

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 encompassing serious and violent offences, fraud and the proceeds of crime, and weapons and drug trafficking. She has a particular commitment to representing vulnerable defendants, including young persons and people with mental health difficulties.

Vanessa also has a robust regulatory practice. She frequently appears before medical and healthcare tribunals, and has been instructed to present a wide range of cases involving serious allegations relating to sexual misconduct, patient death, misappropriation of controlled drugs, and significant fraud. In addition, Vanessa has extensive experience advising and representing companies responding to regulatory scrutiny 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. Prior to re-locating to the UK, Vanessa served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Dolly Gee of the Central District of California, where she worked on numerous high-profile civil and criminal cases. She previously worked at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, representing indigent criminal defendants in felony cases, and as an associate at Latham & Watkins in San Francisco, handling complex regulatory matters and commercial litigation.

Vanessa was a founding advisor to Essie Justice Group, a US-based non-profit dedicated to organising women with incarcerated family members to end mass incarceration. She has also served as a volunteer teacher for the San Quentin Prison University Project and a defence advocate at the Berkeley Death Penalty Clinic.

Vanessa is a member of Women in Criminal Law (WICL), the Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL), and the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Expertise

Crime

Vanessa is instructed in all areas of criminal law, and has experience in complex and sensitive cases, including offences involving serious violence, sexual offences, financial crime, and offences involving young people. Vanessa has specialised training in dealing with children and other vulnerable witnesses and defendants.

Notable Crime cases

R v S [2022] Croydon Crown Court

After extensive mitigation, secured a 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. The sentencing range for the lowest culpability category of Class A drug possession with intent to supply is 6 to 9 years' custody based on a starting point of 5kg.

R v M [2022] Isleworth Crown Court

Provided detailed written submissions regarding the broader circumstances of the case in order to secure a suspended sentence of 3 months' for a client convicted of perverting the course of justice by making multiple false reports to the police accusing a named individual of committing a crime.

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 W [2021] Harrow Crown Court

Commended for conscientious advocacy in assault case involving vulnerable youth complainant.

R v S [2021] Westminster Magistrates Court

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

R v J [2021] Cambridge Crown Court

Successfully mitigated for client with numerous previous offences charged with multiple counts of assault on emergency worker, assault by beating, and criminal damage to secure sentence of time served.

R v O [2021] Uxbridge Magistrates Court

Secured out-of-court disposal for 16-year-old defendant charged with possession of a Class B drug with intent to supply following written submissions on the inadmissibility of police interview.

R v W [2020] Inner London Crown Court

Persuaded Court not to activate suspended sentence in spite of defendant's repeated breaches and multiple previous knife-related convictions.

R v B [2020] Uxbridge Magistrates 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 H [2020] Brighton Magistrates Court

Secured acquittal for defendant charged with assault and criminal damage following reliance on defence of others and householder provisions of s.76 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

R v D [2020] Staines Magistrates Court

Represented vulnerable client in ABH trial 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

Forced Crown to offer no evidence in Newton hearing for 17-year-old defendant charged with four group robberies involving the brandishing of a knife and violence resulting in injury. Successfully opposed the Crown's application to adjourn and persuaded the Court to lift the defendant's stringent bail conditions pending sentence.

R v J [2020] Highbury Youth Court

Successfully opposed bad character application for 17-year-old defendant charged with possession of a bladed article where Crown sought to adduce defendant's two previous convictions for attempted robbery and possession of an offensive weapon.

R v O [2020] Uxbridge Magistrates Court

Secured acquittal for a defendant charged with stalking an ex-partner after being arrested whilst heavily intoxicated outside her house. Conducted extensive cross-examination of the complainant and complainant's teenaged daughter.

Professional Regulation

Vanessa has extensive experience in a wide range of professional disciplinary cases, including serious cases involving sexual misconduct, fraud, theft of controlled drugs, and patient death. She is a member of ARDL, the Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers. Vanessa also has extensive experience advising companies in response to regulatory scrutiny and helping prepare responses to regulatory investigations.

Vanessa has been a member of the California bar since 2010 and practiced for three years as a civil litigator at a large international law firm, where she represented corporate and individual clients subject to regulatory scrutiny, with a particular focus on competition work. She has represented clients in federal antitrust and conspiracy actions and prepared responses to DOJ and FTC investigations as well as advising companies regarding internal investigations prior to formal regulatory action.

Notable Professional Regulation cases

HCPC v B [2021]

Instructed by the HCPC in 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 specialises in business crime and fraud and has a wide range of experience in white collar and corporate crime cases across multiple jurisdictions.

Public Law

Vanessa has a specialism in public law 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

- [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
- Accessorial 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)