

Ailsa Williamson



Call: 1997

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Details of practice

Ailsa specialises in professional discipline cases, criminal work, inquests, and regulatory law.

Professional Discipline:

- Regularly represents police officers at misconduct hearings in London and throughout the country.
- Extensive experience of professional discipline hearings relating to a broad range of allegations such as inappropriate relationships, use of excessive force, discreditable conduct, and matters relating to honesty and integrity
- Detailed knowledge of PACE, RIPA, Officer Safety Training and police operating procedures
- Appeals to Police Appeals Tribunal
- Represents Officers at judicial review proceedings arising from misconduct hearings
- Represents police officers at Coroners' Inquests and was recently junior counsel representing 11 police officers at the Olaseni Lewis Inquest which heard evidence relating to the death of a patient at the Bethlem Hospital who suffered from Acute Behavioural Disorder and was restrained by officers.

Criminal work:

- Predominantly Defence work and regularly instructed to represent Defendants facing serious sexual allegations
- Frequently represents police officers charged with criminal allegations with recent acquittals representing officers tried in the Crown Court for sexual allegations and allegations of unlawful force
- Murder, serious violence, large scale conspiracies to import and supply drugs and subsequent confiscation hearings, high value robberies, rape cases and trials involving other sexual offences
- Experienced in questioning young and vulnerable witnesses
- Indecent images and associated computer expert evidence
- Money laundering/mortgage fraud/tax fraud
- Courts Martial defence work
- CPS Advocates Panel: Level 3
- Member of the CPS Rape Specialist Advocates List
- Member of the Serious Crime Group and Fraud Specialist Advocate Panels
- Regularly instructed in judicial review proceedings connected to criminal cases
- Advises on applications for Production Orders and Search Warrants

Regulatory work:

- Health & safety cases
- Fire Authority prosecutions
- Appears before licensing committees and on appeal as well as advising on a wide range of licensing matters
- Considerable experience in Hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licensing cases

Directory recommendations

'Clients like her very well-prepared approach.' **The Legal 500 2019: Police Law**

Education/professional qualifications

MA (Cantab) – History
Dip. Law (City)
Called to the Bar 1997

Professional memberships

Criminal Bar Association
South Eastern Circuit
Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
Fraud Lawyers Association

Other information

Member of the CBA Working Party on the draft Corruption Bill (2003)
Founding member of the Cayman Islands Criminal Defence Bar Association (CICDBA) (2007)
Drafted the CICDBA response to the Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2007
From 2006-2008 Ailsa was employed as a Defence Attorney by Stuarts Walker Hersant in the Cayman Islands and regularly appeared before the Summary Court, Grand Court and Cayman Islands Court of Appeal. She also prepared cases for appeal to the Privy Council.

Direct access

Ailsa is qualified to accept instructions direct from clients under the Bar Council's Public Access Scheme. This means that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come direct to her. In addition, she welcomes instructions from solicitors, in-house law departments, qualified foreign lawyers, and clients licensed by the Bar Council to give instructions direct to barristers under the Bar Council's Licensed Access Scheme.

For further information please contact our Clerks.

Notable cases

Police discipline

PC S (2019)

Representing an officer who executed a blocking manoeuvre in an attempt to stop a moped rider filtering through stationary traffic. The moped crashed into the police vehicle and suffered injury. Allegations of gross misconduct relating to use of force and duties and responsibilities were found not proved.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/05/08/police-officer-rammedsuspected-moped-thief-bike-car-acted-reasonably/>

PC A (2019)

Successful representation of an officer alleged to have committed gross misconduct by not adequately supervising a detainee in the holding cell at a police station.

PC R (2018)

Representing the officer in judicial review proceedings commenced by the Appropriate Authority following a gross misconduct hearing where the outcome was a Final Written Warning [2018] 11 WLUK 822

DC S (2018)

Representing the officer in judicial review proceedings following a finding by the Panel that the standard of honesty and integrity was not breached and the imposition of a Final Written Warning. [2018] EWHC 3533 (Admin)

Six Officers involved in the restraint of Olaseni Lewis (2017)

Junior Counsel for the six police officers facing gross misconduct allegations following the restraint of mental health patient at the Bethlem Hospital. After a 4-week hearing, all allegations against all six officers were found not proved.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-41522864>

DI B (2017)

Successful representation of a Detective Inspector at a gross misconduct hearing focussing on the allegation that there was insufficient evidence to detain a member of the public

<http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/surrey-police-inspector-cleared-fanciful-13323913>

PC S & PC J (2017)

Successful representation of two officers facing allegations of gross misconduct after they transported a suspect who was spitting at them to a police station with a pillow case on his head as West Midlands Police did not issue spit hoods

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/two-officers-cleared-wrongdoing-after-12943800>

(2017)

Two week gross misconduct hearing relating to allegations of gross misconduct based on unlawful surveillance, source handling, bullying, search warrants and recording intelligence

Inquests

Inquest into the death of Onese Power (2019)

Junior Counsel for the two officers involved in the pursuit of Onese Power who died following a road traffic accident on his motorbike. A fresh inquest was ordered by the High Court 20 years after the original inquest concluded.

[2017] EWHC 3117 (Admin)

Inquest into the death of Duncan Tomlin (2019)

Counsel for an off-duty police officer involved in the restraint of Mr Tomlin
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-47867422>

Inquest into the death of Olaseni Lewis (2017)

Led by Michael Borrelli QC. Represented 11 police officers who restrained Mr Lewis (a patient at the Bethlem Hospital who developed Acute Behavioural Disorder)

Criminal cases

R v H & others (2018)

Leading prosecution counsel in multi-handed VAT fraud within the construction industry

R v B (2017)

Successful defence of a serving police officer charged with sexually assaulting a member of the public on a train and the rape of another woman he met on a dating website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-41610543>

R v R (2016)

Junior Defence Counsel in historic murder allegation

Legal argument led to ruling that the Court had no jurisdiction to try the case (see

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3126831/Man-appears-court-charged-murdering-father-34-years-ago.html>)

R v H (2016)

Successful defence of custody officer charged with assault as a result of restraining a prisoner (see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-37423983>) and also no finding of misconduct in the subsequent disciplinary hearing (2018)

R v W (2016)

Successful defence of police officer charged with historic rape allegations

R v K (2016)

Junior Defence counsel for a youth charged with attempted murder and rape trial. Led by Orlando Pownall QC

R (on the application of the DPP) v South Tyneside Youth Court

[2015] EWHC 1455 (Admin)

Instructed by the CPS. High Court provided guidance on whether youths should be tried in the Youth Court or Crown Court following change in the law allowing youths to be committed for sentence after a trial in the Youth Court

F v R

[2015] EWCA Crim 1933

Instructed by the CPS. First appeal in relation to the Criminal Courts Charge

R v S and S (2015-2016)

Isleworth Crown Court

Leading Prosecution Counsel in fraud covering mortgage applications and cheating public revenue (see <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/uxbridge-couple-defrauded-mortgage-lenders-and-taxman-while-earning-rent-from-property-empire-court-a3124851.html>)

R v W & others

Kingston Crown Court

Junior Prosecution Counsel in this 12 handed conspiracy to import and supply cocaine involving the largest quantity of crack cocaine ever found at an individual address in the UK (see

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2004/apr/29/drugsandalcohol.drugstrade>)

R v B & others

Kingston Crown Court

Junior Defence Counsel for the main defendant alleged to have organised the £4.5million currency robbery from Heathrow Airport in 2002 and the attempted robbery of £33million gold bullion, diamonds and currency in 2004

R v G

Old Bailey

Successful defence of police officer charged with assault following an arrest which the prosecution alleged was unlawful and involved excessive force

R v C & others

Kingston Crown Court

Junior Defence Counsel in this conspiracy to import and supply cocaine focusing on Heathrow Airport. The main prosecution witness was a baggage handler at the airport who had been "ripping off" suitcases full of cocaine for over 10 years

R v R & another

Southwark Crown Court

Defence Counsel in this conspiracy to defraud/money laundering case where the two defendants were alleged to have defrauded McDonalds of £450,000

R v S

Cayman Islands Grand Court & Court of Appeal

Defence Counsel for defendant who severed his girlfriend's right hand with a machete. Sentence reduced from 20 years to 15 years on appeal

R v E

Cayman Islands Grand Court & Court of Appeal

[2007] CILR Note 18

Defence Counsel for defendant serving an indeterminate sentence following his conviction in the Cayman Islands for murder when he was a youth. Hearing to determine whether he should be released

R v H

Cayman Islands Grand Court

[2007] CILR 397

Defence Counsel for serving police officer alleged to have stolen money from school fundraising events. High profile case in the Cayman Islands and abuse of process based on adverse publicity argued