



## Practice Profile

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***Natasha Wong is a leading Criminal Silk Ranked as a Leader in Financial Crime and Crime in Chambers & Partners UK Bar every year since 2013 and a Leading individual in the Legal 500 every year since 2012.***

### **FINANCIAL CRIME AND REGULATORY:**

Specialist defence counsel with expertise over the full range of investigations into civil fraud, financial crime, confiscation, regulatory and disciplinary hearings. Her practice is focused particularly on defending those charged with or being investigated in respect of serious and complex fraud cases, allegations of cheating the revenue, money laundering, bribery and corruption. Has also acted for professional clients accused of false accounting, theft from client accounts, conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and a range of disciplinary matters. Recent work includes representing the rights of third parties in confiscation proceedings, regulatory proceedings in the Upper Tax Tribunal, and acting for a defendant charged with EURIBOR manipulation. Many of her cases involve multi-jurisdictional aspects as well as detailed legal arguments, including the admissibility of evidence, joinder and severance, challenging and advising upon expert evidence, legal professional & litigation privilege, applications to stay the proceedings on the grounds of abuse of process and or fitness to stand trial, public interest immunity and disclosure issues, dismissal applications and submissions of no case to answer. Very experienced at managing large quantities of documents, disclosure databases and expert forensic evidence.

Also provides advice and guidance to professional clients, compliance/regulatory issues that arise during the course of their business, financial irregularities and their liabilities under the Bribery Act and HMRC legislation.

Natasha Wong QC also acts for professional clients in contested regulatory proceedings where the regulating body seeks their erasure or suspension from practice.

### **CRIME:**

Natasha Wong QC has a wealth of experience in acting in numerous cases involving homicide in particular matters where defendants and witnesses are said to be vulnerable. Cases have included gang related murders involving firearms and cases involving infants. She is instructed privately to represent individuals facing serious allegations under the Sexual Offences Act.

Most recent cases in Crime (2019) have also involved contested high profile allegations of joint enterprise murder, involving vulnerable defendants with significant psychological and psychiatric profiles, in cases involving cut throat defences. Registered to undertake Public Access work.

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

## Areas of Practice

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- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Financial & Corporate Crime
- General Crime
- Homicide
- Prosecution
- Public Access
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Sexual Offences
- Serious & Organised Crime
- 5KBW Criminal Appeals
- 5KBW Criminal Appeals Resources

## What The Directories Say

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"Natasha Wong is charismatic, shrewd, hardworking and relatable." *Chambers UK 2024*

"She combines attention to detail with empathy, and is a brilliant presenter of a case in court." *Chambers UK 2024*

"She's a very polished advocate, who is quite lethal." *Chambers UK 2024*

'Natasha is one of the finest barristers of her generation. She has a dazzling court presence; persuasive and courageous where necessary. She is also builds excellent relationships with other counsel, instructing solicitors and defendants alike.' *Legal 500 2024*

'Natasha is an exceptional leader in the most complex cases. She makes clients trust her and feel totally at ease. Her closing speeches are meticulous and from the heart and tactically Natasha is extremely astute. She can spot the pitfalls of a case a mile off and will make certain her client is equipped to deal with them.' *Legal 500 2024 - Financial Crime*

"Natasha has great attention to detail and has the ability to get through large amounts of evidence and be on top of it throughout the case." *Chambers UK 2023 - Financial Crime*

"Diligent in her case preparation and persuasive with judges and juries alike. She also has consummate client skills." *Chambers UK 2023*

"She is disarmingly friendly and makes people feel at ease." "Very impressive and a really great advocate." *Chambers UK 2020*

'A fearless silk; Juries love her.' *Legal 500 2020*

"A highly diligent new silk who exhibits clear communication skills and has great sensitivity to client concerns. High-value money laundering, rate rigging and corporate theft matters feature in her caseload. She is noted for her experience of handling matters for financial services clients." *Chambers UK 2019*

"Her meticulous approach wins plaudits from interviewees who also value her ability to get to the heart of complex fraud matters". *Chambers UK 2018*

"Her attention to detail, tactical acumen and sensitivity with clients all deserve the highest praise." *Chambers UK 2018*

'She demonstrates detailed preparation, forensic analysis of the evidence and great people skills.' *Legal 500 - 2018*

## News

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### Acquittal in UK's largest money laundering trial

15 December 2022

Natasha Wong KC & Rupert Kent defended client who was acquitted in UK's largest ever money laundering trial after 7 months at Leeds Crown Court. Instructed by Kangs Solicitors.

News article

## Recent Cases

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### R v. D [Wood Green] 2020

Murder of friend following drink & drugs orgy

Natasha Wong QC and Valeria Swift successfully defended man accused of murdering his friend in a fight following a night of drink and drug taking. The deceased suffered from significant heart disease and traumatic brain injury. Case involved exploration of issue of causation with evidence from numerous leading medical experts, including neuro-pathologists, cardiologists, histo-pathologists, toxicologists and forensic pathologists. Instructed by Ben Thomas of Sternberg Reed.

### R v. KK & 5 ors [C.C.C.] 2019

Murder of Sierra Leone teacher in South London Arson Attack

Natasha Wong QC and Valeria Swift secured the acquittal of their client, an autistic teenager with severe learning disabilities, at the end of a 12 week murder trial involving six defendants at the Old Bailey. A woman became the innocent victim of a drugs feud when she died in an arson attack just hours before she was due to return home to Sierra Leone. The 46 year old Teacher, was staying with relatives in Woolwich, South East London, when the blaze broke out. Client found not guilty of joint enterprise murder, manslaughter and causing grievous bodily harm with intent to multiple victims. Instructed by Jatinder Sokhal of TBW Solicitors.

### R v. G & ors [Southwark] 2019

Conspiring to defraud the Legal Aid Agency and perverting the course of justice

Natasha Wong QC leading Merry Van Woodenberg of 2 Hare Court acted for a Compliance Manager acquitted of conspiring to defraud the Legal Aid Agency and perverting the course of justice. The defendant was the Compliance Manager of a London firm of immigration solicitors who was alleged to have played a central role in a scheme to create and submit fraudulent claims to the Legal Aid Agency (LAA, previously the Legal Services Commission) over a 6 year period. The Compliance Manager, a former employee of the LAA, was also said to have been instrumental in misleading them through correspondence and telephone calls during the course of the investigation. The Crown had alleged the firm made over 4000 fraudulent claims on behalf of bogus clients, creating convincing forgeries of documents belonging to genuine clients in support of purported genuine applications to the Home Office. This scheme comprised 40% of the firm's income from the Legal Aid Agency over that period. The Crown's had estimated the total value of the fraud at about £4 million. The client was acquitted by the jury in under an hour of deliberations.

The principals of the firm were convicted of the conspiracy last year.

Instructed by Graeme Hydari of Hodge Jones and Allen.

### **R v N & anr [Central Criminal Court] 2019**

Landmark F.G.M Trial

Natasha Wong QC led Paul Walker in the landmark Old Bailey trial involving the defence of a mother and partner under the Female Genital Mutilation Act. The case involved Complex expert medical evidence, child witnesses and extensive evidence of the defendant's involvement and belief in witchcraft. The case attracted considerable media attention.

Sky News - BBC News - CNN

### **R v. Nazzary & ors [C.C.C.] 2018**

Gang knife attack

Natasha Wong QC led Dickon Reid in the defence of a vulnerable young man with very limited English who was acquitted of joint enterprise murder and manslaughter as secondary party in alleged gang knife attack involving a drug debt. Instructed by Thomas Boyd Whyte Solicitors.

### **In the matter of M [Southwark] 2018**

Manipulation of interbank benchmark rates

Natasha Wong QC acted for former derivatives trader in regulatory proceedings brought by the FCA and in criminal proceedings involving the alleged dishonest manipulation of interbank benchmark rates. Instructed by Withers Worldwide/Sternberg Reed.

### **R v DE & ors [Kingston] 2018**

Conspiracies to cheat the revenue by importation of dutiable goods to the UK

Natasha Wong QC acted for the defence in this case involving conspiracies to cheat the revenue by importation of dutiable goods to the UK and launder proceeds of crime . Instructed by Paul Martin & Co.

### **R v J Abidi & ors [Southwark] 2018**

Money Service bureau accused of laundering £60m proceeds of drug/revenue crime

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for owner/manager of Money Service bureau accused of laundering £60m proceeds of drug/revenue crime involving detailed analysis of surveillance material/ covert recordings and ledgers. Instructed by Hodge Jones and Allen

### **R v J Smith & ors [Bristol] 2017**

Conspiracy to steal £1.9m of telecommunications equipment

Natasha Wong QC acted for this Company director acquitted of conspiracy to steal £1.9m of telecommunications equipment and laundering the proceeds by creating false paperwork through a network of Companies. Instructed by JD Law.

### **R v. Desai [Guildford] 2017**

Pharmacist cleared of murder

Natasha Wong QC was Leading counsel for this pharmacist who was acquitted of murdering his elderly father by feeding him a smoothie laced with morphine. Defence was that he made the smoothie at his father's request to assist his suicide. Instructed by Freemans.

Daily Telegraph report [here](#).

### **R v G and C [Isleworth] 2017**

Air rage incident on packed flight

Natasha Wong QC conducted the guilty plea and suspended sentence orders in respect of air rage incident on packed flight

### **R v M [St. Albans] 2017**

Professional man accused of assault on wife

Natasha Wong QC was Counsel for professional man acquitted of assault upon wife. Instructed by Sternberg Reed

### **R v S Roberts [Guildford] 2017**

Vulnerable woman in very poor health accused of laundering proceeds of crime through various bank accounts

Natasha Wong QC was trial Counsel of vulnerable woman in very poor health accused of laundering proceeds of crime through various bank accounts, with confiscation proceedings. Instructed by Duncan Lewis

### **In the matter of L [Bristol] 2017**

Wife of a convicted company director securing her third party rights to a significant share of the marital home and pension

Natasha Wong QC acted for wife of a convicted company director securing her third party rights to a significant share of the marital home and pension. Instructed by LP Evans

### **R v L [Maidstone MC] 2017**

Defendant accused of creating indecent images on various electronic devices.

Natasha Wong QC acted for retired defendant accused of creating indecent images on various electronic devices. Instructed by Kingsley Napley.

### **Appeal of M S [Court of Appeal] 2017**

Appeal against conviction for attempted murder and possession of shotgun with intent to endanger life

Natasha Wong QC acted for youth with severe learning difficulties and very limited cognitive function on appeal based on fresh expert evidence of his condition and the fairness of his original trial, with additional "Jogee" joint enterprise ground following his conviction for attempted murder and possession of shotgun with intent to endanger life. Instructed by Paul Martin & Co

### **R v Van G [Reading] 2017**

Horse trader accused of importing class A drugs concealed in horse box and laundering over £200k

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for acquitted horse trader accused of importing class A drugs concealed in horse box and laundering over £200k, the alleged proceeds of drug crime, defence of duress. Instructed by LP Evans

### **In the matter of W [Woolwich] 2016**

Sister of a convicted drug supplier securing her third party rights to extensive property

Natasha Wong QC acted for the sister of a convicted drug supplier securing her third party rights to extensive property. Instructed by LP Evans

### **Appeal of J V [Court of Appeal] 2016**

Appeal of severely autistic man convicted of fraud

Natasha Wong QC acted for severely autistic man convicted of fraud in appeal based on fresh expert evidence that had never been adduced at his original trial and to demonstrate by reference to extensive transcripts that his trial had not been fair. Instructed by Hodge Jones and Allen

### **R v G [Wood Green] 2016**

Allegation of sexual assault by touching

Natasha Wong QC was Counsel to a man involved in the allegation of sexual assault by touching. Instructed by Ewing Law.

### **R v H-G [Southwark] 2015**

Conspiracy to import 100KG of cocaine to the UK from Columbia, concealed in pallets of bananas.

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for defendant accused of conspiracy to import 100KG of cocaine to the UK from Columbia, concealed in pallets of bananas. Instructed by LP Evans

### **R v P West & ors [C.C.C.] 2015**

Hired assassin acquitted of gang related axe murder

Natasha Wong QC was counsel for alleged hired assassin acquitted of gang related axe murder with extensive analysis of cell site, DNA and telephone evidence. Instructed by Bark and Co.

### **R v ADB [Kingston] 2014**

Film director acquitted of raping an actress after allegedly spiking her drink and luring her to a flat

Natasha Wong QC was trial Counsel for film director acquitted of raping an actress after allegedly spiking her drink and luring her to a flat. Instructed by Bark and Co.

### **R v Rezza [Southwark] 2014**

Doctor on trial for conspiracy to defraud £800,000 from the DWP

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for a doctor on trial with his non hearing/speaking mother, sister, and 4 sign language interpreters for conspiracy to claim £800,000 from the DWP by falsely claiming they received and provided sign language interpretation and creating false paperwork to support claims. Instructed by Freemans Solicitors.

### **R v P and ors 2014**

Conspiracies to import cocaine by boatloads to the UK over a 4 year period.

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for first defendant acquitted of conspiracies to import cocaine by boatloads to the UK over a 4 year period and accused of aiding and abetting a police officer to commit misfeasance in public office. Instructed by Paul Martin & Co

### **R v W [St Albans] 2013**

Indecent assault allegations made by W's grandchild and others

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for W, acquitted of indecent assault allegations made by W's grandchild and others. Instructed by Sternberg Reed

### **Council of Lloyds v J [Lloyds Enforcement Tribunal] 2013**

Underwriter in misconduct proceedings connected with losses of £235m

Natasha Wong QC was Junior Counsel for an underwriter in misconduct proceedings connected with losses of

£235m ultimately settled before the Lloyd's Enforcement Tribunal in its regulatory capacity Instructed by Withers Worldwide

### **R v C B [Wood Green] 2013**

Company director accused of fraudulent concealment of, and trading in shares worth £4.5 million

Natasha Wong QC was trial counsel for acquitted company director accused of fraudulent concealment of, and trading in shares worth £4.5 million, at a time when he was allegedly insolvent. Proceedings brought by Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. Instructed by Paul Martin & Co

## **Notable Cases**

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### **HMRC v Peter Storrie [Southwark] 2011**

Former chief executive of Portsmouth City Football Club accused of cheating the public revenue

Natasha Wong QC was junior trial counsel for acquitted former chief executive of Portsmouth City Football Club accused of cheating the public revenue. Instructed by Paul Martin & Co.