



Sumita Mahtab-Shaikh

Year of call: 2001

Year of silk:

I would just like to say thank you for your help and assistance with regard the hearing on Monday. It has been an incredible strain for me over the past months being a LIP and your understanding of my position has helped me tremendously; the outcome of which I could not have asked any more.

2017

About

Sumita was called to the Bar in 2001. She practices in the areas of crime and family law. Her criminal practice encompasses all areas of serious crime, including murder (arguments on new law of joint enterprise) serious violent and sexual crimes and rape. She has also appeared at the Court of Appeal, including cases which have been reported in the law reports. The case of R v RH 2017, was an appeal from Oxford Crown Court where LJ Treacy gave sentencing guidance on cases of child abduction. In the reported case of R v Darlow, the Court of Appeal gave guidance on sentencing for cases of indecent exposure, where the Court commented upon Miss Mahtab's earnest and excellent submissions. In her serious sexual offences practice, she has represented a serial rapist who was operating in East London, rapes and sexual assaults against minors, grooming cases, historical rapes and relationship rapes. She also has experience in proceedings involving young and vulnerable witnesses and has been involved in many s.28 hearings, and so has the necessary and vital experience in cross examining vulnerable witness. She has had involvement in Operation Bullfinch (Oxford sexual grooming case). Sumita has been instructed on many multi handed drugs and fraud trials and has experience of dealing with the forensic analysis of scientific evidence and cell site analysis data which is always present in that arena. Due to her exceptional client care skills and ability to put clients at ease, whilst at the same time instilling confidence, she is particularly effective in dealing with vulnerable clients and has conducted finding of fact hearings upon a finding of unfitness to plead and has also represented defendants requiring an intermediary. She takes great care to ensure that each case is fully prepared and all legal arguments made in a timely manner, in fact in a recent rape case, following a section 8 disclosure application being aggressively pursued, the Crown subsequently offered no evidence. Sumita also practices in the area of family law. She is able to use her own experiences in understanding that clients in this arena are at their most vulnerable and therefore require counsel who is empathetic to their situation and can provide reassurance; her client care is exceptional. In addition to this her aim is to achieve the best outcome for the client in the most timely manner. She represents parties in all children proceedings and also undertakes cases in financial remedy proceedings. She also has experience of acting on behalf of parents in care proceedings and recently represented the child in care proceedings, who had separate representation. Sumita has also provided a webinar lecture for the Lexis Nexis website on an update in family law 2017- a yearly roundup.

Direct public access

Member of the Criminal Bar Association

Member of the Family Bar Association

Pupil supervisor in Chambers

School Governor in Barnet

Former volunteer in National Bar Mock Competitions

Former school advisor to schools in the London Borough of Newham

LLB (Hons) University of Northumbria at Newcastle

Called to the Bar in July 2001 by the Honourable Society of Grays Inn

Fluent Sylheti Bengali

Conversational Hindi and Urdu

Cases of note

Sumita also practices in the areas of housing and landlord and tenant (both residential and commercial). She has extensive experience in possession hearings and also has experience in defending actions brought by social landlords.

Her practice also comprises conducting county court trials from the small claims track to the multi track in areas ranging from RTA s to contractual disputes.

Sumita undertakes all forms of private and public law children work and also accepts instructions in ancillary relief matters, having practised at all levels including the High Court.

R v Noble

Led junior on Murder at Oxford Crown Court. Issues as to the new law on joint enterprise, including lengthy and detailed arguments on hearsay and bad character.

R v Mohammed

Section 18 GBH on pregnant partner with multiple stabbings.

R v Avdullraj

Section 18 GBH attack with hammer on the street. Not guilty to section 18 GBH.

R v Shamout

Threats to kill made by wife against husband during a prolonged incident with a knife. Not guilty.

R v Paul Darlow

Court of Appeal reported case law on sentencing for offences of exposure, where the Court commented upon Miss Mahtabs earnest and excellent submissions.

R v. Georgiev

Led junior at Snaresbrook Crown Court where the defendant faced trial for a series of stranger rapes in the East End of London.

R v Awan

Rape and sexual activity with a child. Alleged grooming over a considerable period of time. Not guilty.

R v Hall

Rape and sexual activity with a child. Not guilty.

R v H

Woolwich Crown Court, Rape of girlfriend. Not guilty.

R v Hussain

Marital rape, involving issues of immigration, complainants capacity to consent and intermediaries.

R v Singh

Marital rape of 4 counts, involving issues of immigration. Upon section 8 disclosure applications being vigorously pursued, Crown reviewed the case and offered no evidence.

R v Razak

Led junior at Reading Crown Court in a multi-hander case involving conspiracy to supply large consignments of cannabis.

R v Koxha

Multi hander conspiracy to supply class A drugs and money laundering.

R v Khan

Multi hander conspiracy to import class A drugs, involved PII legal arguments.

R v Ambrose

Possession of firearm. Expert evidence on the issue of antique firearm.

R v Hamzaalnatsha

Child abduction by a parent. Legal argument regarding interpretation of defence available.

R v Gouveia

This was the reported case at Oxford Crown Court of the bogus MI5 agent who was jailed for conning his ex-girlfriend!

R v Riasat

Led junior at Birmingham Crown Court, involving a family alleged to have conspired together to launder the proceeds of the two brothers drug dealing.