



Valeria Swift

Call 2003

Practice Profile

Valeria Swift is a specialist criminal law barrister who is known for her persuasive advocacy, excellent client care and painstaking case preparation. She defends and prosecutes and has a strong track record for delivering results. She conducts most of her cases as sole counsel but is frequently instructed as junior counsel in appropriate cases. Valeria is multi-lingual, fluent in Spanish, French and Italian.

In recent years Valeria Swift's practice has focused particularly on allegations of serious sexual offences and she has built up a strong reputation for achieving successful outcomes in such cases. She is also particularly alive to the risk that clients' professional lives and personal freedoms can be disproportionately curtailed by the imposition of oppressive or ill-considered Sexual Harm Prevention Orders and is well-equipped to deal with such applications in the clients' best interests.

She is regularly instructed in matters relating to:

- Organised crime (particular expertise in covert and intelligence led operations, disclosure issues, and informant handling)
- Serious sexual offences (eg. rape, sexual assault, offences against children and the vulnerable, indecent images)
- Drugs (eg. major conspiracies, importations, possession with intent, cannabis factories)
- Serious violence and firearms offences
- Financial crime (fraud and money laundering)
- Complex and High Value Confiscation
- Regulatory work including prosecutions brought by local authorities in respect of housing and benefit fraud, health and safety, trading standards and environmental act proceedings.

Areas of Practice

- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- General Crime
- Prosecution
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Sexual Offences
- Appellate
- Homicide & Corporate Manslaughter

Recent Cases

R v. W & 7 ors [C.C.C] 2018

Large scale human trafficking operation

Valeria Swift represented this defendant, one of only two defendants to be acquitted, following a 3 month Old Bailey trial concerning a Kent based gang accused of smuggling migrants into the UK. Instructed by Cantaris Locke Solicitors.

BBC report here

Daily Mail report here

R v. JLM & ors [C.C.C.] 2016

Murder of a 17 year old aspiring "Rap" artist

Jonathan Higgs QC leading Valeria Swift defended a 15 year old youth, at his 2 month Old Bailey trial, charged with 5 others, accused of the murder of a 17 year old aspiring "Rap" artist in South London. Instructed by Thomas Boyd Whyte Solicitors.

R v. ED [Woolwich] 2016

Rape

Valeria Swift instructed to defend a grandfather accused of raping his granddaughter. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. IH [Snaresbrook] 2016

Sexual assault

Valeria Swift prosecuted a man convicted of sexually assaulting his flat mate. Sentenced to a hospital order with restriction. Defendant convicted.

R v. WM [Snaresbrook] 2016

Rape

Valeria Swift prosecuted a cold case of several stranger rapes in 1990. Defendant convicted.

R v. VK [C.C.C.] 2016

High profile sexual assault

Valeria Swift prosecuted this high profile case where the defendant was charged with sexual assault on a co-worker at a top International law firm during an office party. Defendant found guilty.

R v. MC [Woolwich] 2016

Sexual assault

Valeria Swift instructed to represent a step-father accused of sexually assaulting his step-daughter. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. TB [Isleworth] 2016

Child grooming

Valeria Swift instructed to prosecute a woman accused of grooming and sexually abusing teenage girl. Defendant convicted.

R v. RM [Woolwich] 2016

Incest rape

Valeria Swift instructed to represent a brother accused of raping his sister. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. CH [Wood Green] 2015

Child cruelty involving infant fatality

Valeria Swift defended this allegation of child cruelty involving infant fatality. Mother arrested in connection with death of her baby. Careful consideration had to be given to pathology evidence in order to negotiate best outcome for the defendant with the prosecution. Defendant pleaded guilty on an extremely limited basis which led to her being released from custody immediately.

R v. PM [Woolwich] 2015

Child cruelty

Valeria Swift prosecuted this cruelty of father on his young son. The case required very sensitive examination of the vulnerable victim. Defendant found guilty.

R v. TS [Snaresbrook] 2015

Historic rape

Valeria Swift defended this matter of multiple allegations of historic rape. The case required sensitive cross-examination of a highly vulnerable victim. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. TA [Aylesbury] 2015

Rape

Valeria Swift defended this rape case where the victim sustained over 20 injuries during the course of the alleged assault. Defendant found not guilty of rape.

R v. JW [Wood Green] 2015

Gang rape

Valeria Swift instructed by the defence in a multi-handed gang rape trial lasting several months. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. MA [Inner London] 2015

Rape of infant child

Valeria Swift defended this rape of an infant child by father and indecent images – case investigated by the FBI and defendant arrested in UK as a result of multi-agency cooperation. Legal submissions successfully made to exclude the evidence obtained by the FBI – this led to further submissions relating to insufficiency of evidence. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. FR [Basildon] 2015

Possession of indecent images of children

Valeria Swift instructed as sole defence counsel in a case relating to possession of indecent images of children. The defendant pleaded guilty to making numerous indecent images of children and mitigation advanced which resulted in the defendant avoiding an immediate custodial sentence despite the finding of category A images. Legal submissions successfully advanced to reduce the negative impact of the Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) on the defendant's employment and career prospects.

R v. BT [Snaresbrook] 2015

Rape

Valeria Swift instructed by the prosecution in a rape case where the examination required meticulous planning to minimise distress to victim who resided in another jurisdiction, taking into account logistical difficulties of conducting a trial over two time zones. Defendant found guilty.

R v PO [Inner London] 2015

Violence

Valeria Swift instructed to defend a pilot with mental health issues accused of violent behaviour whilst armed with a knife. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. DP [Snaresbrook] 2015

Sexual abuse of 5 year old

Valeria Swift instructed by the prosecution in relation to the sexual abuse of 5 year old by father – intermediary – believed to be first time counsel examined child witness from a remote room to assist the vulnerable witness – highly successful novel approach. Defendant found guilty.

R v. MS [Snaresbrook] 2015

Baby shaking

Valeria Swift appeared on behalf of the defence as a led junior. Baby shaking case involving an exceptionally large number of multi-disciplinary experts on issues ranging from neuroradiology, infectious diseases and haematology. Defendant found not guilty.

R v. MD [Southwark] 2015

Attempted Murder

Valeria Swift acted as sole defence counsel in an apparently motiveless serious stabbing of taxi driver by woman of previous impeccable character – initially investigated by the police as an attempted murder - exploration of defences of insanity and automatism – following consideration of expert evidence defendant pleaded guilty to a section 20 offence and was immediately released from custody.

R v. LM [Inner London] 2015

Housing fraud

Valeria Swift prosecuted as sole counsel in a case relating to a house rental fraud involving identification of money transfers to multiple bank accounts. Defendant found guilty – conviction upheld in Court of Appeal following full submissions.

R v. MN & ors [Wood Green] 2015

Gangland stabbing

Catherine Farrelly led Valeria Swift instructed by the prosecution, in this 6 handed conspiracy to commit GBH, which included a premeditated attack on another youth, his stab wounds close to his heart which were very nearly life ending. This case required expert analysis of telephone evidence which equated to over 20,000 pages. Defendants convicted of conspiracy.

News report here.

R v. DW [Woolwich] 2014

Sexual assault

Valeria Swift instructed to defend a man charged with a sexually motivated section 18 attack committed on lone female at night. If convicted, the defendant would have been at risk of a sentence for public protection due to an previous conviction for sexual assault on a woman in the woods (which was admitted in evidence). Defendant found not guilty of section 18 but guilty of section 20 thereby avoiding a sentence of public protection.

R v. JE & 6 ors [Winchester] 2013

Murder

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks led Valeria Swift instructed by the defence in this conspiracy to murder involving an attempted contract killing. This defendant subsequently pleaded guilty to attempted GBH and was acquitted of conspiracy to murder. Instructed by the Grech Gooden Partnership.

R v. JK [Wood Green] 2009

Conspiracy to supply drugs

Valeria Swift instructed as defence junior in this conspiracy to supply drugs. Represented only defendant to be found not guilty in very long trial. Successful result contingent on careful analysis of telephone evidence and extensive intrusive surveillance authorised under RIPA.

R v. JK & ors [Reading] 2009

Conspiracy to supply drugs

Mark Dacey led Valeria Swift for the defence in this complex Conspiracy to supply drugs. They represented the only defendant to be found not guilty after a 3 month trial – successful result contingent on careful analysis of telephone evidence and extensive intrusive surveillance authorised under RIPA. Instructed by Dhanju Mclean.