



Stella Harris

Called 2002

Areas of Practice

Crown Court

Stella is a busy crown court practitioner with particular experience in defending juvenile accused and accused whose mental fitness to stand trial is in issue. She is regularly requested by solicitors to represent their most vulnerable and challenging clients.

She routinely defends in cases involving serious violence, firearms, violent disorder, robbery, drugs supply and arson and has recently successfully defended a gang-related conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm.

Stella has a commitment to acting for young people who are often unfairly criminalised by society and the criminal justice system. She is able to gain their confidence and works hard to explain the intricacies of the system in a way they can readily understand.

Stella has a growing expertise in defending accused with mental health difficulties, in which the Court needs to determine fitness to plead and the most appropriate disposal having regard to complex psychiatric material and risk assessments.

She is increasingly defending cases where accused may be considered dangerous and therefore be liable to sentences of imprisonment for public protection and is keen to expand this area of her practice into Parole Board Hearings having recently undertaken training for this purpose with the Legal Action Group.

Stella also regularly acts for military personnel in courts martial for offences of serious violence and dishonesty both in this country and abroad.

Recently Stella has been led in a large scale multi-handed multi-million pound mortgage fraud centring upon the evidence of an expert solicitor and in which her client was the only defendant to be acquitted.

In March 2008, Stella is instructed as a led junior in a large scale money laundering and conspiracy to cultivate cannabis trial.

Appellate Cases

tooks chambers

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Stella has developed an increasing and successful appellate practice and regularly advises on appellate cases referred to her directly or through voluntary organisations.

She is committed to conducting appellate pro bono work.

Along with other members of Chambers, Stella lectures to solicitors and recent topics include the right to silence in interview and recent developments in police powers.

Notable Cases:

R v Boyce (Court of Appeal, Criminal Division 2007)

Successfully represented a seventeen year old male convicted of a series of armed robberies whose sentence of detention was substantially reduced and in which the Court of Appeal specifically endorsed Stella's submissions that Courts should consider the welfare of young defendants when sentencing them.

R v E (Court of Appeal, Criminal Division 2005)

Successfully represented a fifteen year old girl convicted of a series of knife-point robberies whose sentence of imprisonment was reduced to an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme supported by the Youth Offending Team.

R v Swash (Court of Appeal, Criminal Division 2005)

Successfully represented a male of good character charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine, whose sentence of imprisonment was halved.

Societies

Criminal Appeal Lawyers Association
Haldane Society for Socialist Lawyers
Bar Pro Bono Unit
Criminal Bar Association