Houzla Rawat

Call 2001

houzlarawat@mountfordchambers.com

020 7936 6300

An exemplary junior barrister who is consistently instructed in challenging and complex cases across the spectrum of general crime and fraud.

Houzla has substantial experience in cases alleging high-value frauds (e.g. boiler room frauds, conspiracy to defraud), large-scale drug conspiracies (importation and supply), serious violence and serious sexual offences.

She is known for her meticulous case preparation which, alongside her pragmatic and tactical approach to case strategy, means she has an established and thriving practice.

In recent years she has developed considerable skill in analysing and interpreting complex digital evidence, enabling her to form solid and persuasive legal arguments.

Houzla's work on cases involving young and vulnerable people, including those with mental health illnesses, learning disabilities and those on the autism spectrum, is impressive. She has a natural ability to explain and communicate complex issues in a clear way.

Expertise

Crime

Mountford Chambers
13 Ely Place
London
EC1N 6RY

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E: clerks@mountfordchambers.com
DX: 226 Chancery Lane

Houzla has a wide-ranging general crime practice. She is regularly instructed in cases involving serious violence and sexual violence, large-scale supply of drugs and firearms.

Notable Crime cases

R v I & ors [2021]

Multi-handed Conspiracy to Burgle – involving burglary at Alexandra Palace resulting in the theft of two ATMs.

Operation Gnatonize [2021]

Multi-handed Conspiracy to Import and Supply Class A drugs – involving the importation of over 100kg of Class A drugs from the Netherlands into the UK, and onward supply.

Operation Venetic [2021]

Arson where prosecution case is based on Enchro Chat evidence.

Operation Bettergates [2021]

Multi-handed Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs where prosecution case is based on Enchro Chat evidence.

R v A [2020]

Prosecution alleged Kidnap, Robbery, False Imprisonment and Blackmail. After repeated disclosure requests no evidence was offered.

R v K [2020]

Defendant faced allegations of grooming over WhatsApp and Making and Possession of Indecent Images. Crown offered no evidence in respect of the IIOC after representations based on expert IT evidence were made.

R v H [2019]

Joint enterprise Attempted Murder where a gang chased the victim on to a train and stabbed him in front of several passengers. Representation regarding a plea to s.18GBH were successful.

R v K [2019]

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K accused of mistreatment of an autistic man in his care over an extended period. The mistreatment was recorded on a hidden camera. Case preparation involved viewing over 150 hours of footage.

R v Anonymous [2019]

Sexual Assault of Child. Case involved cross-examination of a 7 year old complainant where there had been a delay of 12 months in charging.

R v S (2019)

S accused of stalking and sexually assaulting 14 year old girl. The case involved reports from several mental health specialists and sensitive representation of the defendant.

Business Crime & Fraud

Houzla is an experienced and capable advocate, able to handle the complex evidence often present in these cases.

Notable Business Crime & Fraud cases

R v M & or [2022]

Currently instructed in an upcoming trial alleging sophisticated bank fraud.

Operation Cornflour [2019]

Multi-handed 'boiler room' fraud.

Grenfell Tower fraud [2019]

Couple accused of pretending to be residents of Grenfell Tower in order to obtain a substantial financial gain.

R v F & ors [2019]

F acquitted of involvement in a large-scale Conspiracy to Defraud and Money Laundering offences where elderly and vunerable victims were collectively been defrauded by 'rogue traders' over a significant period of time. Co-defendant was convicted and received 9 years' imprisonment.

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Criminal Regulatory

Houzla has represented clients accused of wide range of regulatory breaches from Manslaughter to the production and sale of Counterfeit designer items.

Notable Criminal Regulatory cases

R v T [2018]

Led junior where T accused of Manslaughter and Health and Safety breaches which led to led to the death of a 7 year old child when a bouncy castle blew away.

Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery

Houzla has extensive experience of POCA proceedings with her tactical and analytical approach POCA proceedings.

Notable Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery cases

R v B [2019]

Instructed to represent B in POCA proceedings after B was extradited from Spain and subsequently pleaded guilty to high-value burglaries. Hidden assets asserted.

R v B [2019]

Led junior in confiscation case involving assertions of hidden assets where the majority of transactions involved bitcoin.

R v G [2019]

G pleaded guilty to two large-scale drug conspiracies. Confiscation proceedings included an assertion of hidden assets which was abandoned by the prosecution after representations were made.

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Education

- International History BSc – London School of Economics
- Bar – Inns of Court School of Law (now known as The City Law School)
- Middle Temple – Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Scholarship

Memberships

- CBA
- WICL
- Middle Temple (Mentor)

Recommendations

2024

Chambers & Partners
Crime: *"She marries charisma with the ability to identify points and argue them well."*
"She is really well organised and has a wide-ranging skill set."
Ranked: Band 4

2023

Chambers & Partners
Crime: Ranked: Band 5

2022

Chambers & Partners
Crime: *"Very professional and always able to put the client at ease."*
Ranked: Band 6

Awards

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