



Practice Profile

Orla Daly is a highly regarded junior barrister, listed in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 Guides, with extensive expertise in serious and complex crime. She concentrates primarily on sexual offending of the utmost gravity and also undertakes work in other areas of serious crime, including homicide, multi-handed violence and gun crime.

Orla has developed particular expertise in the defence of those accused of rape and other serious sexual offences. She has an exceptional record of securing acquittals for those she defends, many whom are professional individuals for whom reputation is paramount.

She is frequently called upon to act in historic cases involving multiple complainants and is highly experienced in presenting issues of abuse of process in appropriate cases. Her clients are often elderly or otherwise vulnerable and she routinely deals with individuals with significant mental health difficulties where capacity is an issue.

She is often asked to advise in cases where Sexual Harm Prevention Orders have been applied for or imposed and is adept at dealing with oppressive or disproportionate applications.

Areas of Practice

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

What The Directories Say

"She has an engaging manner with solicitors and lay clients." *Legal 500 2016*

'An electrifying character, who has an excellent rapport with clients.' *Legal 500 2017*

'She inspires confidence in clients, which is born out in her track record.' *Legal 500 - 2019*

News

Legal 500 2018

25 October 2018

Chambers are delighted to again be recognised by the Legal 500 with a record fourteen members featuring in their latest edition and again plaudits for the clerking team. Rankings include General Crime, Fraud and Regulatory & Discipline.

The 'fantastic' 5KBW has dealt with many high-profile criminal cases over the last year and is 'fast becoming a leading chambers thanks to the ability and experience of its counsel'. 'I have yet to find their weak link,' said one solicitor.

The 'highly efficient and friendly' clerks' room 'can be relied on to provide you the best barrister to suit your client's needs'. The 'inimitable' Lee Hughes-Gage 'epitomises all of these high qualities'.

[Link to 2018 edition here.](#)

Recent Cases

Operation Silk [Oxford] 2018

One of the UK's largest ever 'Grooming' Prosecutions

Orla Daly, led by Lousie Sweet QC, was instructed for the third defendant of eleven in one of the largest grooming cases ever prosecuted in the UK, lasting over six months. These historic allegations arose from the early 2000's. Instructed by Gary Bloxsome of Blackfords LLP.

R v. GG [Maidstone] 2018

12 Counts of Rape & Sexual Activity with a Child

Orla Daly acted alone for this defendant who faced 12 allegations against 3 complainants of Rape, sexual activity with a child, indecent assault, attempted rape and causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. Following a three week trial the defendant was unanimously acquitted of all 12 counts. Instructed by Matthew Nickolls of Berry & Lamberts LLP.

R v G [Kingston] 2018

Multiple Complainant Rape Allegations

Orla Daly acted for the defence of an entrepreneur accused of five counts of rape against three complainants. Leader Sarah Forshaw Q.C. Instructed by Nigel Richardson of Hodge Jones Allen.

R v. AT [Snaresbrook] 2018

Historic child sexual offences

Orla Daly acted for the prosecution this case involving a religious minister charged with historic child sexual offences between 1996 and 1998 committed allegedly upon the cousin of a former partner.

R v DL [Snaresbrook] 2018

Multiple sexual and physical assaults on former partner

Orla Daly acted for this defendant, a property developer accused of multiple sexual and physical assaults by a former partner, who was cleared of all charges by the jury following his trial. Instructed by Wiseman Lee Solicitors.

R v C [Harrow] 2017

Endangering the safety of an aircraft

Orla Daly secured a suspended sentence for an accountant who had pleaded guilty to endangering the safety of an aircraft.

R v S [Inner London] 2017

Rape

Orla Daly secured the acquittal of man with autism accused of rape by a colleague.

R v V [Snaresbrook] 2017

Historic child sexual offences

Orla Daly acted for V who was accused of historic child sexual offences by three complainants. Following arguments concerning disclosure, the prosecution offered no evidence.

R v. Pentreath [Woolwich] 2016

Historic rapes

Orla Daly appeared for the crown, prosecuting a businessman and chess professional for multiple historic rapes involving three complainants 30-40 years ago. The principal complainant had suffered severe mental health problems in adult life. Defendant was convicted on all 13 counts.

R v. M [Maidstone] 2016

Historic rapes

Orla Daly successfully defended a sports coach, cleared of all alleged historic rapes & sexual assaults upon five complainants. Instructed by Berry & Lambert LLP.

R v. F [Maidstone] 2016

Sexual offences on patients by chiropracter

Orla Daly acting as unled defence counsel in the case of a chiropractor accused of filming sexual assaults on patients. Instructed by Berry & Lambert LLP.

Operation Linear [Nottingham] 2016

Rape and human trafficking

Prosecution by Queen's Counsel of 23 defendants charged on an 80 count indictment. Orla Daly acted unled in defence of the second defendant, a 17 year old facing allegations including rape and human trafficking. Successful abuse of process application was appealed by the prosecution. Continued to act in the Court of Appeal where the Crown Court judge's ruling was upheld in all but one respect. Complex case involving issues of capacity and consent as well as abuse of process. Now a leading case on indecent images: R v W (P) & others (2016) 2 Cr App. R. 27. Instructed by EBR Attridge LLP.

R v. M [Norwich] 2016

Rape

Orla Daly successfully defended a businessman whom was accused and cleared of multiple rapes upon his daughter. Instructed by EBR Attridge LLP.

R v. Sykes [C.C.C.] 2016

Murder of a pensioner

Sarah Forshaw QC led Orla Daly for the defence in a case prosecuted by Queen's Counsel and Treasury Counsel. The case related to the death of a pensioner bludgeoned to death by a defendant with learning difficulties. Issues of diminished responsibility and assisted suicide. Instructed by Thomas Boyd Whyte Solicitors.

R v. H [Maidstone] 2016

Historic sexual abuse against a pupil

Orla Daly in the defence of an 82 year old retired head teacher for historic sexual abuse against a pupil. The defendant was assessed as unfit to participate in his trial and could not provide any instructions. Acquitted after trial despite the fact that the complainant's account could not be explicitly challenged. Instructed by Berry & Lambert LLP.

R v. F [Southampton] 2015

Rape

Orla Daly twice defended the same individual for separate allegations of stranger rapes six months apart. The defendant was acquitted at both trials. Instructed by Edward Hayes LLP.

R v. Roberts [Portsmouth] 2015

Alleged sexual assault on board HMS Ramsey

Orla Daly successfully defended this Royal Navy sailor for sexual assault on board HMS Ramsey, a warship docked in Bahrain. Acquitted following a successful submission of no case to answer. Instructed by Edward Hayes LLP.

The Portsmouth news article.

Notable Cases

R v. Max Clifford [Southwark] 2016

Defence of celebrity publicist for historic sexual assault

Sarah Forshaw QC leading Orla Daly were successful in their defence of the renowned celebrity publicist who was cleared of a further charge of historic sexual assault.

BBC news report here.