



Practice Profile

Samantha was first Called to the Bar in Australia in 2006 where she practised exclusively in criminal law, appearing in all Courts including the Supreme Court of South Australia. Since being Called to the Bar of England and Wales, she has been instructed in all areas of criminal law, both prosecuting and defending and is a specialist criminal advocate. Samantha is currently instructed as counsel to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

She has experience dealing with all manner of criminal cases and prides herself on meticulous preparation and fearless advocacy. She has often appeared for clients with serious mental health issues and/or drug and alcohol addiction and has recently appeared on charges of conspiracy, aggravated burglary, drug importation and fraud.

Throughout her practice Samantha has been dedicated to access to justice for all defendants and is known as a passionate and committed advocate.

Samantha is a Grade 3 Prosecutor and a member of Middle Temple.

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

Areas of Practice

- General Crime
- Prosecution
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Road Traffic
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Homicide

Qualifications & Awards

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with Honours - University of Adelaide
- Bachelor of Commerce (International Business) - University of Adelaide
- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice - Law Society of South Australia
- South Eastern Circuit Advanced Advocacy Course - Keble College Oxford

Memberships

- The Criminal Bar Association
- The South Eastern Circuit

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."



Recent Cases

R v. LP [Woolwich] 2016

GBH Sc18

Sam Bonner represented this defendant charged with s18 on ex-partner by breaking her jaw in three places. A plea was accepted to ABH after negotiation with the Crown.

R v. S [Snaresbrook] 2016

GBH Sc18

Sam Bonner successfully represented the defendant who was charged along with other offences of causing grievous bodily harm to the complainant who suffered a fractured and dislocated shoulder. The charge of GBH was concluded after a successful no case submission and the defendant was unanimously acquitted on all other charges at the end of the trial.

R v. A [C.C.C.] 2016

ABH

Sam Bonner successfully represented the defendant at the Central Criminal Court who was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm by pouring boiling water on the alleged victim.

R v. W [Maidstone] 2016

Sexual Assault

Sam Bonner defended in this case involving sexual assault where both the complainant and defendant suffered from serious mental health issues. After meticulous preparation of the case, the prosecution offered no evidence before trial.

R v. P [Inner London] 2015

Murder

Samantha Bonner assisted the Head of Chambers Mark Heywood QC in successfully prosecuting the murder of a visitor to London set upon after leaving a nightclub in the early hours of the morning.

R v. W & ors [Bristol] 2015

Conspiracy to Supply Drugs

Martin Hooper led Samantha Bonner in a 13 week trial at Bristol Crown Court regarding a conspiracy to produce crystal meth, MDMA and amphetamine. The case involved disclosure and PII issues with complex legal argument regarding the police probe on which the Crown's case was based.

R v. O & ors [Snaresbrook] 2015

Drugs, Kidnap & Wounding

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks led Andrew Collings on the first trial who then led Samantha Bonner in a long running trial and re-trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court involving multiple incidents of kidnapping false imprisonment and GBH over a failed drug deal. Those kidnapped were burned to the face and body with irons whilst falsely imprisoned.