



Heather Oliver

Call: 2010

Heather Oliver has a highly successful and thriving practice encompassing all of Chambers' areas of expertise, including criminal law, professional discipline, regulatory and licensing work.

Her criminal work is diverse and includes cases that are both serious and complex. She is well known as a powerful and persuasive jury advocate, who regularly achieves excellent results for her clients.

She has a particular specialism in representing police officers, both in criminal trials and in professional misconduct hearings, and is familiar with the unique issues and sensitivities that can arise in such cases.

Crime

Heather has considerable experience in defending criminal matters before the Magistrates' and Crown Courts, having successfully represented clients accused of a wide spectrum of offences, including those involving violence, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, drugs, public disorder, data protection violations and driving breaches.

She has represented defendants accused of a range of fraudulent offending, including most recently a series of cash for crash frauds (R v HD, Southwark Crown Court) and dishonest travel insurance claims (R v AK, Snaresbrook Crown Court). She has successfully represented clients in numerous money laundering, fraud, forgery and theft proceedings in her own right. She also has substantial experience as a led junior in complex fraud trials. For example, she was led junior representing the first defendant in the FCA prosecution arising from Operation Cotton, a large scale land banking fraud (R v Crawley, Southwark Crown Court), led junior representing the second defendant in bribery and corruption proceedings at the Central Criminal Court, arising out of corrupt payments made to EBRD banker Andrej Ryjenko (R v Sanderson, Central Criminal Court) and led junior representing the first defendant in a significant NHS payroll fraud (R v Mulholland, Basildon Crown Court).

She has recently defended clients accused of rape, sexual assault, exposure/outraging public decency and voyeurism. She has a particular specialism in representing those accused of making/possessing indecent images of children and is experienced in the forensic arguments arising from images discovered in the cache or unallocated space of electronic devices. In 2018, she was led junior in R v Soper (Central Criminal Court), the prosecution of a Catholic priest for wide-ranging historic sexual offences against children.

She has regularly defended clients accused of violent offending, in particular in a domestic context, and including matters relating to stalking, harassment, and coercive and controlling behaviour.

She has represented defendants in various matters concerning the proceeds of crime, including restraint, confiscation, forfeiture and enforcement proceedings. In confiscation proceedings she has most recently achieved favourable results in R v Levy (Chelmsford Crown Court) and for the wife of a convicted offender seeking a determination under section 10A of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in R v Canning (St Albans Crown Court).

She has successfully appeared in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on a number of occasions, including most recently in R v Dean Hackett [2019] EWCA Crim 983.

Heather has further been instructed to act for the prosecution in criminal matters for the Crown Prosecution Service, Transport for London and the London Probation Service.

Licensing

Heather regularly represents licensees, applicants and responsible authorities in licensing matters. Most recently this has included applications on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, Pret a Manger and various West End restaurants/cafes.

She has represented the Metropolitan Police Service in licensing matters as well as applications for football banning orders, applications to extend pre-charge bail and application for a control order under the Dogs Act 1871.

She has substantial experience in representing and advising individuals and enforcing authorities in the field of regulatory enforcement, including food safety and hygiene, and taxi licensing. Her experience is particularly broad in relation to matters of fire safety, where she has advised on and conducted numerous prosecutions on behalf of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, including in relation to breaches at a takeaway restaurant (LFEPA v Chicken Inn and Takeaway Ltd and Ahmed, which included the successful resistance of an appeal against sentence in the Court of Appeal), a pub and boarding house (LFEPA v The Good Intent), a care home in which a fire broke out resulting in the death of an elderly resident (LFEPA v GCH (Burrows House) Ltd), a West London hotel (LFEPA v Patel, which included the successful resistance of an appeal against sentence in the Court of Appeal) and various houses in multiple occupation/bedsits.

Professional Discipline

Heather specialises in representing police officers facing disciplinary proceedings for gross misconduct, and has considerable experience in providing advice, drafting and advocacy services in professional misconduct hearings. Recently this has included the successful resistance of gross misconduct findings in relation to allegations of racism, sexual touching, excessive force on arrest, and homophobic abuse.

Public inquiries and inquests

Heather acts for interested persons in Coroners' Inquests. She has most recently acted as junior to Neil Saunders in relation to the Inquest into the death of Edson Da Costa, representing five officers who detained an individual who had swallowed a large quantity of Class A drugs.

Heather was instructed by the Metropolitan Police Service in relation to the Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) in 2016/2017.

Notable Cases

Crime

R v DS

2019, Reading CC

Secured the acquittal of a defendant accused of rape, 15 years after the offence was said to have occurred.

R v HC

(2018), Croydon CC

Successfully represented a police officer accused of sexual assault in the back of a taxi.

R v OD

2018, Inner London CC

Successfully defended a police officer accused of voyeurism, namely spying on a colleague in the shower.

R v Pearson

2018, Central Criminal Court

Secured an absolute discharge for a police officer found guilty of burglary. The case raised complex matters of expert evidence relating to drink spiking and the metabolism of hallucinogenic drugs.

R v Smith

2018, Wimbledon MC

Successfully defended a young Asperger's sufferer accused of racially aggravated public order offences. The case involved expert evidence concerning the defendant's capability of forming the requisite *mens rea* due to his condition.

R v van Dijk

2017, Willesden MC

Successfully represented a defendant accused of multiple assaults by his ex-wife. The case involved sensitive issues relating to the giving of evidence by young witnesses.

R v RT

2017, Southwark CC

Secured the acquittal of a police officer accused of data protection offences, namely the obtaining and disclosure of material from police computers.

R v AS

2017, Southwark CC

Secured the acquittal of a police officer accused of assaulting a colleague in an off-duty altercation.

R v FS

2017, Southwark CC

Successfully defended one of four police officers accused of misconduct in a public office in relation to the arrest of a youth offender which resulted in injury.

R v SB

2016, Guildford CC

Successfully defended an employer accused of sexually assaulting his young employee.

R v Rolph

2016 Peterborough CC

Secured the acquittal of a defendant accused of acting as a courier in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

R v D

2015, Winchester CC

Successfully defended a police officer accused of assault occasioning actual bodily harm following an off-duty altercation.

R v Adams

2015, Kingston CC

Secured the acquittal of a mother accused of child cruelty and actual bodily harm in relation to the physical chastisement of her child.

R v Witney

2015, Chelmsford CC

Successfully represented a man accused of causing death by careless driving.

R v AH

2013, Southwark CC

Successfully appealed the conviction of a police officer accused of making indecent images of children.

Professional discipline

PC C (MPS)

2019

Successful defence of honesty and integrity allegations concerning arrest and detention of violent suspect.

PC W (MPS)

2019

Defending allegations of sexual touching on work night out.

Former PC W (MPS)

2019

Allegations not proven in relation to sexual comments and touching of vulnerable women.

PC A (MPS)

2019

Defending allegations of misuse of travel privileges.

DC P (MPS)

2018

Successfully resisted gross misconduct allegations arising from stop and search (use of force, honesty and integrity).

DCI L (MPS)

2018

Successfully resisted gross misconduct findings relating to alleged racist abuse at St Pancras Station.

DC B (MPS)

2018

Allegations not proven in relation to sexual touching on work night out.

Professional Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- South Eastern Circuit

Education / Professional Qualifications

- BA (Oxon) – English Language and Literature (First Class)
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)
- Bar Vocational Course (Outstanding)
- Pegasus International Scholarship (2016)
- Princess Royal Scholarship (Inner Temple)
- City University Scholarship (Inner Temple)

Appointments

- Marshall Hall Trust Committee

Other Information

In 2016, Heather was awarded an international Pegasus Scholarship by the Inns of Court and was fortunate to be offered a 6-week placement in the USA, supported by Pegasus funding and a grant from Three Raymond Buildings.

You can read about her experiences in *the Inner Temple Yearbook 2017-18*

Accreditations

