

Shekyena Marcelle-Brown

Call 2019



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Shekyena specialises in Criminal law and Professional Discipline.

She regularly defends in the Crown Court dealing with a broad range of offences such as fraud, drugs, weapons, serious violence including domestic abuse, animal cruelty, dangerous driving, and public order. Her calm and confident manner allows her to put forward her client's case in a clear, concise way and make submissions that achieve positive results. Shekyena recently secured a unanimous acquittal for a vulnerable client with bipolar disorder who acted in self-defence against excessive force used by the police. She was also recently instructed as led junior counsel in a trial involving a large-scale £26 million international money laundering scheme.

She has experience representing vulnerable clients with mental health conditions, as well as youths having completed training with the Youth Justice Legal Centre. Shekyena most recently secured a unanimous acquittal for youth client accused of possession of a firearm during an alleged joint enterprise armed robbery. Her bubbly personality and attentiveness allow her to build a rapport with lay clients and put them at ease, during what can be a difficult and stressful time.

Shekyena has extensive experience as a case presenter for professional regulators including the NMC, HCPC, TRA, and the DVSA. Shekyena also defends regulated professionals, which includes advising registrants and providing representation at hearings.

Shekyena accepts instructions for all stages of proceedings such as in final substantive hearings, interim order applications and reviews, and substantive order reviews. Shekyena frequently appears in complex fitness to practise matters involving criminal convictions, lack of competence, and serious allegations of professional misconduct including dishonesty, sexual misconduct, and harassment. She also completed a secondment as a case presenter at the Nursing and Midwifery Council in 2022.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Shekyena has years of Professional Discipline experience having worked at the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a Case Manager, and the Health and Care Professions Council as a Case

Manager and Advocate. She also worked at the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Adjudicator's Office (HM Revenue & Customs), where she developed experience in financial and tax matters.

Shekyena spoke at Chambers' webinar on 'Fitness to Practise Proceedings: Ten Top Tips' which can be watched [here](#).

Expertise

Crime

Shekyena regularly defends a broad range of offences such as drugs, weapons, violence including domestic abuse, road traffic, and public order in the Crown Court.

Notable Crime cases

R v AS [2024] Croydon Crown Court

Submitted an application to dismiss which resulted in the Crown, of its own volition, offering no evidence against the client accused of harbouring an escaped prisoner.

R v MA [2023] Snaresbrook Crown Court

Secured acquittal of vulnerable client with bipolar disorder who acted in self-defence against excessive force used by the police. Following the jury's not guilty verdict, the judge expressed "very real concerns" about the complainant officer's conduct that came to light during the cross-examination of the officers. To restore public confidence in the police, in the presence of the jury, the court extraordinarily ordered that the complainant officer's conduct is brought to the attention of the Detective Chief Superintendent with the view that he is retrained in dealing with vulnerable people and anger management.

R v AW [2023] Guildford Crown Court

Secured acquittal for youth client accused of possession of a firearm during joint enterprise armed robbery. The jury found the client not guilty of possessing a firearm alleged to have been used during the robbery of a car. In addition, the jury was unable to reach a verdict on the robbery, which led to the prosecution offering no evidence on the robbery. The not guilty verdict was returned on the client's 16th birthday.

R v AB [2023] Reading Crown Court

Secured a suspended sentence for client who pleaded guilty to a joint enterprise burglary, which involved the client climbing through the complainant's window at night and threatening him with a knife before stealing money. Persuaded the court not to impose immediate custody by highlighting the significant rehabilitative steps taken by the client to address his long history of drug related offending, including abstinence for three years and being described as the "only true success story" by a drugs and alcohol support service. The Judge in her reasons described this as an "exceptional case".

R v DS [2023] Peterborough Crown Court

Secured an acquittal for a client of good character accused of GBH. Following the complainant's evidence-in-chief, which wholly undermined the prosecution's case, and in advance of any cross-examination, Shekyena made submissions before half time which left the prosecution no choice but to offer no evidence. As a result, the jury were directed to return a verdict of not guilty and the client maintains his good character.

R v AD [2023] Hove Crown Court

Secured a suspended sentence for client who pleaded guilty to ABH for strangling his ex-partner in the presence of their child. Persuaded the court that there was significant mitigation and exceptional circumstances which meant that immediate custody should not be imposed in line with the Court of Appeal's guidance on offences involving intentional strangulation in R v Cooke [2023] EWCA Crim 452.

R v RK [2023] Oxford Crown Court

Successfully appealed the conviction and sentence of a taxi driver who originally received a suspended sentence and 29 month disqualification for driving offences. Identified case law to support the client's case that his limited English amounted to a reasonable excuse. The court sought to adjourn the appeal due to the absence of prosecution counsel and were persuaded to refuse the adjournment, and consequently allowed the appeal.

R v AS [2022] Croydon Crown Court

Successfully appealed against sentence where a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) was imposed on conviction. Argued that the CBO was procedurally illegal as the application was made by the police rather than the CPS as required by law.

R v PS [2021] Inner London Crown Court

Secured a unanimous acquittal for a client accused of making an arson threat against his ex-partner, who was an arson victim.

Professional Regulation

Shekyena has extensive experience in Regulatory law and Professional Discipline. She accepts instructions from regulators and regulated professionals at all stages of the professional disciplinary process. She has years of experience having previously worked at the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Health and Care Professions Council, the Financial Ombudsman Service, and the Adjudicator's Office (HM Revenue & Customs).

Notable Professional Regulation cases

HCPC v JA [2023]

Case involving of allegations that a registrant paramedic failed to disclose that he was under Police investigation for a number of historic sexual offences and that he was dishonest in doing so. It was not in dispute that the paramedic did not disclose the Police investigation to his employer between October 2019 and July 2020 following his voluntary Police interview. Successful submission of no case to answer made on behalf of the paramedic which led to the case being dismissed in its entirety and means that the registrant can continue to practice with his unblemished reputation intact.

NMC v DW [2023]

Complex substantive hearing involving wide-ranging allegations of serious patient harm, medication errors, practising without an effective PIN, and lack of knowledge of English, which resulted in a striking off order. Notwithstanding the challenges posed by the allegations being over 4 years old, the unrepresented registrant's language barrier, witness issues, and numerous evidential obstacles, it was noted that Shekyena's "presentation of the case and conduct with an unrepresented Registrant was exemplary".

NMC v MS [2022]

Case involving two sets of allegations in 2017 and 2019 whereby a senior nurse had repeatedly made medication errors and put patients at harm at numerous places of employment over a number of years which resulted in her being dismissed each time. The registrant then sought new employment on several occasions where she dishonestly and intentionally failed to disclose her dismissals and history of medication errors during the application process, having received an NMC caution for the same in 2017. This resulted in a striking off order.

NMC v BC [2022]

Successfully opposed a complex hearsay argument by persuading the panel that the hearsay evidence was not sole and decisive. The NMC sought to rely on the hearsay evidence of Patient X (who was allegedly abused by the registrant) and Patient Y (who overheard the alleged incident). This hearsay evidence was corroborated by one witness who only overheard the alleged incident. The case involved a registrant accused of falsifying patient records, dishonesty concerns, and physical and verbal abuse of a vulnerable patient.

NMC v AM [2022]

Complex case involving dishonesty allegations whereby the NMC relied on the evidence of a witness with a finding of dishonesty against them. The case involved a registrant accused of concealing a patient error where he and a Consultant Anaesthetist had administered anaesthetic for a nerve block procedure on the wrong side of the patient. The key witness for the NMC was the Consultant Anaesthetist, who had been suspended for 4 weeks for admitting dishonesty and the same factual allegation at his regulator's fitness to practice hearing. This raised issues with the credibility of the witness, however it was argued that the witness was credible in this case as he had self-reported the incident to the Trust and had been open and honest by way of his full admission during his regulatory proceedings.

NMC v SP [2022]

Successfully opposed a lengthy legal argument on a submission of no case to answer. The case involved a senior nurse accused of sexual harassment and breaching professional boundaries with a patient and colleagues. The allegations related to the registrant allegedly abusing his position as a nurse to contact a young female patient that he had cared for, via social media. The alleged conduct also involved the registrant, who was in his mid-30s, pursuing very junior female colleagues that were students and apprentices, one as young as 17, by reading their name badges and searching for them on social media in order to instigate a sexual relationship.

NMC v TS [2022]

Complex case involving a registrant accused of numerous medication errors, failing to properly respond to an emergency where the resident later died, and having a lack of the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely. The registrant's representative withdrew during the hearing which caused difficulties as the registrant was now unrepresented and it was important to ensure she continued to have a fair hearing by raising points, where appropriate, that might have been if she still had legal representation.

Business Crime & Fraud

Shekyena accepts instructions in financial crime matters including serious fraud, money laundering, and complex multi-handed matters. Prior to coming to the Bar, Shekyena worked at the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Adjudicator's Office (HM Revenue & Customs), where she developed experience in financial and tax matters.

Notable Business Crime & Fraud cases

Operation Rupee [2024] Southwark Crown Court

Led junior.

Shekyena, led by **Mark Watson**, represented the third defendant in a trial involving a large-scale, sophisticated £26

million international money laundering scheme using a web of foreign exchange transactions.

Education

LLB (Hons), Nottingham Trent University

BPTC (LLM), BPP Law School

Memberships

The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

The Criminal Bar Association (CBA)

Women in Criminal Law (WICL)

Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)

Young Fraud Lawyers Association (YFLA)

Publications

Crime

[Daisy's Law – children born of rape to be recognised as victims by new law](#)

Professional Discipline

[Case summary of 'G' v SWE 2024: The High Court revisits key principles across all stages of Fitness to Practise hearings](#)

[PSA challenge in the case of Lingam and the GMC 2023: The importance of clear and adequate reasoning and analysis by Panels in Professional Discipline hearings](#)

[Chambers' webinar on 'Fitness to Practise Proceedings: Ten Top Tips'.](#)

Scholarships and Awards

Criminal Bar Association Bursary Prize (2021)

Marshall Hall Trust Pupillage Award (2020)

Inner Temple Cumberland Lodge Residential Weekend Bursary for advocacy training on Public Inquiries (2018)

BPP bursary for demonstrating potential to excel on the course and at the Bar (2018)

Inner Temple Exhibition Award (2018)

Inner Temple Duke of Edinburgh Award (2018)

Training & Qualifications

GBGB training (2024)

NMC advocacy training (2021)

YJLC youth justice training (2021)