

Gudrun Young KC

"She knows when to be cautious and when to be bold. Her cross-examinations are nothing less than perfect."
Chambers UK 2024



Year of Call: 2001 KC: 2022

020 7353 5324

Gudrun Young KC is a highly sought-after barrister specialising in criminal defence, inquests, serious fraud, regulatory law and professional discipline.

She is regularly instructed in the most serious and high-profile cases. Her criminal practice encompasses murder, sexual offences, organised crime, large scale drug conspiracies, money-laundering and complex fraud. She has particular expertise in conducting cases involving sexual allegations, often involving the cross-examination of young or vulnerable witnesses.

In the field of professional discipline, Gudrun has represented a wide variety of professionals including teachers, nurses, doctors and dentists. She also advises in respect of related appellate proceedings in the High Court.

Gudrun is regularly instructed in coronial proceedings for both individuals and companies. Instructions include representing a superbike racer who's wife fell to her death from a Dubai hotel whilst they were celebrating their honeymoon and the Grand Canyon helicopter crash.

In recent years she has extended her practice to include civil personal injury litigation: her cases have included a complex occupational stress claim and one of the first "modern slavery" claims to have been litigated in the UK.

She is known to be a first-class advocate with a fierce intelligence and a meticulous eye for detail. Her preparation is impeccable and she works tirelessly on behalf of her clients. She combines this with having an approachable manner and an air of calm confidence that puts clients at ease.

Judges whom she has appeared in front of have described her as "outstanding", "highly intelligent" and a "formidable advocate". One who recently tried a case in which she appeared for the defence commented that she did a "fantastic job" and that her client was "superbly represented". Another said that her closing speech to the jury was the "the best I have ever heard".

Gudrun's rare combination of skills means that she regularly wins even the most difficult of cases. She is an advocate with a proven track record of providing exceptional representation to every one of her clients.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
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E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

Gudrun accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

She was nominated as Crime Junior of the Year by Legal 500 2020.

What others say:

“She is a brilliant cross-examiner and great at jury speeches.” – Chambers UK 2024

“Gudrun gives her all, is extremely hard working, a superb advocate and exceptionally bright. She is a top class silk and never fails to impress.” – Legal 500 UK 2024

“A fantastic advocate who is tenacious when handling difficult cases but also gentle and understanding when dealing with clients. Having a conference with Gudrun is like watching a master at work.” – Chambers UK 2023

“Gudrun is a class act, she is a sublime advocate. She is hard-working, brilliant with clients and highly sought-after.” – Legal 500 UK 2023

“Particularly good at handling highly emotionally charged men as she establishes that she is the expert and that they need to listen and follow her advice. She is a fearless, forthright and dynamic barrister.” – Chambers UK 2022

“Gudrun is a brilliant, with straightforward communication with clients, juries and the judiciary. She is exceptionally hardworking. Gudrun is strategically astute, has a keen eye for detail and is also a persuasive advocate. She fiercely fights in her clients’ corner, but she is also respected by her opponents.” – Legal 500 UK 2022

“Her judgement and abilities as an advocate are superior to most others of her call.” “Fantastic with clients and great in court, she is really bright.” “A really good advocate who is particularly good on serious sexual offence cases.” – Chambers UK 2021

“Gudrun is an excellent advocate, clients love her and her cross-examination skills are exemplary. Gudrun is able to quickly sieve through vast amounts of evidence to get to the crux of the matter. Gudrun is able to get even the most difficult of clients on side and is particularly good with youth defendants and those with mental health issues.” – Legal 500 2021

“Very effective before the jury. Her closing speech was on the one hand extremely comprehensive but also easily digestible for the jury, who were entertained whilst having the law clearly explained to them. She was also particularly detailed in her preparation and supportive of an anxious client.” – Chamber UK 2020

“She brings a fresh and innovative approach, especially in sex cases.” – Legal 500 2020

“Extremely talented – she is good with clients, hardworking and puts effort into everything.” – Legal 500 2019

“A strong advocate with a range of experience and careful client care skills with difficult and vulnerable defendants.” – Legal 500 2017

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Business Crime & Financial Services

The nature of her criminal fraud case load has given Gudrun extensive experience in matters of international corruption, large-scale investment fraud, excise duty and VAT fraud, insurance fraud and money laundering. She is also a specialist in the proceeds of crime and asset recovery and has had considerable success in successfully representing individuals in complex confiscation proceedings.

Civil Litigation

Gudrun undertakes personal injury cases with a particular emphasis on occupational disease litigation, including noise induced hearing loss and stress cases. Recent cases include a complex case involving an employer of a large organisation suing a former employer for stress related psychiatric illness and one of the first “modern day slavery” cases, in which she represented a defendant company accused of trafficking workers from Lithuania and perpetrating a number of human rights abuses against them. The defendant company was widely reported in the press as being the “worst gangmaster in the UK”.

Criminal Defence

Gudrun is a highly specialised and experienced criminal defence advocate with a practice that encompasses the full spectrum of offences including murder, non-fatal violence, organised crime, money-laundering, fraud, confiscation and large scale drug conspiracies. In recent years she has appeared in a large number of murder and manslaughter cases of the utmost gravity and complexity.

She has particular expertise in conducting serious sexual cases, acting as both leading and junior counsel. She is very experienced in complex matters involving children and vulnerable witnesses and cases involving allegations of institutional and historic sexual abuse and is particularly sought after in this field.

Gudrun has also written about and lectured extensively on the subject of sexual offences.

A large amount of her work involves scientific and expert evidence requiring extensive knowledge and expertise of DNA, fibres, pathology, neuropathology, psychiatric issues and psychology. She has great skill and experience in cases involving mental health issues and expert evidence.

Recent Cases include:

R v Jeffrey Gyimah (Ongoing)

Multi-handed murder and conspiracy to murder.

R v Alice Wood (ongoing)

High profile murder – young woman charged with murder after running over her boyfriend in a Cheshire village.

R v AM (ongoing)

Multiple rape allegations.

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R v AO (2023)

Russian banker acquitted of voyeurism. Reported widely in the press.

R v GR (2023)

The defendant was charged with rape, which was initially stayed as an abuse of process. The prosecution successfully appealed the stay and he was then subsequently acquitted following a trial. The case was reported as Regina v ANP [2022] EWCA Crim 1111 and was the subject of legal commentary and analysis in a variety of publications.

R v DH (2023)

Successfully represented a stepfather accused of sexual offences against his step-daughter at a re-trial.

R v EG (2023)

Defendant who was a German national on holiday in the UK when he was accused of sexual offences was acquitted of all counts.

R v Conrad Adams (2022)

Murder – ‘joint enterprise’ stabbing. Represented the only defendant to be acquitted of all counts.

R v Christopher Owens Wright

Represented a young man charged with murder and section 18 GBH against two different victims.

R v Lee-Walton (2022)

Multi-handed case involving allegations of attempted murder/conspiracy to murder/possession of firearms against a background of gang-related violence. One of the allegations included the shooting of an innocent woman who was paralysed from the neck down when a stray bullet hit her during a confrontation in Broadway Market, London. The defendant, first on the indictment, was acquitted of all counts following a 3 month trial at the Central Criminal Court.

R v Imran Khan (2022)

Represented the Conservative MP for Wakefield charged with historic sexual offences in an extremely high-profile case attracting national and international press attention.

R v Abu Faye (2022)

Successfully represented a man charged with possession of firearms in a multi-handed case.

R v Dr HA (2021)

Represented a senior Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Norwich Hospital faced allegations of sexual assault against two patients following what were alleged to be inappropriate breast examinations. One count was dismissed at the close of the prosecution case. Acquitted of all remaining counts by the jury.

R v Michael Hand (2021)

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Junior counsel in a high-profile case involving allegations of murder and attempted murder.

R v Nicholas Cook (2021)

The defendant was acquitted of historic allegations of rape and sexual assault against his stepdaughter in the 1970's.

R v John Leslie Stott (2020)

Successfully represented John Leslie, former Blue Peter presenter and TV personality who faced a historic accusation of sexual assault. The case was extremely high profile and attracted widespread reporting in the press.

R v AN (2020)

Proceedings for rape were discontinued against the defendant following defence expert evidence identifying the possibility that the complainant suffered from a rare sleep disorder (a form of sexsomnia enabling her to have sex in her sleep without knowledge or recollection). The case attracted widespread publicity when the complainant successfully appealed the decision of the CPS to drop the case. Because a not guilty plea had already been recorded when the police offered no evidence against the defendant, the proceedings could not be re-commenced despite the CPS apologizing to the complainant. The case featured in a BBC documentary entitled "Sexsomnia: Case Closed?".

R v Sean Waters (2019)

The defendant was acquitted of harassment, attempted section 18 and sexual assault of his wife, having alleged to have subjected her to a campaign of terror and violence for many years.

R v Ylli Kalemi (2019)

The defendant was acquitted of an allegation of raping a young girl 20 years ago, having fled the jurisdiction before the original trial could take place.

R v Mark Acklom (2019)

Leading counsel on behalf of "career conman" Mark Acklom, accused of a romance fraud in which he defrauded a woman out of her life savings in 2012. Having fled the country he was placed on the National Crime Agency's "Top 10 Most Wanted List". He was extradited from Switzerland to the UK in 2019. The case attracted widespread media attention and the defendant is the subject of an in depth Sky documentary.

R v Paul Cane (2019)

Acted on behalf of a defendant who was acquitted of attempted murder.

R v Carl Carolan & Ors (2019)

A multi-handed conspiracy to defraud worth over £1 million.

R v JA (2019)

Gudrun was junior counsel to David Whittaker QC. They successfully defended a young man accused of attempted murder following a group attack upon a passerby during which he was stabbed multiple times.

R v Mark Calvert-Eliot (2019)

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Junior alone representing a man accused of attempted murder, namely the “mercy killing” of his elderly mother who had suffered a catastrophic stroke 5 years previously. The defendant was convicted but his sentence was significantly reduced following an successful application to the Court of Appeal.

R v Miranda Yardley (2019)

Gudrun successfully defended a trans woman in what was described as the UK’s first prosecution for “transgender hate crime”. The Judge ruled that there was no case to answer on the basis that issues of freedom of speech enshrined in Article 10 of the ECHR were engaged.

Giuliana Kendal v Linda Bellos (2018)

Gudrun successfully defended Linda Bellos OBE, a leading feminist and anti-racist campaigner in a private prosecution brought by a trans woman who accused her of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. Following detailed representations that the prosecution was effectively an attempt to silence an ideological opponent, the CPS took over the prosecution and discontinued it.

R v KA (2018)

Successfully defended Dr K, a trainee GP charged with one count of assault by penetration and six counts of sexual assault. He was alleged to have assaulted four different women over a nine week period. All of the allegations related to what the Crown said were “unnecessary” intimate examinations performed in the course of patient consultations. He was unanimously acquitted of all counts by the jury.

R v PM (2018)

Successfully defended a well-known photographer accused of various counts of sexual assault said to have been committed against aspiring models and actresses in the course of professional photoshoots. He was unanimously acquitted of all counts after two separate trials. The case was extensively reported in the press.

R v Melia Kaya (2018)

Represented a young woman accused of causing death by dangerous driving as a result of a collision in which her younger sister was killed in an extremely sensitive and difficult case that was widely publicised.

R v Ronald Jones (2018)

Successfully defended a grandfather accused of historic familial child sex offences.

R v Patrick Brooks & Ors (2018)

Several defendants charged with the grooming, systematic abuse and rape of a vulnerable 12 year old girl with severe learning difficulties and autism. The complainant had to be cross-examined very sensitively and carefully through an intermediary. Gudrun’s client was the only one to be acquitted.

R v Sothilingham & Ors (2017)

Led by David Jeremy QC in a multi-handed murder involving a complicated history of gang violence between rival Tamil gangs in London, culminating in a brutal attack in a car park involving machetes, samurai swords and axes. The defendant was acquitted of murder following a two month trial at the Central Criminal Court.

R v Stephen Watts (2017)

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Successfully defended a man accused of multiple accusations of familial rape and abuse said to have been committed 50 years ago.

R v David Regan (2017)

The defendant was a respected and successful solicitor specialising in family law who was arrested following links to a notorious paedophile ring. He was accused of a large number of offences relating to the possession and distribution of images of such abuse, described in court as the most horrific and disturbing case of its kind.

R v Fen Chen & Ors (2017)

A large-scale conspiracy to launder money involving Chinese and Albanian criminal gangs involved in criminal activity on an international scale. The gang were arrested following several months of surveillance culminating in a two week period during which over £1.8 million was paid into dozens of High Street banks. Benhadir Shabani whom Gudrun represented was the only defendant to be acquitted.

R v Fiona Smith (2017)

A prison officer accused of misfeasance in a public office who was acquitted at trial, having been told by a judge that she had “no defence”, following the uncovering of the fact that documents used to incriminate her had been tampered with by her employers.

Osman Ahmed v R (2017)

Successful appeal against conviction (leave having been refused by the Single Judge) on the basis that the defendant had been negligently represented at his first trial. The case raised complex issues of law concerning legal professional privilege and adverse inferences. The conviction was quashed and the appellant was subsequently acquitted at his re-trial.

R v Robert Meekoms (2016)

Successfully represented a man accused of historic sexual offences allegedly committed against his daughter who suffered from severe learning difficulties and autism.

R v Adam Johnson (2016)

Junior Counsel on behalf of Sunderland and England footballer, Adam Johnson at his trial on two charges of sexual activity with a child, relating to an incident between him and a 15 year old fan. Following a 3 week trial at Bradford Crown Court he was unanimously acquitted of the most serious charge, but convicted of a lesser charge of digital penetration. The case attracted widespread publicity in the national and international press.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Gudrun is regularly instructed in coronial proceedings for both individuals and companies. She is a member of the Coroners’ Inquests and Public Inquiries team in chambers and provides advice and representation in relation to these areas. Her recent experience includes representing the family of a patient who died in hospital in which a finding of neglect was made in relation to the sub-standard treatment he had received, a death in custody, and a high profile case involving a man who had committed suicide following significant failures in his psychiatric care.

Gudrun is currently instructed on behalf of several care homes regarding deaths of elderly patients.

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Cases

Inquest into the death of Abigail Elson

Inquest proceedings on behalf of superbike racer Sean Emmett in the inquest of his wife Abigail Elson, who fell to her death from a hotel room in Dubai when they were returning from their honeymoon in 2014.

Grand Canyon Helicopter Crash

Represented the family of Jonathan Udall, who along with his new wife and 3 of their friends was killed in a helicopter crash over the Grand Canyon whilst on honeymoon in February 2018.

Inquest touching upon the death of Una Davies (2020)

Gudrun represented the care home where Una Davies was an elderly patient with kidney disease. She died of kidney failure following a fall from her wheelchair whilst unaccompanied in her room after which members of staff had lifted her onto her bed. She sustained a number of broken bones and other injuries during the incident as a result of which she was unable to receive dialysis treatment leading to her death. The Coroner found that the actions of the care home had not caused or contributed to her death.

Inquest touching upon the death of VH (2020)

Gudrun represented a Consultant General Surgeon who was involved with the care of a 54 year old woman who died in hospital of bowel obstruction following a catalogue of missed opportunities to diagnose and treat the problem. The inquest was originally opened in 2012 but then adjourned following a consideration by the CPS as to whether or not to bring charges of gross negligent manslaughter against some of the doctors.

Private Prosecution

Gudrun has been instructed by individuals and corporate clients to advise on the merits of bringing private prosecutions and has advised at all stages of the process. She also acts for the defence and has lectured on how to successfully defend private prosecutions.

- Her extensive experience in prosecuting and defending public crime is invaluable in understanding how to build a private prosecution and how to defend it.
- She has detailed knowledge of prosecution policy and procedure.
- She has expertise in drafting submissions to secure a summons and in drafting appropriate disclosure protocols and disclosure applications in private prosecutions.
- She is adept at providing concise and practical advice and advising on successful strategy and tactics.

Completed Cases

- *GK v Linda Bellos OBE*: Gudrun successfully defended Linda Bellos OBE, a leading feminist and anti-racist campaigner against a private prosecution bought by a trans activist who claimed that the defendant was guilty of a public order offence for expressing her political views at a public meeting arranged to debate the proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act 2004. Following detailed submissions to the CPS, including that the defendant had a defence of freedom of speech under Article 10 of the ECHR, the CPS exercised its statutory powers to take over the prosecution and discontinued it. The case attracted widespread publicity.

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Professional Discipline

Gudrun has a successful practice in the area of professional disciplinary work. She has been instructed in cases before the National College of Teaching and Leadership, the General Medical Council, the General Optical Council, the General Chiropractic Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Recent Cases Include:

GMC v Dr A (ongoing)

Allegations of sexually motivated touching of patients.

GMC v Dr R (2022)

Doctor cleared of sexually motivated touching of patients.

GMC v Dr C (2021)

Doctor cleared of sexual communications with a child.

GDC v Dr AA (2021)

Defence of a dentist facing allegations of sexual assault upon a dental nurse. None of the allegations were found proved and he was entirely exonerated of any misconduct.

GMC v Dr SM (2021)

Defence of a doctor following his conviction for assaulting his then-girlfriend, also a doctor.

GMC v Dr LO (2021)

Defence of a doctor facing multiple allegations of serious sexual assault upon a vulnerable patient whilst she was inpatient in hospital in his care. At his fitness to practice hearing all of the serious allegations of sexual assault were found not proven against him, and he was found guilty only of having had some limited inappropriate telephone contact with the patient following her discharge.

GDC v Dr MH (2021)

Represented MH, a dentist alleged to have behaved unprofessionally and in a sexually motivated manner towards a patient. Following a fitness to practice hearing he was completely exonerated of all allegations and the GDC were asked to review why the proceedings had been brought against him.

GMC v Dr JJ (2021)

Represented a senior Consultant in proceedings before the GMC regarding his fitness to practice due to personal and health difficulties.

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GMC v Dr LA (2020)

Represented a doctor in the disciplinary proceedings following on from criminal proceedings in which he pleaded guilty to serious offences of dishonesty regarding the misuse of funds relating to his practice as a GP.

GMC v Dr YR (2020)

Defence of a doctor accused of sexually assaulting the daughter of an elderly patient in his care. The allegations of sexual assault were not proven, although he was found to have failed in some aspects of his clinical care towards the patient by not instituting an end of life plan at an earlier stage and issued with a warning.

GMC v Dr R (2020)

Proceedings discontinued following a successful application to exclude evidence in the case of a doctor accused of sexually inappropriate behaviour towards a junior colleague.

SRA v SK (2019)

Defence of a solicitor facing multiple allegations of dishonestly allowing his firms' accounts to be used to further fraudulent investment schemes and to launder money.

GDC v Dr B (2019)

Defence of a dentist facing multiple allegations of clinical failings and incompetence leading to irreparable damage to an elderly patient's teeth. Following representations the proceedings were discontinued.

ARB v PG (2019)

Defence of an architect accused of professional misconduct in relation to his work restoring a Grade II listed building.

Accreditations



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Appointments & Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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