



LIBERTAS
CHAMBERS

Roxanne Morrell

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Year of Call: 1996

Ranked Band 4 Crime – Chambers and Partners 2022

2022 - *"Her cross-examination of witnesses is superb."*

2019: *"A pleasure to work with- straight to the point and tactically brilliant."*

Specialist defence advocate with a wide range of experience both as Leading and Junior Counsel in complex fraud, serious and organised crime and murder.

Roxanne has appeared in cases of the highest gravity including **R v E** (£100 million investment fraud), **R v B** (allegations of 1.5 million fraud involving a business set up to exploit disabled employees and the government pursuant to the "back to work programme"), **R v S** (£51 million trademark fraud), **R v B** (£1 billion conspiracy to import Cocaine), **R v B** £24 million MTIC fraud and **R v B** (£53 million Tonbridge Securitas robbery and kidnapping).

FRAUD AND FINANCIAL CRIME

Notable cases in 2018-19:

R v Todd: Southwark Crown Court. Boiler room fraud. Operation Cornflower (2019).

R v P: Southwark Crown Court. 2019. Instructed in Bribery/Corruption case relating to contracts awarded to company (Current)

R v O'Hara: **Wood Green Crown Court. Vat and Excise Fraud**: Operation Electron (2019) – Represented director of company in relation to allegations of VAT and excise fraud brought by HMRC and Trading Standards relating to the supply of diesel and biodiesel in Sussex.

R v B: **Southwark Crown Court. Vat Fraud (2018-2019)** HMRC £17m VAT prosecution of precious metals trader. Represented director of companies. Subject to appeal.

R v Richardson : **Southwark Crown Court (2019)**. Sole Counsel in conspiracy to money Launder through creation of phoenix companies set up to transfer funds of boiler room fraud.

R v Ross: **Liverpool Crown Court (2018)**. Led Junior in 17 million solar panel fraud by false representations.



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R v P : Southwark Crown Court. Bribery and Corruption (2016-2018) Led Junior representing JV, prominent defendant in major European corruption trial of high-ranking government officials including premier of country and state-owned contracts.

R v Hoare: Southwark Crown Court 2018. Instructed as leading counsel on behalf of Director in a case concerning the alleged use of two large engineering and telecommunications companies that had been contracted to install broadband for BT Carillion Telnet to defraud HMRC. The contracts were worth in-excess of £15m.

ORGANISED CRIME

Roxanne is regularly instructed in Organized Crime offences across the whole spectrum. Examples include HMRC/UKBA prosecution of multi-handed, multi pound conspiracies involving importation of cigarettes and drugs by air and sea; SOCA prosecution for conspiracy to supply cocaine and assorted money laundering charges over a two-year period; attempted murder of a police officer involving complex mental health issues; large scale conspiracy involving 8 importations of amphetamine oil; R v A: case resulted in no evidence offered, for facilitating mortgage fraud by and laundering the proceeds for an alleged crime syndicate.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/crime-family-face-jail-for-money-laundering-and-fraud-3vgwclm6f>

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/notorious-a-team-crime-family-11457555>.

PRACTICE AREAS

FRAUD AND FINANCIAL CRIME

R v M (currently set for trial 2021). Sole Counsel. The defendant is alleged to have provided bank accounts that received money from the head of a complex organised crime group who is alleged to run a criminal empire who supplied drugs. The received funds are said to have funded payments for expensive rental properties used by the group thus facilitating a cash rich lifestyle.

R v C (currently set for trial 2021 following trial stopped part heard in relation to disclosure issues). Sole Counsel. Allegation of theft and associated money laundering conspiracies involving money alleged to have been stolen from a company whose main business at the relevant time was to process sub-contractor payments for companies in the building trade.

R v Kanapathippilai: Croydon Crown Court (2020). Sole Counsel. This was a conspiracy to conceal, disguise, convert, transfer or remove criminal property. The laundering was professional, sophisticated and well-organised. The frauds themselves involved invoice scams that took place all over the world. The laundering operation was also an international one. The actual payment of funds into a mule accounts was in excess of £2 million. 8 other



attempts were stopped but, had they been successful, would have netted over £1.5 million. The defendant was severed from the trial part heard due to the Covid pandemic. Following a review, a substantive charge involving half million was preferred and the defendant received a 10-month sentence suspended for 18 months.

R v Todd: Southwark Crown Court (2019/2020): Boiler room fraud. Operation Cornflower (2019). Leading counsel representing administrator for numerous companies alleged to be created one after another as phoenix companies set up to sell pay day loans; binary products and bitcoins.

R v P: Southwark Crown Court (2019). Instructed as led counsel in Bribery/Corruption case relating to contracts awarded to a UK company supplying equipment to measure earthquakes by a Korean company. Connected Proceedings in USA.

R v O'Hara: Wood Green Crown Court (2019). Vat and Excise Fraud: Operation Electron—Leading Counsel representing director of company in relation to allegations of large-scale VAT and excise fraud brought by HMRC and Trading Standards relating to the supply of biodiesel in Sussex. A suspended sentence was imposed.

R v B: Southwark Crown Court. Vat Fraud (2018-2019) 5-month HMRC £17m VAT prosecution of precious metals trader. Led Counsel representing director of companies. Subject to appeal.

R v Richardson : Southwark Crown Court (2019). Sole Counsel in conspiracy to money Launder through creation of 4 phoenix companies set up to transfer funds of boiler room fraud. A suspended sentence was imposed following trial.

R v Wrenn: Birmingham Crown Court (2019) Sole Counsel. Conspiracy to cheat the public revenue. Lead Counsel representing director of company alleged to be involved in evasion of duty payable on large scale alcohol importations.

R v Ross: Liverpool Crown Court (2018). Led Junior in 17 million solar panel fraud by false representations. Case lasted 5 months and involved intermediary and mental health issues.

R v Venskus: Southwark Crown Court. Bribery and Corruption (2016-2018) Led Junior representing JV, prominent defendant in major European corruption trial. of the case involved alleged wholesale corruption by Alstom who are a global leader in the world of power generation, power transmission and rail infrastructure. The prosecution case concerned a corrupt relationship between Alstom Power Limited and Alstom Power Sweden on one side and senior officials at the Elektrenai Power Plant (which is a subsidiary of the Lithuanian state owned energy company and which is the principal producer of electricity in the country) whereby it was alleged that a conspiracy was created to ensure that valuable contracts were placed with Alstom companies as opposed to other competitors. During the course of this a Lithuanian company called UAB Vilmetrona were utilised in the conspiracy



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to facilitate the payment of bribes to Lithuanian officials. The total contract value was €93.92m. The case was one of three prosecutions being conducted by the SFO in relation to the affairs of Alstom, in Hungary and India, further to a recent prosecution in America.

R v Hoare: Southwark Crown Court (2018). Instructed as leading counsel on behalf of Director in a case concerning the alleged use of two large engineering and telecommunications companies that had been contracted to install broadband for BT Carillion Telent to defraud HMRC. The contracts were worth in-excess of £15m. No evidence offered following representations relating to mental health issues. All other defendants convicted.

R v Hicks: Stafford Crown Court. (2018). Sole Counsel. The case involved a conspiracy relating to a “time share- resale fraud’ principally targeting the elderly, and thereafter and in addition to, allegations of setting up bank accounts associated to money laundering between 2012-2015. A suspended sentence was imposed.

R v Hussein: St Albans Crown Court (2018). Courier Fraud. Sole Counsel who represented principal defendant on multi handed indictment.

R v Hassan: Isleworth Crown Court (2017). Sole Counsel representing principal defendant on a multi handed indictment. The defendant was alleged to have used his business and associated family businesses to launder 1 million of criminal money obtained directly through an employee at the bank. The case involved medical/psychiatric condition, fitness to stand trial and services of an intermediary.

R v Bryne: Nottingham Crown Court 2016-2017. Sole Counsel. This case involved Fraud and Money Laundering allegations, and further connected charges of Perverting the Course of Justice by the National Trading Standards Board. The case concerned a group of 95 companies known as Wyvern Media Group. The organization comprised of many limited companies, but many were transient, either after a short period of trading or subjected to many name changes. The investigation was instigated by more than 440 complaints made by individuals and companies based across the UK and Europe. The defendant represented was a director of the principal company, and a manager and director of 6 other interconnected companies. She faced 5 counts on the indictment. A suspended sentence was imposed.

R v Patwary: Hull Crown Court (2017): Sole Counsel. A courier fraud upon elderly persons in excess of 10 defendants. The defendant was alleged to be an organizer of this fraud and as part of the same contacted the victims of this fraud falsely representing that he was a police officer/and or representative of the bank, instructing that bank officials were involved in counterfeit money exchanges and that money should be withdrawn as part of the investigation of those employees.

R v Glasgow: Derby Crown Court (2016). Sole Counsel. This case involved a large scale ‘cash



for crash' fraud alleged to involve defendants involved in all aspects of the claims, including garages, cheque centers, doctors and solicitors. No evidence was offered at start of trial following service of abuse of process arguments.

R v E: Leeds Crown Court (2016). Sole Counsel. The case involved an allegation that 3 brothers entered into a money laundering arrangement with 3 companies involved in the multi million-pound asbestos removal business to wash the proceeds of their Class A drug trafficking.

R v Shafique: Southwark Crown Court. (2016). Sole Counsel. This case involved a money laundering conspiracy involving 100's of stolen vehicles that had been subjected to car ringing in excess of 2 million pounds.

R v Farah: Central Criminal Court. 2015. Sole Counsel. This case was widely reported as "the bank of terror case". It involved a courier fraud whereby elderly people were targeted. People posed as police officers investigating frauds committed by bank staff, and persuaded individuals to withdraw their money from the bank and hand over to fraudsters. The defendant represented was the only defendant of 10, to be acquitted.

R v Benstead: Southwark Crown Court (2015.) Leading Counsel. A large scale "Ponzi fraud" amounting to losses in excess of 20 million that involved an umbrella of companies that were involved in the sale of currency and bullion gold. The case involved 7 defendants and a 19-count indictment alleging in the main fraudulent trading and theft of bullion gold. This was the first "iPad trial" in a London court.

R v Makusha: Blackfriars Crown Court (2015). Sole Counsel. Represented Company Director whose company was alleged to have participated in a £6 million-pound conspiracy to employ, exploit and sub-contract to multi million-pound companies illegal working security guards. Acquitted on all counts.

R v Bensley: 2014. Kingston Crown Court. Led Counsel. The allegation involved a large scale £24 million-pound missing trader (MTIC) fraud and money laundering charges that related to an £8 million loan taken out by the company and alleged to have accrued from third party payments due to defaulters in the chain. The client was a director of a company that traded in mobile phones and computer equipment. The defendant was the sole defendant to be acquitted.

R v Emery: Southwark Crown Court. Led Counsel. Allegation involved SFO prosecution involving a £100 million-pound investment fraud. The allegation was essentially a 'boiler room' type fraud concerning a share dealing entity in Madrid. There were many victims including elderly and vulnerable victims. Case was complex as it was apparent that some investors had made very considerable profits although they were small in number when compared with the victims.



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R v Wilson: 2014. Blackfriars Crown Court. Sole Counsel. This case involved the setting up/hijacking of numerous companies, the purpose of which was to submit fraudulent Vat returns to cheat the public revenue out of sums in excess of £1 million. Suspended sentence imposed.

R v Riaz: Manchester Crown Court. 2014. This case involved 12 members of the same family alleged to be involved in a conspiracy to launder the proceeds of drugs in excess of 1 million. This case was dropped after 4 weeks of trial following disclosure arguments.

R v Brookes. Southwark Crown Court. 2014. Leading Counsel. £1.5 million conspiracy to defraud. Represented principal defendant, first on the indictment, who was charged with masquerading as a knighted Sir and a disabled person for over 20 years and who set up a company designed to employ disabled persons in order to exploit both the employees and the government backed “back to work program” for disabled person.

R. v. B. Liverpool Crown Court: instructed in Large-scale dental practice conspiracy fraud.

R. v. G: Cardiff Crown Court. Leading Counsel in multi-handed 19 count case involving conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracies involving £1.5 million money laundering. Prosecution out of time in setting confiscation dates and matter referred to Court of Appeal for argument on the statutory time limits. £1.5 million confiscation order sought, and issues involved attribution of benefit between husband and wife. No order made against defendant represented.

R. v. N. Southwark Crown Court: Counsel in 13-handed conspiracy case, involving staged vehicle accidents and fraud on insurance companies.

R. v. S. Southwark Crown Court: Led junior Counsel in £51 million trademark fraud.

R. v. A. Harrow Crown Court: Sole counsel in £1.2 million conspiracy to defraud insurance companies. Case involved staged vehicle accidents.

R. v. T. Harrow Crown Court: Sole Counsel in 44 count fraud on Harrow Council by subcontracted company manager. Defendant acquitted.

HOMICIDE AND CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER

R v P (2020-current): Leading Counsel. Allegation of attempted murder, possession of shotgun with intent to endanger life where victim shot in broad daylight.

R v S (Snaresbrook Crown Court): Sole Counsel. Attempted murder. The allegation was that



the defendant, who was a professional footballer, was the driver of a vehicle from which 3 passengers exited and became engaged in a violent assault upon a victim of mistaken identity who was stabbed multiple times and had his throat slashed. Submission of no case at half time was successful.

R v G: Chelmsford Crown Court. Juvenile. Led Junior Counsel. This case involved a fatal stabbing following the Nottingham Hill Carnival.

R v Pulham: Central Criminal Court. Led Junior Counsel. This case involved a doorstep gun killing. The allegation was that 3 defendants pre-arranged to travel in convoy to the deceased address and target the individual. Defendant acquitted.

R v Leslie: Leeds Crown Court. Led Junior Counsel. Attempted murder/ shooting of a police officer. This case involved complex mental health issues.

R v W: Juvenile. Central Criminal Court. Led junior Counsel. Multi handed-joint enterprise murder- alleged to be gang related/ revenge for shooting at the defendant's premises.

R v. B. Chelmsford Crown Court: Led Junior Counsel. This case involved the murder and dismemberment of the body of deceased over a drug debt.

R v. T. Central Criminal Court: Led Junior Counsel. Murder by shooting, involving drugs background. Sole evidence in case reliant on parallel cell site evidence and phone traffic. Defendant acquitted.

R v H. St Albans Crown Court: Led Junior Counsel. Attempted murder of a disabled youth in his home and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Pre-trial legal arguments related to a section 8 production order for disclosure from solicitors of documents and legal professional privilege.

R v D. Juvenile. Central Criminal Court: Led Junior Counsel. Murder of schoolboy outside his school. Case involved teenage gangs and cut-throat defences.

R v Mendendez. Central Criminal Court: Murder. Led Junior Counsel. First case involving the use of canine DNA. A dog was alleged to have brought the victim down who was thereafter stabbed in a gang related background. Legal argument on admissibility of canine DNA evidence where no statistical basis able to be given successful.

R v A. Central Criminal Court: Led Junior Counsel. Contract killing murder. First trial aborted due to House of Lords ruling on anonymity orders. Case also involved issues surrounding prison informant evidence.

R v C. Southwark Crown Court: Led Junior Counsel. Murder trial. Case involved issues of admissibility of similar fact bad character evidence as to previous non-fatal stabbing in



identical location and cu- throat defences. Killing said to be drug related.

ORGANISED CRIME

R v Stoica: Canterbury Crown Court (2020). Sole Counsel. Importation of 16 kilograms of cocaine in a purpose-built step within a vehicle registered to the defendant.

R v S: Luton Crown Court (awaiting trial). This case relates to an Organised Crime Group (based across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire that are alleged to be responsible for the supply of well in excess of 100 kilograms of Class A and B drugs nationally as well as the supply and use of firearms, where on one seizure 6 loaded firearms were seized. The defendant is alleged to be a key player and the key evidence relates to material obtained through the enochat phone system.

R v B: Woolwich Crown Court (Current). This case involves various serious, substantial and complex conspiracies to supply Class A and B drugs which continued over the course of at least 18 months. 33 kg of Class A drugs, 593 Kilograms of Class B drugs and £899,275.47 were seized which are alleged to be just a snippet of the conspiracy.

R v C: Nottingham Crown Court (awaiting trial). Sole Counsel. Defendant faces trial on a charge of assisting an offender who is alleged to have been a participant along with 5 other defendants to have broken into the home address of the victim who was subjected to a machete attack.

R v D: Harrow Crown Court (Trial set for 2020). Sole Counsel. The defendant is charged with two armed motorcycle robberies linked to co defendants charged in those offences and with a conspiracy to commit more than 24 robberies. Key parts of the evidence against the defendant relies on the first use of data obtained from 'tagging unit data' to locate the defendant's whereabouts.

R v Vickers (Birmingham Crown Court) 2019. Sole Counsel representing principal defendant. This case involved conspiracies relating to large-scale importation of cigarettes and alcohol. After 3 weeks of trial and following disclosure arguments made on behalf of this defendant, the prosecution applied to discharge the jury to carry out a full audit/review of disclosure. The case was dropped following a 6-week audit against all defendants.

R v Keane (Chelmsford Crown Court). Leading Counsel: This case involved 9 importations of amphetamine oil said to be in excess of 53 million.

R v Hazel (Manchester Crown Court). Sole Counsel represented principal defendant. This related to Operation Demolysis and a NCA prosecution relating to the preparation and distribution of amphetamine. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of drugs were seized and a 'lab/factory' uncovered. Counsel represents the defendant alleged to be the 'directing



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mind/role behind the amphetamine factory and 3 conspiracies to supply amphetamine to Scotland and the Essex area'. Defendant was acquitted on all counts.

R v B: Isleworth Crown Court. Sole Counsel. Represented director who was a majority shareholder and Imports manager in ERTS/ Customs clearing approved company by HMRC in complex HMRC/UKBA prosecution of multi-handed, multi million-pound conspiracies involving importation of cigarettes and drugs by air and sea. Defendant represented was acquitted on all counts.

R v Heath: (Isleworth Crown Court). Sole Counsel. The offence involved multiple conspiracies between 2014/2015 in which the defendant was alleged to have played a leading role in allowing his business to be used for a major drug smuggling operation that imported numerous successful consignments of multi-kilo amounts of cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and cannabis. The prosecution submitted that the importations and supply operation was clearly on the most serious and commercial scale and involved quantities of drugs significantly higher than category 1 and the defendant fell to sentenced therefore, outside the guidelines. The defendant was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment. The defendant alleged to be one rung above this defendant (whilst sharing the leading role) was given a sentence of 21 years.

R v Johnson: Birmingham Crown Court. Sole Counsel. This case was substantial and complex. The defendant was one of 8 defendants and faced 1 count of Conspiracy to Supply Cocaine over a 16-month period and 3 substantive counts of Money Laundering over a two-year period. She was alleged to be the 'assistant manager' of an organized crime group that supplied Cocaine. Defendant acquitted on all counts.

R v W: Maidstone Crown Court. Sole Counsel. This case involved a large-wholesale operation involving importation of Class A drugs from the Netherlands via companies set up for that alleged purpose. The Prosecution alleged 19 identical trips. On the final trip, 42 kilograms of Cocaine were seized in the possession of the defendant who was represented, who was a Dutch National.

R v Jukes: Birmingham Crown Court. Sole Counsel. This case involved a large-scale surveillance operation to import and distribute counterfeit cigarettes. A suspended sentence was imposed.



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R v D. Juvenile. Southwark Crown Court. Leading Counsel in £1 million-pound composite “smash and grab” commercial burglary conspiracy and associated robberies. Represented principal defendant, first on the indictment, who was charged with masterminding the fraud and acting as “a modern-day Fagin” who recruited his friends to steal motorcycles to carry out a series of 47 ram raid burglaries/robberies on high- end commercial retailers in the West End.

R. v. P. Central Criminal Court: Led Counsel in £53 million Tonbridge Securitas robbery and kidnappings. Said to be largest robbery known in UK. The defendant was alleged to be the make-up/prosthetics artist behind disguises worn. No evidence was offered following severance from the first trial, an assistant make-up artist/defendant turning QE during first trial and service of abuse of process arguments.

R v Bains: Worcester Crown Court: Led Counsel. Defended in multi-handed conspiracy to kidnap/torture and false imprison an individual targeted over a debt.

R v H. Luton Crown Court: Lead Counsel in conspiracy to supply 43 kilos of cocaine by an organized crime group responsible for the distribution of cocaine within the counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

R v B. Harrow Crown Court: Lead Counsel in conspiracy to supply large quantities of almost pure cocaine by a criminal organization in North West London.

R v B Kingston Crown Court: Led Counsel in £1 billion conspiracy to import cocaine and money laundering counts. Multi-jurisdictional case and related issues. Said to be largest importation of its kind as of date of case. Defendant pleaded to money laundering shortly after start of trial, no evidence offered on drug conspiracy and received a suspended sentence.

R v Blaire. Wood Green Crown Court: Leading Counsel in multi-handed, multi-count conspiracies to kidnap and rob drug dealers. Evidence solely reliant on telephone probe evidence and admissibility. Defendant acquitted on all counts.

R v P Nottingham Crown Court: Counsel in multi-handed honor kidnapping conspiracy and false imprisonment.



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R v G Cardiff Crown Court: Leading Counsel in multi-handed 19 count case involving conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracies involving £1.5 million money laundering.

R v C Central Criminal Court: Sole Counsel in multi-handed, multi-count case involving blackmail, robbery and torture of Chinese nationals by organized Chinese gang.

R v G Blackfriars Crown Court: Led Counsel in conspiracy to import 102 kilos of cocaine through haulage company.

R v E Kingston Crown Court: Led Counsel in multi-handed conspiracies to supply Class A drugs involving two-year police undercover operation.

R v. B. Birmingham Crown Court: Led Counsel in Police corruption trial where police provided information on investigation to suspects of a well-known gang relating to a double murder.

GENERAL CRIME

R. v. K. Snaresbrook Crown Court: Counsel in conspiracy to supply firearms, including MAC-10s, shotguns, etc., to undercover police officers.

R. v. H. Snaresbrook Crown Court: Conspiracy to rob security vans by gunpoint.

R. v. H. Kingston Crown Court: multi-million-pound conspiracy to commit burglaries to steal high-powered vehicles to order.

R. v. G. Maidstone Crown Court: £1.5 million conspiracies relating to ram raid post office robbery with JCB and burglaries to steal high powered vehicles stolen to order by same gang.

R. v. T. Kingston Crown Court: Multi-handed kidnap trial.

R v. M. Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court: Counsel in multi-handed £1 million conspiracy to commit commercial burglaries.



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R. v. H. Leicester Crown Court: Death by dangerous driving involving military vehicle, army personnel and military regulations for storage of army vehicles.

APPEALS AND CCRC

R. v. B; Attorney General Reference (No. 4 of 1999) House of Lords: Junior Counsel. The A-G Reference related to whether the obligation to destroy DNA samples of an acquitted person was directory or mandatory. Legislation governing the destruction of DNA samples was subsequently changed following the ruling and the case remains authority on the issue of statutory interpretation.