



Di Middleton

Called 1997

Areas of Practice

Di Middleton defends as Leading and Junior Counsel across the full spectrum of high-level crime including murder, serious violence, controlled drugs, fraud and serious sexual allegations. She is particularly highly regarded for her work with vulnerable or juvenile accused, and cases involving vulnerable witnesses. She also has extensive experience in cases involving major investigations and those involving covert surveillance.

Notable Cases

A small selection of interesting cases include:

R v Wall and others [2010] – the “Rayleigh have-go-hero” case, defendants accused of committing a series of high-value armed robberies on cash-in-transit vehicles throughout Essex over several years, one of which resulted in the shooting of a civilian. Junior to Queens’ Counsel acting for Leonard Smith, the only defendant to be acquitted.

R v Khan and others [2008] – the “soldier kidnap plot”, defendants accused of a plan to kidnap and behead a British Muslim soldier. Junior to Leading Junior Counsel acting for Amjad Mahmood, the only defendant to be acquitted.

R v. Mullis [2008] – defendant accused of Attempted Murder by repeatedly driving his car at the aggrieved who had seriously injured him in a road-rage incident. Aggrieved cross-examined on his bad character, including previous acquittal for murder, and outstanding allegation of Attempted Murder. Defendant convicted of Attempted Wounding and the aggrieved later convicted Attempted Murder and of Murder under the “double jeopardy” provisions. Junior acting alone.

R v. White and others [2008] – defendants accused of committing a public nuisance by unfurling banners across the carriageway of the M1 motorway. Junior counsel alone acting for first defendant and leading submissions regarding the legal basis for the charge. All defendants acquitted after Judge’s ruling.

R v. MY [2007] – defendant, a limousine driver, accused of sexually assaulting an intoxicated customer who attested to having no memory of a sexual encounter with him. She had been raped later that evening by a different person and forensic tests revealed evidence of two sexual encounters. The defendant was acquitted. Junior acting alone.

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chambers

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R v. Reid and others [2007] – defendants accused of murdering a civilian during the course of a bungled armed robbery. Contested bad character evidence dealt with by conducting a ‘trial within a trial’. Junior to Leading Junior Counsel acting for defendant who was convicted of joint enterprise Murder.

R v. Riley [2007] – young defendant accused of murder in revenge for a drug dispute. Case involved protracted legal argument regarding the proposed use of anonymous witnesses, as a result of which Crown eventually chose not to rely upon three and were compelled to reveal the identity of a fourth. Junior counsel to Queens’ Counsel acting for defendant acquitted of Murder, subsequently convicted of Manslaughter at re-trial.

R v. Hare [2006] – defendant accused of Attempted Murder and Administering a Noxious Substance after needle-sharing incident resulted in death of co-user of heroin. Convicted of the lesser offence and given community disposal. Junior acting alone.

R v. Simon-Michael and another [2005] – defendants accused of taking part in a £1million “black money” advance-fee fraud. Leading Junior representing defendant acquitted on all counts.

Speaking Events and Training, Seminars

Silence at the Police Station and at Trial
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
Appearances on TV as legal expert

Membership and Societies

Criminal Bar Association
Statewatch

Other relevant information

Background

Di was called to the Bar having spent 6 years as a state school teacher in Inner London.