

## Fiona Robertson

"She has a wide range of experience, strong advocacy skills, excellent legal knowledge and a thorough understanding of the law. She has impeccable preparation and communication skills and is a formidable advocate."

Legal 500 UK 2021



Year of Call: 2008

020 7353 5324

Fiona Robertson is a highly sought after junior with a diverse criminal and regulatory practice. Fiona's mixed practice allows for continuity of representation for professionals potentially facing criminal, professional disciplinary and inquest proceedings.

Fiona is an experienced junior who is able to master voluminous cases with precision and ease. As a result she is regularly instructed in paper heavy cases including high value, multi-jurisdictional fraud and money laundering matters.

Fiona is widely regarded as having particular expertise in cases involving vulnerable witnesses and defendants, including youths. She is often sought to defend serious sexual offences due to her ability to quickly build trust and a rapport with anxious clients. Her extensive expertise in the often complex and sensitive issues arising in such cases mean she is a skilled tactician who is able to rigorously challenge the prosecution case while bringing the best out of her client at trial.

In addition to her criminal practice Fiona has experience of international criminal law having worked for over three years in the Cayman Islands as a defence attorney. Her fearless approach in defending her clients meant she became one of the island's most sought after criminal attorneys and regularly appeared in high profile cases on the island. The Cayman Islands has a fused profession and as such Fiona has experience in advising clients pre-charge as well as conducting all aspects of litigation.

Fiona is ranked as a leading junior in The Legal 500.

Fiona accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

## What others say:

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a formidable advocate.” – Legal 500 2021

“Calm, composed, great with clients and a great criminal trial lawyer.” – Legal 500 2020

“Her ability to get the best out of each client is one of her greatest assets.” – Legal 500 2018

## Business Crime & Financial Services

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High value, complex fraud cases form a significant part of Fiona’s practise. She is instructed in private prosecutions as well as defending in cases brought by the CPS, HMRC and SFO.

### Notable Cases:

#### ***R v M (2020)***

Fiona secured the acquittal of a Spanish national accused of laundering the proceeds of a diversion fraud committed against the Ministry of Defence. The MoD computer network was manipulated by a corrupt clerk resulting in salaries for 55 personnel being diverted into mule accounts. The defendant received a significant proportion of these funds and, within 24 hours, it was sent to third party accounts, used to effect large foreign currency exchanges or withdrawn in cash.

#### ***R v C (2019)***

Fiona represented an individual accused of involvement in a series of frauds valued at £10m and subsequent international money laundering operation. Virus and phishing software was used to perpetrate divert frauds companies and conveyancing solicitors and dating scams were used to target individuals. The money obtained was subsequently laundered through a series of shell companies and mule accounts across the Globe.

#### ***R v A (2017)***

Fiona, led by Leon Kazakos QC, represented an individual accused of involvement in a £12m international fraud and money laundering operation. A series of divert frauds were perpetrated against public and quasi-public bodies following publication of tendering information. The diverted funds were subsequently laundered through accounts across the UK, UAE and Nigeria. In addition to the difficulties inherent in defending such large scale offending the case was rendered more complicated by the voluntary absence of the defendant who continued to provide instructions for trial remotely.

#### ***R v J (2018)***

Representing a businessman accused of cheating the public revenue by evading VAT payments on the income from his business.

## Criminal Defence

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Ranked as a leading junior in Crime by the Legal 500 Fiona has extensive trial experience and regularly defends cases across the spectrum of serious criminal offences. Her practise is focused on defending those accused of serious and organised crime including rape, murder and financial crime.

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Fiona has particular experience conducting matters involving young defendants or those with mental health issues. She regularly conducts matters involving different aspects of expert evidence including cell site, DNA and medical evidence and is able to master these complex areas with ease. She is a contributing author to the DNA chapter in Rook and Ward on Sexual Offences: Law and Practice.

## Notable Cases:

### ***R v L (2020)***

Fiona represented an individual charged with murder and violent disorder in relation to a spate of five violent incidents carried out by a group across North London resulting in two people being killed and two more seriously injured. The defendant had fled the country following the murders before being arrested and extradited back to the UK. In addition to extensive CCTV, cell site and mobile phone evidence the prosecution sought to adduce evidence of conversations covertly recorded in prison between the defendant, his alibi witness and his former co-defendant.

### ***R v G (2019)***

After a 3 week trial Fiona secured the acquittal of her client accused of the joint enterprise rape of a mentally vulnerable complainant. The defendant and another were accused of taking the complainant to a secluded balcony after a night of heavy drinking when they allegedly pinned her down and raped her. Part of the incident was observed by an independent witness who filmed the events, including the complainant shouting “You’re raping me”, as he called the police. On arrival the police discovered the complainant naked save for a zip up top, highly intoxicated and very distressed. In addition to the vulnerable mental state of the complainant Fiona’s client had an IQ of just 55 – the trial was conducted without intermediaries and instead relied on the expertise of counsel to adopt a careful, sensitive approach to questioning while being alive to signs of stress or misunderstanding.

### ***NCA v S (2019)***

Fiona, led by Leon Kazakos Q.C., represented the lead defendant in the largest prosecution brought for the importation and production of anabolic steroids in the UK. In addition to being involved in the production of anabolic steroids in a special fitted laboratory found on his business premises the defendant was accused of being involved in the importation of anabolic steroids from India using complex shipping routes via Singapore, Europe and Ireland to mailboxes in the the UK.

### ***R v L (2019)***

Fiona represented an individual charged with murder in relation to a group attack on a gang rival. Following simmering tensions between rival gangs the victim’s group attacked the defendant’s group into a park. The group were quickly outnumbered whereupon the victim was chased down an alleyway and attacked by the defendant’s group armed with golf clubs, bats and machetes.

Fiona was also instructed on behalf of 4 of the defendants for proceedings in the Court of Appeal in which the defendants sought to overturn their convictions on the basis of unfairness in the trial process due to lengthy periods of separation during the jury’s deliberations. This case is now a leading authority on case management and acceptable breaks during the trial process (*R v Woodward and others* [2019] EWCA Crim 1002)

### ***R v A (2018)***

Representing a youth accused of rape and sexual activity with a child. The case concerned expert evidence on whether the defendant’s ADHD, Autism and learning disability would have affected his reasonable belief in

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consent. The defendant was acquitted of all counts after trial.

### ***R v B (2018)***

B was accused of trafficking her best friend from Cyprus to the UK, via Romania, and forcing her to work as a prostitute. The CPS failed to disclose vital evidence until 17 days into the trial, leading HHJ Perrins to order an inquiry. Following extensive cross examination of B in light of the new material the CPS offered no evidence on all counts.

## Private Prosecution

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Fiona's considerable experience in prosecuting complex criminal cases for the CPS means she is well placed to provide advice and representation to individuals seeking to bring a private prosecution. She is able to provide advice on all aspects of private prosecutions, from the drafting and issuing of summons, disclosure and costs. Fiona has acted alone, and as part of a larger legal team, in private prosecutions for individuals seeking to bring private prosecutions for matters including breaches of licensing provisions and harassment as well as corporations seeking to prosecute large scale fraud.

In addition, Fiona has acted in private prosecutions for quasi-public bodies including the RSPCA and Royal Mail.

## Public Prosecution

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Fiona is a Grade 3 prosecutor and has prosecuted on behalf of the CPS, Serco and HMRC. She completed a secondment to the UK Borders Agency branch of the CPS and thus has experience in advising on charge, disclosure and PII.

## Professional Discipline

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Fiona regularly defends in the NMC and GMC. Her clear understanding of medical procedures and ability to master voluminous medical notes and expert reports allow her to present a case with clarity and precision. She has also presented cases for the NCTL.

## Notable Cases:

### ***GMC v Dr D (2020)***

Fiona represented the registrant in fitness to practise proceedings before the MPTS after he accepted a police caution for accessing extreme pornography on a work computer.

### ***GMC v Dr J (2019)***

Fiona represented the registrant who faced multiple charges relating to a sexual relationship with a vulnerable patient and the treatment to the patient in their home without proper records being maintained. The case was conducted over 8 days and required extensive video-link cross examination of the vulnerable patient as to the truth of the allegations and her part in encouraging the relationship.

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## **GMC v Dr A (2019)**

Fiona was instructed as special counsel to cross examine several witnesses who had made allegations of sexually inappropriate behaviour by the registrant in the work place.

## **NMC v J**

The registrant faced multiple charges in relation to a patient who developed an open wound while under her care and her subsequent failure to engage in the investigative process. Two of the charges were dismissed following a submission of no case no answer. The remaining charges were found not proved at the conclusion of the case.

## Accreditations

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## Appointments & Memberships

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- 2021: Treasury Counsel Monitoree
- 2020: Appointed to SFO Panel B
- CPS Grade 3 Prosecutor
- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association

## Education & Qualifications

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- University of Durham (LLB Hons)
- College of Law, London (BVC)

## Publications

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She is a contributing author to the DNA chapter in Rook and Ward in Sexual Offences: Law and Practice

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