



Practice Profile

Catherine was appointed Junior Treasury Counsel by the Attorney General in May 2020. She is a specialist criminal and appellate practitioner with substantial experience in cases involving homicide, sexual offences and serious, complex and organised crime.

Catherine is instructed by several different divisions of the CPS, including the Homicide Unit, Complex Casework Unit (London and North West), Special Casework Division, RASSO and the Appeals Unit. She has a reputation for detailed and analytical preparation and the skill to condense complex, voluminous evidence into simple, coherent presentations.

Catherine has been instructed as leading counsel for the prosecution in cases that involve multiple defendants, multiple victims (often vulnerable), expert evidence and intelligence-led policing. She is frequently instructed as junior counsel led by Senior Treasury Counsel and Kings Counsel in high-profile cases and homicide cases, often multi-handed.

Catherine is a skilful and personable advocate who is highly regarded by her peers at the Criminal Bar.

Catherine's Privacy Policy can be downloaded [here](#).

Areas of Practice

- Homicide
- Prosecution
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Sexual Offences
- General Crime
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Road Traffic
- Inquests
- Cyber Crime
- Terrorism

What The Directories Say

"She is very good prosecution counsel." *Chambers UK 2025*

"Catherine's advocacy is direct and effective. She cross-examines in a way that is both intelligent and effective." *Legal 500 2025*

"She is ferociously hard-working and has extremely good instincts as to how to proceed in a case." *Chambers UK*

2024

"Catherine is a really careful advocate, who's super diligent and has complete command of her cases." *Chambers UK 2024*

"An excellent junior who displays fantastic attention to detail." *Chambers UK 2023*

Appointments

- 2020 - Junior Treasury Counsel

Commendations

- Following the successful prosecution of a stranger rape case, the victim wrote to the Commissioner of Police, Dame Cressida Dick. A ceremony was subsequently held where the victim and Commissioner expressed their thanks and appreciation in recognition of the complexity of the case and the successful outcome
- Catherine received a police commendation for her role as leading counsel in the prosecution of a multi-handed trial, 10 defendants charged with conspiracy to commit robbery

News

5KBW wins "Crime Set of the Year 2024" at the prestigious Chambers UK Bar Awards

15 November 2024

We are absolutely delighted to announce that 5 King's Bench Walk was awarded "Crime Set of the Year Award 2024" at the Chambers UK Bar Awards held at Old Billingsgate on 15 November. This is Chambers' 5th nomination for the prestigious Chambers UK Bar Awards in the field of Crime. We are very proud to have won this award for the second time in 5 years.

Commenting on the awards, Heads of Chambers at 5 King's Bench Walk, Sarah Forshaw KC and Mark Heywood KC said:

"We are absolutely delighted that 5KBW has been recognised once again as the UK's pre-eminent Crime Set. It is testament to the outstanding ability of every member of our Chambers, to our excellent clerking services and to our administrative staff. The shortlists and ultimate awards are the result of extensive research by Chambers and Partners. We could not be more proud."

"That our own Louise Oakley also carried away the award for 'Crime Junior of the Year' is the icing on the cake. She is, quite simply, a star."



28 years for man who killed sister-in-law with a hatchet

10 October 2023

Catherine Pattison and Sam Willis prosecuted this case of murder, which concluded this week with the court imposing on the defendant a life sentence with a 28-year minimum term. During a 3-week trial, the court heard how the defendant had brutally attacked his sister-in-law with a hatchet but claimed that he had been suffering from paranoid delusions that caused him to see her as a manifestation of the devil. The prosecution's case was that this 'sham defence' had been concocted by the defendant after his arrest to avoid the consequences of his actions. Earlier in the year a jury at the Central Criminal Court had rejected the defendant's account, convicting him of murder and making a threat to kill.

Catherine and Sam were instructed by CPS Homicide.

<https://news.met.police.uk/news/man-jailed-for-murdering-his-sister-in-law-in-ilford-473469>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-67057664>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12610525/illegal-immigrant-murdered-brothers-wife-london.html>

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/hallucinating-killer-hacked-sister-law-31146179>

Recent Cases

Notable Cases

R v IC & Ors 2021

Gang Related Murder

Catherine was led by Alan Kent QC. The defendants were convicted.

News report here.

R v LP & CJ [Central Criminal Court] 2021

Murder & Wounding with Intent

Catherine was led by Mark Heywood QC. LP was convicted of murder. LP and CJ were convicted of wounding with intent and attempted robbery.

News report [here](#).