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## Practice Profile

Since accepting tenancy in Chambers in 2014, Aska's practice has gone from strength to strength. She combines a fierce intellect with meticulous preparation and robust advice. Those who instruct her cite her sound tactical judgment, responsiveness and client care. She has won praise for her engaging and persuasive advocacy.

Aska is particularly sought after in cases requiring complex legal and extensive factual analysis involving voluminous material. She is adept in dealing with expert / technical evidence and making it accessible to a jury. Aska exercises particular care when dealing with vulnerable witnesses and clients.

Aska has extensive knowledge in a wide range of proceeds of crime matters and is frequently instructed in all stages of the confiscation process. She has also acted in cash forfeiture proceedings, including advising from an early stage.

Aska has been instructed as disclosure counsel by the Serious Fraud Office on a number of different cases and is on the SFO Prosecution counsel list.

Aska is a native Japanese speaker and has given a seminar on UK constitutional law to Japanese MPs.

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## Areas of Practice

- General Crime
- Prosecution
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- Appellate
- Civil
- Extradition
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Road Traffic
- Serious & Organised Crime

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## Memberships

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

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## Appointments

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- CPS Advocate Panel at Level 3 (2016-2020)
- CPS Specialist Panel - Fraud at Level 3 (2018-2022)
- SFO Prosecution Panel C List (2017-2021)

## Education & Awards

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- Harmsworth Scholarship, Middle Temple (2011)
- BPTC (2011)
- MA, UCL (2007)
- LLB, Waseda University, Japan (2005)

## Recent Cases

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### R v H [Canterbury] 2018

Assisting Illegal Immigration

Aska Fujita prosecuted a man convicted of smuggling three Albanian nationals in the cab of his lorry. The case involved cross-examination of experts. Instructed by the CPS.

### R v H & ors [Guildford] 2017

£325,000 Invoicing Fraud

Aska represented the third defendant as junior alone in a six-handed trial where the first defendant was represented by silk and junior, and the second defendant was represented by two juniors. Aska's client was charged with three counts of participating in fraud by abuse of position with other family members totalling c£300,000. The trial required analysis of substantial financial evidence covering numerous bank accounts. After a six-week trial, Aska's client was the only defendant to be acquitted of any count and ultimately received a suspended sentence. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.

News Report [here](#).

### R v P [Basildon Crown Court] 2017

Benefit Fraud

**Aska Fujita** represented a defendant charged with benefit fraud, spanning over 12 years, amounting to over £120,000. After negotiations with the prosecution, a plea on a basis was agreed, resulting in a suspended sentence. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.

### R v M [Inner London] 2017

Confiscation Proceedings

**Aska Fujita** prosecuted confiscation proceedings following the defendant's guilty plea to a car-ringing conspiracy worth over £750,000. Instructed by the CPS.

### R v G [Winchester Crown Court] 2017

Fraud

**Aska Fujita** represented a defendant charged with fraud. Aska's client, who was acquitted, was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and required the assistance of an intermediary throughout the trial proceedings. Instructed by Imran Khan and Partners.

### R v S & anor [Snaresbrook] 2017

Section 18 Wounding

Aska Fujita defended a youth jointly charged with an adult for s18 wounding by stabbing another youth in the stomach. The ten-day trial included applications to exclude identification evidence and to include the bad character of the co-defendant due to the cut-throat defence. Instructed by Sternberg Reed Solicitors.

### R v C & 8 ors [Snaresbrook] 2016

Theft from Employer

Aska Fujita represented the third of nine defendants charged with stealing a substantial amount of cash from their employer over the course of eight and a half years. Aska's client was unanimously acquitted after a five-week trial. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.

### R v M [Wood Green] 2016

Sexual Assault

Aska Fujita represented a healthcare assistant employed by the NHS who was accused of sexually assaulting a patient. Following a four-day trial, the defendant was acquitted. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.

### R v A & ors [Southwark] 2016

Conspiracy to Import Medical Products

**Aska Fujita** was instructed to represent the second defendant charged with conspiracy to import medical products without a licence. The Crown eventually offered no evidence and the defendant was acquitted. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.

### R v H [Hull] 2016

Evasion of Duty

**Aska Fujita** represented a lorry driver charged with fraudulently evading over £200,000 of duty on tobacco. Following a guilty plea and mitigation, a sentence of 12 months was imposed. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.

## Notable Cases

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## Appeal of P [C.O.A.] 2015

Sexual Assault

**Aska Fujita** represented the appellant who had severe learning difficulties and mental health issues, and had been sentenced to an extended sentence comprising a four year custodial period and two year extended licence for sexual assault. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, reducing the custodial period to two years and eight months. The judgment is reported **here** (subscription required) under neutral citation [2015] EWCA Crim 1901. The Court of Appeal commended Aska for the "*eloquence of her submissions*". Instructed by GT Stewart.

## R v Mote [Southwark] 2016

Confiscation proceedings following fraud trial

Aska Fujita represented an ex-MEP in confiscation proceedings following his conviction of offences of fraud and money laundering. The case involved complex legal issues in relation to the impact of a trust on the benefit and available amount. Instructed by Sternberg Reed. Daily Mail report [here](#).

## R v C & 8 ors [Snaresbrook] 2016

Theft from Employer

Aska Fujita represented the third of nine defendants charged with stealing a substantial amount of cash from their employer over the course of eight and a half years. Aska's client was unanimously acquitted after a five-week trial. Instructed by Sternberg Reed.