



Sumita Mahtab

Year of call: 2001 | Year of silk:

About

Sumita was called to the Bar in 2001. She practices in the areas of crime and family law. Her practice in the area of family law encompasses the following: Child arrangements (contact and residence); specific issue orders (name change, religion and schooling); adoption and special guardianship applications; domestic violence injunctions; financial matters and disputes and leave to remove from the jurisdiction. 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 and she has an ability to communicate the technical legal process to vulnerable clients. Sumita recognises that at whichever court or stage of the proceedings, the outcome for the client is significant. 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, both care and private children law 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. As a result of Sumita's criminal practice, she has particular experience in inter disciplinary cases, where there is a cross over between family law and crime, which provides for tough and effective advocacy. She has also provided a webinar lecture for the Lexis Nexis website on an update in family law 2017- a yearly roundup. Sumita's criminal practice encompasses all areas of serious crime, including murder (arguments on new law of joint enterprise) serious violent and sexual crimes and rape. 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 hander 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. She has also appeared at the Court of Appeal, including cases which have been reported in the law reports. Current instructions include: R v X: Led by Amjad Malik QC in a multi hander defence trial involving an organised crime network Encrochat prosecution. R v K: Sole counsel on behalf of a mentally vulnerable defendant in a historic sex case. R v. B: Sole counsel on behalf of the defence in a sex case involving a vulnerable and young complainant (s.28 case). R v. W: Sole counsel on behalf of the defence in a historic sex case, which has included legal arguments on the admissibility of ABE. R v. S: Sole counsel on behalf of the defence in a historic sex case when the defendant was a youth. Recently concluded instructions include: August 2021, R v. A- Led junior in a 4 week trial at Southwark crown court prosecuted by Trading Standards. The trial included legal arguments of duplicity of the indictment, s.8 disclosure arguments and legal arguments,

including the definition of a trader within the Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008. R v. J: Sole counsel in rape case involving young defendant and complainant involving analysis of DNA evidence. R v. F: Leading junior in a 9 -hander, 5 month perverting the course of justice trial where 5 of the co-defendants were being tried for murder.

Practice Areas

- Criminal Law
- Family Law
- Regulatory And Disciplinary Law
- Direct Access

Languages

- English
- Bengali
- Hindi
- Urdu

Memberships and Positions of Responsibility

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

Education

LLB (Hons) University of Northumbria at Newcastle

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

Languages

Fluent Sylheti Bengali

Conversational Hindi and Urdu

Cases of note

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.

~~*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.*~~

Quotes

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