



Practice Profile

Catherine is a Grade 4, specialist criminal practitioner with substantial experience in cases involving homicide, serious, complex and organised crime, and sexual offences.

Catherine is frequently instructed as leading counsel – often leading other members of chambers. To date, Catherine has been instructed as leading counsel for the prosecution in approximately 30 cases that include either multiple defendants, multiple victims (often vulnerable), intelligence-led policing (covert and overt) – and in respect of allegations of attempted murder, conspiracy to kidnap, blackmail and falsely imprison, fraud, conspiracy to import and supply drugs, GBH, child cruelty (youngest being a few weeks old) violent disorder and public nuisance. In addition, Catherine is frequently instructed as junior counsel led by Queens Counsel and Senior Treasury Counsel, in high-profile cases and homicide cases, often multi-handed.

Catherine is instructed by several different divisions of the CPS, including the Homicide Unit, Complex Casework Unit (London and North West of England), Special Casework Division, RASSO and the Appeals Unit.

Catherine is frequently instructed to advise pre-charge and as trial advocate. In all cases, Catherine adopts a thorough approach to preparation and has the skill to condense voluminous and complex evidence into a sleek presentation befitting of the audience. Catherine is a skilful, yet extremely personable criminal practitioner who is highly regarded by her peers at the Criminal Bar.

Areas of Practice

- Homicide & Corporate Manslaughter
- Prosecution
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Sexual Offences
- General Crime
- Appellate
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Road Traffic
- Inquests
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- Cyber Crime
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture

Commendations:

Catherine was honoured to receive a formal police commendation for her role as leading counsel in the prosecution of a multi-handed trial, 10 defendants charged with conspiracy to rob during Notting Hill carnival weekend...R v M & ors, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Recent Cases

Operation Manningtree [Inner London] 2017 2017

13 handed Violent Disorder following illegal 'rave'

Catherine Pattison led Ben Holt in the Prosecution of 13 defendants for violent disorder that arose out of an illegal rave organised to take place on the night of Hallowe'en 2015 by a group called 'Scumtek'. The violence was described as the worst in London since the riots of 2011 and resulted in the largest deployment of Police Officers since that time.

News reports here:

Evening Standard

The Guardian

Operation Slate [Wood Green] 2016

Conspiracy to Supply Class A drugs

Catherine Pattison led Dickon Reid in this case involving ten defendants charged with supplying large quantities of heroin across North London.

Operation Sifiye [Snaresbrook] 2016

Conspiracy to import cocaine

Catherine Pattison led Dickon Reid in this case involving thirteen defendants charged with conspiring to import large quantities of cocaine secreted in golf clubs and golf bags. Two trials involving complicated telephone evidence lasted a total of five and a half months in 2015-2016.

R v. S & ors [C.C.C] 2014

Card fraud by ATM skimming

Catherine Pattison led Ben Holt for the prosecution in two separate sets of proceedings relating to Romanian nationals who were charged with card fraud by ATM "skimming". This was sophisticated organised crime group who were making equipment to capture individuals' bank account details when they inserted their cards into an ATM. A total of 13 defendants were charged with offences ranging from conspiracy to defraud, possessing articles for use in fraud and transferring criminal property. (Investigated by DCPCU, instructed by CPS SCU). Mirror Online news report.

R v. R & ors [Croydon] 2013

Kidnap trial

Catherine Pattison led Ben Holt for the prosecution in this 5-handed kidnap trial. This case involved counsel reviewing a considerable amount of unused material. This included downloads from over 40 mobile telephones. There were numerous issues relating to sensitive disclosure. The case against the defendants was solely reliant on cell-site and tracker evidence. One defendant was convicted and received a prison sentence of 12 years. Instructed to draft respondent's notice to appeal. Leave refused; renewed in front of the full Court and refused. (Investigated by Kidnap & Special Investigation Unit of the Met, instructed by CPS SCU).