

Vanessa Reid

Call 2018



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Vanessa specialises in criminal defence and regulatory law. She has secured successful outcomes for clients in a wide range of criminal matters involving serious and violent offences, fraud and the proceeds of crime, and weapons and drug trafficking.

Vanessa is regularly instructed in professional discipline cases before a variety of regulators. She has conducted final hearings in numerous cases involving allegations of serious professional misconduct, including sexual assault, patient death, misappropriation of controlled drugs, and significant fraud.

Vanessa has significant experience advising and representing individuals and companies responding to regulatory scrutiny and white collar criminal investigations at the pre-action, investigation, and charging stages across multiple jurisdictions.

In addition to being a qualified barrister in England and Wales, Vanessa has been a member of the California State Bar since 2010. In the U.S., Vanessa served as a two-year judicial law clerk to the Honorable Dolly Gee of the U.S. Central District of California. She also worked at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, representing indigent defendants in felony cases, and as an associate at Latham & Watkins, handling complex regulatory matters and criminal and civil litigation. After re-locating to the UK, Vanessa worked for the White Collar Crime Centre at Bright Line Law and the White Collar Defence and Investigations team at Wilmer Hale in London.

Vanessa was a founding advisor to Essie Justice Group, a US-based charity dedicated to ending mass incarceration. She has also worked for the San Quentin Prison University Project and the Berkeley Death Penalty Clinic.

Vanessa is a member of Women in Criminal Law (WICL) and the Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL).

Expertise

Crime

Vanessa is instructed in all areas of criminal law. She has experience in complex and sensitive cases, including cases of serious violence, sexual offences, drug trafficking, weapons, and financial crime. Vanessa has specialised training in working with children and other vulnerable witnesses and defendants.

Notable Crime cases

R v J [2023] Woolwich Crown Court

Secured double acquittal for client charged with assault and ABH in a case involving a dispute over an American Bully XL dog.

R v S [2022] Croydon Crown Court

Secured an unusually low sentence of 4 years' custody for a client convicted of possessing 12kg of cocaine with intent to supply. The cocaine was determined to be import-grade purity (90-93%) with an estimated street value of £400,000.

R v H [2022] Isleworth Crown Court

Secured acquittal on the more serious charge for client charged with multiple knife-related offences.

R v M [2022] Isleworth Crown Court

Secured a rare suspended sentence for a client convicted of perverting the course of justice.

R v N [2021] Bromley Youth Court

Secured acquittals on all nine offences for 17-year-old client charged with being concerned in the supply of cocaine and heroin and possession of multiple knives by successfully advancing a defence under s.45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

R v S [2021] Westminster Magistrates Court

Secured acquittal and successfully opposed Crown's application for restraining order upon acquittal in document-heavy online malicious communications case.

R v W [2021] Reading Magistrates Court

Secured acquittal for client charged with stalking an ex-partner in the midst of contentious family law proceedings.

R v B [2020] Uxbridge Youth Court

Secured acquittal for 17-year-old defendant charged with dwelling burglary of goods worth £10,000 who had been independently identified by two different officers based on CCTV footage of the incident. Cross-examined both officers regarding lack of compliance with PACE Code D and made submissions addressing the weakness of the identification evidence.

R v D [2020] Staines Magistrates Court

Represented vulnerable client charged with serious assault in which expert evidence of the defendant's acute psychosis at the time of the incident was relied upon at trial.

R v C [2020] Uxbridge Magistrates Court

Conducted successful Newton hearing in assault on emergency worker case in which the complainant-officer suffered a gash across the forehead requiring stitches. After cross-examination of three police officers, persuaded the Court that the complainant-officer had been the aggressor in the encounter and secured a penalty of a simple fine for the defendant.

R v J [2020] Stratford Youth Court

Conducted successful Newton hearing for 17-year-old defendant charged with four group robberies involving the brandishing of a knife and violence resulting in injury.

Professional Regulation

Vanessa has extensive experience in a wide range of professional regulatory cases, including serious cases involving sexual misconduct, fraud, theft of controlled drugs, and patient death.

Notable Professional Regulation cases

TRA v J [2023]

Represented the TRA in a final hearing of a Teacher found to have engaged in sexually motivated conduct with a Year 9 pupil.

HCPC v T [2022]

Represented the HCPC in a complex multi-week final hearing of a paramedic accused of sexually motivated provision of a clinical drug to a child, sexually motivated inappropriate touching of a child, and sexually motivated communications with multiple children. All factual allegations were found proven and the registrant was struck off.

NMC v J [2022]

Represented the NMC in a case in which a registered nurse managing a care home was accused of failing to report or address serious allegations of physical, mental, and sexual abuse of adult residential patients with learning disabilities.

HCPC v B [2021]

Represented the HCPC in an 8-day final hearing of paramedic accused of misconduct and incompetence following the death of a prisoner-patient.

HCPC v P [2021]

Presented case at final hearing involving falsification of numerous patient records and fraudulent misappropriation of over £16,000.

HCPC v S [2021]

Represented HCPC at final professional disciplinary hearing of radiographer accused of sexually harassing and inappropriately accessing patient records of dozens of female patients.

HCPC v D [2021]

Presented case at final hearing for paramedic accused of fraudulently misappropriating and using morphine while on duty over an extensive period of time, including while driving an ambulance and while in charge of patients.

Business Crime & Fraud

Vanessa has been a member of the California bar since 2010. She practiced for three years as a litigator at Latham and Watkins in San Francisco where she represented individual and corporate clients subject to regulatory scrutiny and criminal investigations. Prior to joining Mountford Chambers, Vanessa worked for the White Collar Crime Centre at Bright Line Law and the White Collar Defence and Investigations team at Wilmer Hale in London. Vanessa has represented clients in antitrust, fraud, bribery, and conspiracy actions in both the U.S. and across international jurisdictions including Singapore, Australia, Nigeria, and South Korea.

Public Law

Vanessa has a specialism in Public Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has advised in public law proceedings such as judicial reviews and prisoners' rights claims.

Memberships

- Women in Criminal Law (WICL)
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Howard League for Penal Reform
- Member of the State Bar of California since 2010

Publications

- [Key Changes to Corporate Liability in the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 – Expanded Identification Doctrine and New Failure to Prevent Fraud Offence](#)
- [Bad Optics: The High Court Focuses on Panel Member's Apparent Bias in Suleman v General Optical Council \[2023\] EWHC 2110 \(Admin\)](#)
- [You Can Tweet If You Want To \(So Long As You're Polite About It\): The Current State of Regulatory Oversight Over Social Media – article shared by The Secret Barrister \(19th April 2022\).](#)
- [Freedom of Speech and Fitness to Practise: Tribunals Must Apply a Higher Test Before Restricting Speech \(7th March 2022\)](#)
- [Unduly Lenient? The public outcry over a sex strangulation case raises difficult issues \(27th September 2021\)](#)
- [Uplifting News: revised Assault Guidelines take consultation responses on board \(27th May 2021\)](#)
- [Old habits die hard: new Drug Sentencing Guidelines address vulnerable offenders but may not go far enough \(12th March 2021\)](#)
- [Corporate Confiscation: Time for a Closer Look—with Charles Bott QC \(1st December 2020\)](#)
- [A Focus of the Minds: a review of the new Overarching Guideline for Sentencing Offenders with Mental Health Conditions—with Chloe Birch \(8th October 2020\)](#)
- [Proceed with Caution: The Case for a Narrowly Tailored Corporate Confiscation Scheme in the UK, The](#)

White Collar Crime Centre (15th January 2020)

- [Thinking Like an Accomplice: The Mens Rea for Complicity in US and English Law after Rosemond and Jogee](#)—with Alexander Sarch and Sophie Walker
- [Accessory Liability After Jogee](#) (Hart Publishing, 9th January 2020)
- UWOs and the steady expansion of extra-territorial jurisdiction over financial crime, Bright Line Law (4th April 2018)
- Financial Inclusion, Exclusion and Risk Management, Bright Line Law (22nd January 2018)