

Hannah Thomas



Year of Call: 2016

020 7353 5324

Since joining Chambers in March 2019 Hannah has established a busy practice spanning criminal law, inquiries, inquests and professional discipline.

Hannah has particular expertise in crime, having worked in the crime team at a City solicitors' firm prior to coming to the Bar. She both prosecutes and defends, and when defending she is often chosen to represent clients with vulnerabilities due to her excellent client care and communication skills. Hannah's prosecution work covers both public and private prosecutions.

Hannah is also a sought after junior in inquiries and related work. During her time in Chambers she has been instructed to work on the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the Manchester Arena Bombing Inquiry, and has most recently been instructed as one of a team of counsel on the Levitt QC boohoo Group plc Independent Review.

Hannah also represents regulatory bodies and clients across a range of regulators including the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, General Medical Council, General Optical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Criminal Defence

Hannah has developed a wealth of experience in criminal defence covering a broad spectrum of offences, both alone and as a led junior. Her recent instructions include drug supply, firearms offences, GBH, and fraud.

Hannah has a keen interest in assisting vulnerable defendants. In addition to mandatory vulnerable witness training, Hannah has completed specialised youth justice training to enable her to more effectively represent children charged with serious offences.

She also has experience of assisting professional clients with tactical, clear advice early in the case to achieve

Location

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successful outcomes whilst avoiding the need for a lengthy trial.

Hannah's appellate practice has seen her instructed in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Notable Cases:

R v A and others (2021)

Led by Narita Bahra QC in a case concerning international drugs conspiracies, associated money laundering and possession of a prohibited firearm and ammunition. Following a series of disclosure requests and successful defence representations, the matter resulted in the prosecution offering no evidence against Mr A on all of the conspiracy counts on day five of the trial.

Garry v CPS [2019] EWHC 636 (Admin)

Case concerning the interpretation of 'reasonable excuse' for possession of a butterfly knife.

R v JP

Recent confiscation case concerning complex issues including hidden assets and a benefit figure of £1.8 million.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Hannah is frequently instructed to represent Interested Persons at inquest hearings. She has particular experience in defending members of the medical profession in this regard.

Hannah has also gained significant experience working on inquiries. She has been instructed as 'second junior' counsel to represent a Core Participant in the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and has worked on the Manchester Arena Bombing Inquiry. Her role included reviewing disclosure for 'operationally sensitive' material.

Professional Discipline

Hannah acts for regulatory bodies and represents clients across a wide range of regulators, including the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, the General Medical Council, the General Optical Council. She acts in all manner of hearings, including interim order panels, contested fitness to practise hearings, and substantive order reviews.

Notable Cases:

NMC v SM

A sensitive case involving a midwife charged with misconduct relating to mandatory record-keeping where a baby had died.

GOC v D

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A case involving allegations of dishonesty relating to a failure to declare a conviction. Hannah presented the case for the GOC at a contested hearing where the Committee found allegations of dishonesty proved and a finding of current impairment. D was suspended from practice for three months.

Private Prosecution

Hannah has a keen interest in private prosecution work, having conducted many successful private prosecutions. She is instructed both in her own right and as part of a wider team on large cases, often for fraud and counterfeit offences.

Public Prosecution

Hannah is a Grade 2 prosecutor. She is instructed by the CPS to prosecute both in the magistrates and Crown Courts.

Hannah also frequently represents HMRC in civil cash forfeiture cases, providing advice and conducting contested hearings, both in initial applications and on appeal.

Accreditations

- Criminal Bar Association Bursary Award 2017 – Excellence in Advocacy
- Mona de Piro Prize, Middle Temple Major Scholarship (2015)
- Postgraduate Scholarship, City University London (2015)
- Future Lawyer Excellence Award, City University London (2014)

Appointments & Memberships

- Women in Criminal Law
- Government Legal Department Junior Junior Scheme
- CPS Advocate Panel: Level 2
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)
- Criminal Bar Association (CBA)
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association (YFLA)
- Private Prosecutors Association

Education & Qualifications

- Bar Professional Training Course, City University London (2015-2016)
- Graduate Diploma in Law, City University London (2014-2015)
- BSc Psychology (First Class Hons), Warwick University

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