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## Practice Profile

Ria Banerjee has been a tenant in Chambers since February 2017 upon completion of her Pupillage. Prior to this she gained two years' experience as a paralegal in a criminal defence firm.

Ria specialises in Crime, both defending and prosecuting and has a wealth of experience in the Crown Court, Magistrates' Court and Youth Court. She has defended in a range of cases, including those of violence, sex, drugs, public order and offensive weapons.

Ria prides herself on her attention to detail and lateral thinking in terms of case analysis. She particularly enjoys identifying and conducting legal arguments as well as jury advocacy.

## Recent Cases

- R v DS, 2017 (Snaresbrook Crown Court) – Defendant charged with Robbery. Successful submission of no case to answer on the basis of DNA evidence.
- R v LT, 2017 – (Snaresbrook Crown Court) Defendant charged, with others, of a series of knife-point robberies of taxi drivers. Successful applications to dismiss on the basis of identification and cell site evidence.
- R v DR, 2017 (Harrow Crown Court): Defendant charged with Affray and Threatening with a Bladed Article. Crown's case consisted of a live witness stating that the Defendant threatened him and his friends with a knife. Incident captured on CCTV and mobile phone footage. Defendant gave a no comment interview with no solicitor present. Acquitted of both charges after trial.
- R v SR, 2017 (Harrow Crown Court): Defendant charged with Threats to Kill where it was alleged that, whilst making the threats, he was wielding a machete. Extensive cross-examination of three civilian witnesses. Acquitted after trial.
- R v SV, 2017 (City of London Magistrates' Court): Defendant facing charges of Sexual Assault and Outraging Public Decency. Defendant is blind and alleged to have inappropriately touched four women on the Piccadilly Underground Line on two separate dates, in very similar circumstances. Defence was that the touching was not sexual. Argument for separate summary trials contested by the Crown but acceded to by the District Judge following submission of a detailed skeleton argument and lengthy oral submissions. Defendant acquitted of both charges after two separate trials.
- R v MC, 2016 (Southwark Crown Court): High profile historic sex abuse case. Assisted with legal research and formed part of the Defence team led by Sarah Forshaw QC. Defendant acquitted after trial.
- R v MV, 2016 (Maidstone Crown Court): Defendant charged with Having a Bladed Article in a Public Place, namely, a Samurai sword on Dartford High Street. Evidence from a Police officer that he was waving the sword around. Incident captured on CCTV. Acquitted after trial.
- R v BG, 2016 (Blackfriars Crown Court): Defendant charged with Attempted Robbery. Complainant an off-duty prison officer who gave evidence to state that the Defendant had threatened to stab her and take her handbag. Successfully opposed the Crown's bad character application to admit the Defendant's previous convictions for Robbery and Attempted Robbery to correct a false impression. Acquitted after trial.
- R v CC, 2016 (Snaresbrook Crown Court): Defendant charged with two counts of Affray and Possession of an Offensive Weapon. Incidents captured on CCTV. Defendant gave a no comment interview. Acquitted after trial.
- R v S & Ors, 2016 (Harrow Crown Court): Represented six defendants in a Committal for Sentence where

each client was facing a sentence of immediate custody. Succeeded in a legitimate expectation argument, which led to the Judge imposing Community/Suspended Sentences.

- R v AG, 2016 (Maidstone Magistrates' Court): Defendant charged with harassment and on life licence for murder. Facing significant consequences in terms of parole if convicted of the offence. Acquitted after trial following lengthy cross-examination of the complainant and legal submissions involving various authorities on "a course of conduct amounting to harassment".

## Areas of Practice

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- General Crime
- Prosecution
- Road Traffic
- Sexual Offences

## Recent Cases

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