

Sarah Przybylska

"Sarah is a really, really good cross-examiner: she keeps you on the edge of your seat and is devastating."
Chambers UK 2024



Year of Call: 2006

020 7353 5324

Sarah Przybylska's work encompasses advice and advocacy across professional discipline, fraud, crime, and public law. She was appointed as Treasury Counsel in 2020 and a Recorder on the South Eastern Circuit in Jan 2022.

Notable instructions include prosecuting the Finsbury Park mosque attack, the E17 'night stalker', the oldest double jeopardy murder yet prosecuted and acting on behalf of the Medical Defence Union at the Infected Blood Inquiry. She recently advised on Jersey's first ever sex trafficking prosecution, leading to a conviction.

Sarah is instructed as leading counsel and as junior to King's Counsel, as well as to act alone. She has a reputation for excellent advocacy backed up by careful preparation and a keen intellect. She provides training to professionals including medical and dental experts and investigators.

She was shortlisted as Crime Junior of the Year in Chambers UK Bar Awards 2022.

Sarah accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

What others say:

"Sarah gives really practical advice with an eye on where we are going. She gives advice which can be difficult to hear, with great compassion and expertise." – Chambers UK 2024 (Professional Discipline)

"She's great to work with, clear, focused and always pragmatic. Sarah handles exceptionally sensitive matters with great care." – Chambers UK 2024 (Professional Discipline)

"Sarah is always able to deliver. Incredibly agile, intelligent and brilliant to work with." – Chambers UK 2024 (Professional Discipline)

"She's diligent, hard-working and a good communicator." – Chambers UK 2024 (Crime)

Location

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“Sarah is a really, really good cross-examiner: she keeps you on the edge of your seat and is devastating.” – Chambers UK 2024 (Crime)

“Sarah is an excellent operator. Her technical knowledge and advocacy skills are impressive.” and “Sarah skilfully deals with the most difficult and challenging cases with ease; her technical knowledge and advocacy skills are impressive.” – Legal 500 UK 2024 (Professional Discipline)

“Sarah is calm and measured in her approach. She is always meticulously prepared. She is a very talented lawyer, and is able to make difficult arguments seem straightforward. She is good at handling nervous and vulnerable witnesses, and putting them at ease.” – Legal 500 UK 2024 (Crime)

“Very impressive, she has the right combination of tough adversarial skills and the human touch.” – Chambers UK 2023 (Crime)

“Sarah is phenomenally talented and extremely bright. She always has an excellent grasp of her case.” – Chambers UK 2023 (Professional Discipline)

“Sarah is phenomenally talented and extremely bright. She always has an excellent grasp of her case.” and “She was absolutely brilliant. The right combination of being a tough adversary without losing a human connection.” – Chambers UK 2023 (Professional Discipline)

“Sarah is measured and diligent in her approach, demonstrating excellent judgment and advocacy.” – Legal 500 UK 2023 (Professional Discipline)

“Sarah is a very diligent, respectful and hard-working junior.” – Legal 500 UK 2023 (Crime)

“A prodigy who understands the material in a case quickly and explains it to the jury well. Her strengths are her attention to detail and depth of knowledge in criminal law.” – Chambers UK 2022

“Very intelligent, calm, measured.” – Legal 500 UK 2022

“A very experienced junior who has a nice manner in and out of court.” and “Very elegant, calm and measured.” – Chambers UK 2021

“A very good cross-examiner. She is very concise and incisive when questioning witnesses.” – Chambers UK 2021

“An excellent advocate, she is very impressive and makes good judgements in how the case is presented and handles the client, witnesses and the panel well. An excellent choice of counsel.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“Her cross-examination of one of the defendants was rigorous and detailed, but carried out in an understated but highly effective manner.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“She is very well prepared, provides prompt and detailed advice and is extremely able in her advocacy. Clients respond well to her.” – Chambers UK 2020

“Ferociously intelligent and fearless. She provides sensible, pragmatic advice and is well liked by corporate clients.” – Chambers UK 2020

“Detail-oriented and has a wonderful manner with clients.” – Legal 500 2020

“Tenacious and firm in advocacy without alienating those who she is addressing.” – Legal 500 2020

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Business Crime & Financial Services

In business crime Sarah has extensive experience of pre-charge advice and a wide range of criminal proceedings.

- She is regularly instructed to advise corporate clients on a confidential basis on their potential exposure in matters relating to fraud and financial regulation.
- She has represented individuals accused of large-scale money laundering and conspiracy to defraud employers.
- She has advised companies in relation to VAT and tax liability.
- She acts for the CPS Specialist Fraud Division in cases of VAT and tax evasion.

Notable Cases:

- Advising (with Jonathan Laidlaw QC) the Bank of England in connection with its investigation into the role of Bank officials in relation to issues arising from the 2008 banking crisis;
- Advising a major investment company on the merits of a private prosecution against a former client following misrepresentations made in civil proceedings;
- Defending multi-million pound allegations of conspiracy to defraud and breach of duty made against a company's financial and legal advisers.

Criminal Defence

Sarah is regularly instructed alone to defend in cases of fraud, drug trafficking and rape. She has recently been led in cases including allegations of murder, cocaine importation and human trafficking.

- She has defended in cases of significant complexity requiring careful handling of both clients and witnesses.
- Her written advocacy is first rate; her 'elegant' and 'economical' drafting has been recognised by the Court of Appeal.
- She is particularly sought-after in cases where complex disclosure issues are likely to arise owing to the very extensive experience she has gained from her prosecution work.

Notable Cases:

R v HD

The defendant was the partner of a man who orchestrated a series of burglaries of high-end jewellers. After a lengthy surveillance operation she was charged with conspiracy to handle stolen goods and proceeds of crime offences.

R v X

Sarah defended this client in the UK's largest ever counterfeiting prosecution.

<https://www.russell-cooke.co.uk/insight/news/2022/russell-cooke-client-acquitted-in-uk-s-largest-currency-counterfeiting-conspiracy/>

R v KS

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The defendant was prosecuted for joint enterprise murder arising from a gang-related stabbing over a drug debt.

R v JU

Represented the lead defendant in a multi-handed case of sex trafficking and repeated rape of a thirteen-year-old girl.

R v AF

Represented a woman charged with perjury and perverting the course of justice after allegedly lying on oath in a murder trial to protect a relative.

R v TF

Represented a child prostitute charged with inciting child prostitution after encouraging a friend to come and work with her at the behest of her pimp. Indictment stayed for abuse of process.

Criminal Regulatory

Sarah has experience in a wide range of quasi-criminal areas.

- She is instructed in health and safety litigation, including fatality cases, where her ability to assimilate large volumes of material has proved invaluable. She has applied her academic prowess and the tactical awareness forged in her prosecution practice to good effect.
- She has a strong advisory practice, often dealing with confidential matters of the utmost sensitivity. She has recently advised private clients on their potential exposure in areas including corporate fraud, Advertising Standards Authority investigations, overseas mercenary activities, the obligations of landlords of houses in multiple occupancy, and the reading of employees' private emails.

Notable Cases:

Project X

Advised a private equity house, the owners of a care home group, on their exposure in respect of alleged criminal acts committed by employees against care home residents.

R v Rooftop Rooms

Prosecuted a company, its directors and the site foreman for manslaughter and health and safety offences following the death of an apprentice.

Project A

Advised a client who was subject to an Interpol Red Notice following the institution of a politically motivated prosecution in their home country. The Red Notice was removed.

Project Q

Advised a high-profile couple on entering into a surrogacy arrangement overseas.

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Inquests & Public Inquiries

Sarah is regularly instructed in coronial proceedings for both professionals and companies. She has appeared in major inquests including the Infected Blood Inquiry, 7/7 inquest and was instructed to represent the Attorney General of Jersey in the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry. Her sensitive and user-friendly approach has won the praise of solicitors and the confidence of the professionals she represents.

Notable Cases:

Infected Blood Inquiry

Instructed by the Medical Defence Union to represent a series of senior clinicians giving evidence to the Inquiry in relation to the treatment of people with haemophilia in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

Independent Jersey Care Inquiry

Represented the interests of the Attorney General and current and former Law Officers in the Inquiry into the alleged abuse of children in state care in Jersey.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Advised a national children's charity on disclosure and provision of evidence to the Inquiry.

Inquest into the death of X

Represented a doctor who supplied controlled drugs to a friend who then choked to death. Finding of death by misadventure.

Inquest into the death of Y

Represented a GP who treated an elderly woman who died in circumstances suggestive of neglect. Narrative finding with no criticism of the doctor.

Inquest into the death of Q

Represented a dentist whose haemophiliac patient bled to death following an extraction. Narrative finding with no criticism of the dentist.

Private Prosecution

Sarah is instructed by individuals and corporate clients to advise on the merits of private prosecutions and regularly lectures on the subject.

- Her 'succinct and effective' written advocacy makes her an obvious choice for drafting persuasive submissions to secure a summons.
- Her public prosecution experience is invaluable in drafting appropriate disclosure protocols for use in private prosecutions.
- She has a detailed knowledge of prosecution policy and procedure.

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Notable Cases:

Project X

Advising an international investment company on the prospects of pursuing a private prosecution against a former client following misrepresentations made by them in civil proceedings.

Project Y

Advising on the prospects of a private prosecution for fraud in the context of a dispute between construction companies.

Project Z

Advising a high-net-worth individual on the possibility of pursuing a private prosecution following a civil settlement.

Professional Discipline

Sarah has been ranked by the professional directories as a leading barrister in this field since she was six years' call.

- Sarah has an extensive and varied practice in professional regulation, representing individuals from farriers to sea captains.
- She represents healthcare professionals who face proceedings brought by their regulators. She is instructed by the MDU, MPS, MDDUS and Dental Protection. She represents such clients on appeal and in related proceedings in the criminal and coroner's courts.
- She also acts for a number of healthcare regulators and has considerable experience supervising and coordinating complex investigations and advising on potential public law challenges to decisions.
- She has an excellent track record in drafting successful written representations to case examiners on discontinuance of charges.
- She has represented farriers, vets and racehorse trainers. She has ridden since childhood and married into a farming family, which has led to a particular interest in equestrian and veterinary matters, and those touching on rural affairs more generally.
- Sarah has acted for a number of education and social care providers in relation to suspension and disqualification notices issued by Ofsted, both in judicial review proceedings and by drafting representations to Ofsted.

Notable Cases:

Oil Companies International Marine Forum v Captain PS

Represented a sea captain and accredited vessel inspector accused of breaching OCIMF rules on the inspection of oil container ships. Panel found no case to answer on the facts.

General Dental Council v D

Successfully argued to exclude the hearsay evidence of the complainant and all witnesses of fact in an allegation of sexual harassment against a dental nurse.

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General Dental Council v M

Represented a dentist accused of serious failings in relation to the treatment of 25 patients over 15 years. Panel found no case to answer on the facts in relation to all but record-keeping charges, in relation to which no impairment was found.

General Medical Council v P

Represented a consultant anaesthetist accused of misconduct in relation to behaviour in his private life, which had no bearing on his professional activities nor did it require proceedings in the public interest. Case closed with no action following submissions to the case examiners.

British Horseracing Authority v M

Represented a racehorse trainer accused of deliberately racing a horse which had been operated on to numb a foot permanently. Limited factual findings made against the trainer leading to an unusually short period of disqualification.

General Medical Council v O

Successfully appealed the GMC's decision to refused registration of an Iraqi-qualified ophthalmic surgeon suspected of falsifying documents in support of his application.

General Dental Council v P

Represented a dentist accused of dishonesty and clinical failings. Dishonesty charges dismissed; Panel found no misconduct in relation to the remaining charges.

Public Prosecution

Sarah was appointed as Treasury Counsel in 2020. She is a grade 4 advocate and is appointed to the serious crime group panel, terrorism panel and rape panel. She is instructed as leading counsel and as junior to Queen's Counsel, as well as acting alone.

Her prosecution practice is focussed upon serious, complex, organised and sensitive crime. She is regularly instructed to prosecute cases of murder, people trafficking, fraud, firearms, drug importation and rape. Sarah is regularly instructed in multi-defendant and multi-offence cases, often prosecuting Organised Crime Networks (OCNs), following a proactive investigation. She is familiar with the investigative techniques deployed by specialist police teams and is adept at dealing with surveillance evidence, telephone data including Encrochat material, cell site and attribution, complex scientific evidence, the obtaining and use of evidence from abroad, and bad character evidence in the context of gang prosecutions and otherwise. She has an interest in war crimes following her work with Karim Khan representing Charles Taylor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and has recently been instructed to advise pre-charge on allegations of genocide by the CPS Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division.

Given the nature of her practice, Sarah has advised upon and routinely deals with extremely sensitive disclosure issues. She has particular expertise in PII and the handling of sensitive material relating to investigative techniques and third party disclosure issues. Sarah is DV cleared.

Sarah has a particular interest in cases involving serious sexual offending and offences against women and girls.

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She has recently advised at pre-charge stage on an investigation into female genital mutilation and advised the Attorney General of Jersey on the island's first sex trafficking prosecution, leading to a conviction.

Sarah has also prosecuted on behalf of the Specialist Fraud Division and other CPS CCUs in matters relating to VAT and tax fraud (see Business Crime Section) and is experienced in dealing with matters relating to Proceeds of Crime and confiscation, recently advising the CPS East of England Proceeds of Crime Team in relation to a restraint issue.

Sarah appears regularly in the Court of Appeal, acting in her own cases, for the Attorney General and on discrete instructions from the Appeals Unit.

Notable Cases:

R v Reeve and others

Seven defendants were convicted of homicide, four of murder and three of manslaughter for their parts in a planned and targeted execution, following a five month trial at the Old Bailey.

R v Dennis McGrory

This defendant was charged with offences of murder and rape and was convicted on 19 December 2022, the oldest double jeopardy case so far prosecuted.

[BBC News](#)

R v Osborne

Prosecuted Finsbury Park attacker Darren Osborne who ran over a group of Muslims returning from prayers during Ramadan. Osborne was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 43 years following his convictions for murder and attempted murder.

R v Vyas

Prosecuted the E17 'night stalker', convicted of serial rape and murder in Walthamstow in 2009.

[Sky News](#)

R v Bowskill [2022] EWCA Crim 1358, [2022] 4 WLR 98

Bowskill abused and kidnapped his girlfriend, Angel Lynn, who sustained life-changing injuries escaping from his van. Sentence increased following a successful argument that the term imposed was unduly lenient on the basis that the trial judge wrongly failed to consider the injuries suffered by the victim as reasonably foreseeable harm.

[The Guardian](#)

R v Tas, Kawa & Davies

Prosecuted a homicide that gave rise to two significant authorities, *R v Tas (Ali)* [2018] EWCA Crim 2603, [2019] 4 WLR 14, addressing the availability of overwhelming supervening event following *Jogee*, and *R v Kawa* [2023] EWCA Crim 845, [2023] CLJ 395, affirming the distinction between evidence of propensity and evidence of past behaviour that makes it more likely that a defendant acted in a particular way during an alleged offence.

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R v Omoworare & others

Prosecuted 3 defendants accused of conspiring to supply commercial quantities of cocaine and cannabis. The conspiracy was revealed following after police infiltrated the 'Encrochat' communication network which revealed the open discussion of kilo quantities of cocaine and cannabis being supplied around the country. The defendants were convicted on all counts. Leading Fiona Robertson.

[East Anglian Daily News](#)

R v Slepčik & others (Operation Svanetia)

Prosecuted a network of Slovakian traffickers for bringing women from Eastern Europe to the UK for the purposes of sham marriage and prostitution. Leading Will Martin.

R v Rooftop Rooms

Prosecuted a company, its directors and the site foreman for manslaughter and health and safety offences following the death of an apprentice.

[Construction Enquirer](#)

R v Acourt & Others

Prosecuted Jamie and Neil Acourt, who were accused but not convicted of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, for conspiracy to supply controlled drugs following a two-year surveillance operation.

[The Guardian](#)

Paul Chambers v DPP (the Twitter Joke Trial) [2012] EWHC 2157 (Admin), [2013] 1 WLR 1833

Represented Paul Chambers, who sent a joke about blowing up an airport by Twitter and was prosecuted for sending a menacing message by a public electronic communications network. Conviction quashed by a High Court constitution of three judges led by the then Lord Chief Justice.

Sports Law

Sarah advises and represents clients in relation to a range of sporting matters. She has a particular interest in equine sport and has a good understanding of specialist equine veterinary matters, having represented clients at the British Horseracing Authority, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Farriers' Registration Council. She has advised on the de-nerving of racehorses and alleged anti-doping. Sarah's demonstrable expertise in disciplinary matters and her detailed knowledge of the criminal disclosure regime make her a natural choice for sporting disciplinary matters and areas of crossover between sports and criminal law.

Accreditations

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Crime Junior of the Year



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Appointments & Memberships

- Recorder: South Eastern Circuit 2022
- Junior Treasury Counsel 2020
- ATC Advocacy Trainer
- Grade 4 CPS Prosecutor
- CPS Serious Crime Group Specialist Panel Level 4
- CPS Rape Panel
- CPS Terrorism Panel Level 3
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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