ABR Solicitors Leeds

R v MT, Leeds Crown Court 2022 (Death of a Child)

Led By Nicholas Lumley KC defendant a mother responsible for the death of her child. A case involving diminished responsibility.

Instructed by ABR Solicitors, Leeds

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<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/crime/mum-killed-her-baby-daughter-in-leeds-home-believing-she-was-possessed-by-the-devil-in-horrific-tragedy-3965353>

R v Hirst Leeds Crown Court 2021 (Joint Enterprise)

Defending an allegation of joint enterprise section 18 wounding, following the repeated stabbing of a young man in Huddersfield.

Instructed by Ashworth's Solicitors, Huddersfield

R v ? York Crown Court 2021 (Sexual Offences)

Allegation of rape involving partners who had met through Tinder, including allegations of the administering of date rape drugs.

Instructed by Howard and Byre Solicitors York

R v M Leeds Crown Court 2021 (Sexual Offences)

Defending joint enterprise rape allegation following a night out in Leeds City Centre.

Instructed by Dinn Solicitors Leeds

R v H Hull Crown Court 2021 (Historical Sexual Abuse)

Led by leading junior Thomas Storey. A series of historical sexual abuse cases involving sexual offending within care homes in the 1970s.

Instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service

R v D Durham Crown Court 2021 (Sexual Abuse)

Domestic violence case involving the grievous bodily harm and sexual abuse of the defendant's step daughter, tried along side a number of child neglect offences.

Instructed by Michael Henderson and Co, Newcastle

R v S 2021 (Arson)

Defending arson with intent to endanger life, a defendant with previous history for arson accused of setting fire to his flat. Defendant suffering from significant impairment of the mind, unfit to standing trial.

Instructed by Michael Henderson and Co Newcastle

R v H Catterick Military Court 2020 (Sexual Offences)

Defending a rape allegation at barracks.

Instructed by ABR Solicitors Leeds

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R v P York Crown Court 2020 (Sexual Offences)

Historic familial same sex rape involving large volumes of social services material.

Instructed by ABR Solicitors Leeds

R v G, Middlesbrough Crown Court 2020 (Drugs importation)

Led by Alistair McDonald KC defending in a multi-handed case of importation and distribution of cocaine, including kidnap and firearms.

Instructed by Michael Henderson and Co, Newcastle

Family

Susannah deals with a range of family matters including injunctions under the Family Law Act 1996, care proceedings, private and public law proceedings under the Children Act 1989 representing both local authority and parents, including cases involving serious violent and sexual offences including rape and Forced Marriage Protection Orders.

Susannah has dealt with finding of fact cases including cross examination of serious violence and sexual offences with extensive experience relating to special measures and other technology to support parties and witnesses.

Appointments

- CPS RASSO Panel Advocate
- CPS Level 3 Prosecutor
- Higher Rights of Audience (2010)

Education

- University of Bristol
- Nottingham High School for Girls

Directory Quotes

“Combines intelligence with drive, determination and judgement.”

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