

Cathy Ryan

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Highly experienced defence counsel with particular expertise in serious sexual offences and organized crime.

Expertise

Crime

Cathy is a robust and conscientious defender who has represented clients charged with a wide range of offences including murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, child sex offences, kidnap, blackmail, and people trafficking. She has an excellent rapport with clients especially young defendant and those with autism or other mental health conditions.

Notable Crime cases

R v NH [2020] Cambridge Crown Court

Defendant accused of murdering a drug dealer who worked for a rival supplier.

R v AB [2019] Central Criminal Court

Defendant was accused of close-range shooting rival drug dealer in doorway of barbershop. Incident caught on CCTV. Defendant acquitted of attempted murder.

R v SK [2019] Southwark Crown Court

Represented defendant accused of attempting to murder the person he held responsible for the murder of his aunt and attempted murder of his parents in an arson attack 12 days previously. The defence case was that it was a drug deal gone wrong where one of their number had unexpectedly and unforeseeably stabbed the victim. Defendant acquitted.

R v KD [2015] Central Criminal Court [2016] Court of Appeal

Led by QC in case where defendant was charged with joint enterprise murder of criminal associate who owed him money. Conviction successfully overturned on appeal.

R v SN [2015] Central Criminal Court

Alleged that the defendant was involved in the shooting of innocent bystanders, killing one of them. Prosecution case depended on the evidence of a former gang member who was subject to a witness anonymity order. Following a rigorous disclosure exercise by the defence, the prosecution eventually offered no evidence.

R v HS [2015] Croydon Crown Court

A fight between two rival businessmen where the defendant wielded a meat cleaver causing multiple skull fractures exposing the brain, severing two finger and splitting the kneecap of the unarmed victim. Acquitted of attempted murder.

R v AR [2014] Kingston Crown Court

Defendant was charged with attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend whom he had met in her capacity as a sex worker.

R v HA [2013] Woolwich Crown Court

Defendant was charged with attempted murder following unprovoked knife attack on member of the public. Plea to s18 accepted after submission re the defendant's low IQ and suspected foetal alcohol syndrome.

R v TH [2013] Central Criminal Court

Defendant accused of manslaughter when the victim of an attempted robbery ran into oncoming traffic to escape.

R v SZ [2012] Central Criminal Court

Led by QC in murder trial where defendant attended in a hospital bed following extensive paralysis after a suicide attempt.

R v WK [2012] Wood Green Crown Court

Defendant tried for attempted murder of his partner's ex-husband following bitterly contested custody battle.

R v HK [2019] Woolwich Crown Court

Defendant accused of the kidnap and false imprisonment of drug dealer for ransom. Acquitted all charges.

R v IS [2019] Woolwich Crown Court

Defendant charged with large scale money-laundering operation with his step-father and seven others. Defendant and two others acquitted.

R v AI [2018] Snaresbrook Crown Court

Defendant charged with conspiracy to supply drugs, kidnap and false imprisonment. Defendant alleged to have tricked complainant into car whereby he was taken to Essex against his will, detained in a crack house and forced to supply drugs. Following a full day's cross-examination of the complainant by defence counsel, the prosecution reviewed their case and decided they could no longer rely on the complainant as a witness of truth. Defendant acquitted all counts.

R v TS [2018] Inner London Crown Court

Armed robbery. Defendant acquitted.

R v RW [2018] Inner London Crown Court

Defendant charged with multiple historic sexual assaults on four female relatives when they were children. Acquitted in respect of two complainants.

R v DP [2017] Reading Crown Court

Defendant alleged to have sexually assaulted the daughter of a friend while holidaying together. Acquitted of all counts.

R v IA [2016] Wood Green Crown Court

Defendant accused of tricking a tourist he met in a club into coming home with him where he allegedly detained her and repeatedly raped her over several hours. Acquitted all counts.

R v AP [2015] Blackfriars Crown Court

Defendant charged with 28 counts of historic rape and buggery against his two cousins when they were children. Psychiatrist who claimed the defendant had confessed to her in 1999 that he had sexually assaulted his cousins was cross-examined over live-link with New Zealand. Defendant acquitted all counts.

R v BB [2104] Wood Green Crown Court

Defendant aged 15 accused of three counts of sexual activity with 14 year old and procuring rape of the same complainant. The latter count was dismissed on application by the defence. The remaining counts were dropped following submissions that the prosecution had not acted in accordance with their own policy concerning consensual sexual activity between under-age parties.

R v AK [2012] Snaresbrook Crown Court

Defendant charged with rape and fraud. He claimed to heal women spiritually and rid them of demons by engaging in sex acts with them. Convicted of fraud but acquitted of rape.

R v YN [2016] Bristol Crown Court

Defendant charged with 12 others with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. County Lines case. Defendant alleged to be "right hand man" and muscle for main conspirator. Only defendant to be acquitted.

R v SA [2016] Woolwich Crown Court

First case where husband charged with conspiring to hold his wife in slavery. Plea to less serious count accepted with favorable basis. GBH count dismissed following legal argument as to the admissibility of a diagnosis of PTSD.

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit