

Sallie Bennett-Jenkins QC

“There is no doubt that Sallie is a first class act. Her cross-examination is as polished as it is lethal. She cuts to the chase and works with absolute focus on a case. She rightfully commands the respect of opponents, the court and the client.”

Legal 500 UK 2021



Year of Call: 1984 QC: 2006

020 7353 5324

Sallie Bennett-Jenkins QC has been cited on a number of occasions as a leading silk by the Legal 500 and Chambers UK and, prior to taking silk, as a leading junior. She is described as “the complete criminal barrister” in Chambers UK. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel in October 2006 following a period of 8 years as Treasury Counsel, and has since become first choice defence counsel for firms with private clients who demand an incisive advocate with a mastery of detail, and who can instil real confidence in the client. Sallie is currently the only female silk to be ranked in Band 1 in the current edition of Chambers UK, a position she has held for the last 2 years. She has been described as having a “thoroughly devastating style of cross examination which is a pleasure to watch”.

In silk, she has encouraged and maintained a diverse defence practice which ranges from murder to fraud and advisory work for multinational corporations in respect of computer crime, Health and Safety and Food and Drugs.

Her back catalogue of cases demonstrates her exceptional ability as an advocate, in the most complex and demanding of cases.

What Others Say:

“A real gamekeeper turned poacher, she is a street-fighting defence counsel who gets great results and is excellent with clients.” “One of the best trial advocates out there. Her ability to think on her feet is phenomenal and she is great when it comes to cross-examination.” “Sallie is an incredibly hard-working, tenacious and formidable advocate.” – Chambers UK 2021

“There is no doubt that Sallie is a first class act. Her cross-examination is as polished as it is lethal. She cuts to the chase and works with absolute focus on a case. She rightfully commands the respect of opponents, the court and the client.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“Sallie is loved by all and feared by many, and is counsel of choice for all if you are lucky enough to be able to obtain her services. You simply couldn’t ask for more.” – Chambers UK 2020

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
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“There is nothing she doesn’t know about sex cases.” – Legal 500 2020

“She is extremely intelligent, she prepares very well and her client care is amazing.” – Chambers UK 2019

“She is amazing. She achieves phenomenal success, is extremely hands-on and provides an outstanding service to clients.” – Chambers UK 2019

“She has a great way with clients and judges.” – Legal 500 2019

“She is extremely intelligent, she prepares very well and her client care is amazing.” – Chambers UK 2018

“A street-fighting defence counsel who gets great results and is excellent with clients.” – Chambers UK 2018

“She is very skilled and very articulate. She’s both very good on paper and very good in person.” – Chambers UK 2017

“An excellent advocate, who is great at dealing with distressed clients.”- Legal 500 2017

“She has a fearless disposition and is academically very strong.” – Chambers UK 2017

“A streetfighting defence counsel who gets great results and is excellent with clients.” – Chambers UK 2017

“She is outstanding on sexual offences and has achieved some remarkable results. She has an excellent manner when handling these sensitive matters, and is one of the great talents at the Criminal Bar.” – Chambers UK 2016

“She is great. Fearless and direct, she makes her points in a way that is easy to understand.”- Chambers UK 2016

Business Crime & Financial Services

Sallie has a long history of defending in allegations of business crime, whether acting on behalf of companies or individuals. Her ability to master large quantities of complex detail make her an exceptional choice of advocate in this field.

Cases

R v Schmidt & Others

This case dealt with the alleged fraud that led to the £20 million collapse of the Crown Currency Companies.

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Criminal Defence

Sallie has deservedly established a formidable reputation as being an extremely able defence advocate who is exceptional with clients and achieves acquittals in the most difficult of circumstances. She is described as 'a brilliant advocate. She is hard working, fearless, clever and highly strategic in her approach'.

In particular, she has specialist expertise in relation to trials involving those who are in the public eye and require assistance in relation to the media aspects of their cases.

She has defended a number of celebrity clients in relation to allegations of violence and sexual assault and also represents professionals accused of crime arising from their work. She has developed expertise in representing of young offenders, where her ability to instill confidence in her clients is of particular importance. Details of these cases can be provided upon request.

She has a wealth of experience in cases that are factually and legally complex. Many of the cases she undertakes demand an ability to assimilate expert evidence and to cross-examine professional witnesses. Sallie has extensive expertise in relation to intelligence led operations, and in relation to offences of terrorism.

Sallie lectures in the West Indies on a range of topics and to visiting judiciary to the UK on issues relating to Sexual Offences.

Cases

R v GH

GH was charged with being a member of National Action which, at its height, had over 100 members of young white men drawn from universities. GH was one of 6 defendants that were investigated by police for their involvement in a plot to murder the Labour MP Rosie Cooper and a female police officer and allegedly belonging to the far-right group.

R v OW

OW was accused of being one of a group of 3 men who attacked and fatally stabbed a 43 year old man in broad daylight on a housing estate in North London. The prosecution alleged that each of the 3 defendants were armed with a knife and set upon the victim as a group. Multiple residents witnessed the attack from a neighbouring tower block, with some even filming it on mobile phones. Sallie, leading **Vivienne Tanchel**, secured an acquittal.

R v Rooney / Operation Pottery

Operation Pottery was an investigation brought by the Lincolnshire Police that sought to investigate the Rooney family – it was the largest ever prosecution of slavery offences in the UK. As well as breaches to the Modern Day Slavery act the case also involved allegations of violence and fraud.

Oxford Deaconal Investigation

Sallie represented an Oxford graduate who had been accused of sexual misconduct. The Oxford college were compelled to withdraw allegations and issue an apology. The Panel ordered that the College should pay the costs of the accused student for the proceedings

R v I

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Sallie secured an acquittal of her client who was charged with 11 counts of rape and sexual offenses against 2 complainants dating from 27 years ago. The allegations were made against a backdrop of attempts to extort money from the defendant and collusion between the complainants, who were related to each other.

R v Brizzi

Stephano Brezzi, a 50 year old Italian-born programmer for a US investment bank, was accused of strangling and dismembering a police officer after he met him on the gay dating app Grindr. Sallie led [Harry Bentley](#).

R v Edmondson, Brookes, Coulson & Others

This related to the principal 'phone hacking trial', involving allegations that News of the World conducted 'industrial scale' hacking of the mobile phones of politicians, those associated with the Royal Family and celebrities.

R v Gnango

The Supreme Court considered the issues of secondary liability in circumstances of transferred malice.

This is widely recognised as an exceptionally complex case where the arguments included a review of comparative jurisprudence from a number of countries.

R v Schmidt & Others

This case dealt with the alleged fraud that led to the £20 million collapse of the Crown Currency Companies.

R v GB

Representing a Company Director where he was acquitted of allegations of anal rape.

Private Prosecution

Drawing on her extensive experience as Treasury Counsel, Sallie is in a position to be able to advise on and conduct cases of this type.

Professional Discipline

Sallie is increasingly involved in professional disciplinary work, and has appeared before the General Medical Council. She has also provided training to the medical defence organisations.

Accreditations

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Appointments & Memberships

- 2000: Recorder
- 1998: Assistant Recorder
- 1998: Junior Treasury Counsel

- Women in Criminal Law (Co-Founder)
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- South Eastern Circuit

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