Email: clerks@churchcourtchambers.co.uk
Phone: 020 7936 3637

Maryam Syed KC

Year of call: 1993 | Year of silk: 2024
Ranked for Crime in the Chambers and Partners UK Guide 2027, and Asian Legal Awards Top 3 Criminal Lawyer of the Year in 2023 and 2025.

About

Maryam Syed KC is a highly regarded Silk with extensive experience in the most serious and high-profile cases. Appointed Kings Counsel in 2024, she has been instructed lead counsel in the most complex and demanding cases for more than 15 years. Maryams practice spans criminal law, regulatory proceedings, family law, inquests and public inquiries, underpinned by a longstanding interest in international human rights law. Her practice has encompassed some of the countrys most notable and high-profile cases. She defended in the Jill Dando murder case, prosecuted an RAF Squadron Leader for the sexual abuse of boys, defended a UKIP councillor facing fraud allegations, and prosecuted a bishop of a large church for serious sexual offences. Her experience in both prosecuting and defending gives Maryam a balanced perspective and informed strategic decision making in every case. Frequently instructed pre-charge, Maryam advises both prosecution and defence teams on evidential sufficiency, charging decisions, potential defences and strategic representations. She is regularly instructed on a private basis in cases where reputational damage is as significant as the risk to liberty or livelihood, providing pragmatic advice from the earliest stages of an investigation. Maryam has particular expertise in homicide and fatality cases, terrorism, complex multi-handed organised crime, child sexual abuse, rape (including historic allegations), and domestic abuse. She is a Grade 4 Prosecutor and a member of both the CPS Rape and Serious Crime Panels. Renowned for her fearless advocacy, Maryam is recognised for her exceptional ability to communicate with and persuade judges and juries alike. She is frequently instructed in cases involving vulnerable defendants and witnesses, including those with physical or mental health conditions, where her sensitivity and clarity of approach are particularly valued. Alongside her advocacy, Maryam has delivered training and led conferences for the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, local authorities and non-governmental organisations on criminal law, trial practice, procedure and effective case preparation. She is also a regular contributor to legal journals and the wider media, commenting on legal issues, diversity and the justice system. Fluent in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi, Maryam is particularly well placed to represent clients involved in cases concerning religiously or racially aggravated offending and matters involving cultural or linguistic sensitivities. In addition to her practice at the Bar, Maryam has sat as a Crown Court Judge since 2012 and is authorised to hear the most serious criminal cases, including rape and other serious sexual offences, as well as appeals. She was appointed as Family Court Judge in 2024 and is authorised to sit in both Family and Public Law cases. She is also a member of the Attorney Generals Silk list. Since February 2020, Maryam has served as a founding member of the HMCTS/Judiciary/Key Stakeholders Working Group on Youth Justice, contributing to the ongoing development and improvement of youth justice policy and practice.

Practice Areas

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

Languages

- English

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Memberships and appointments

Kings Counsel 2024

Crown Court Recorder 2012

Family Court Recorder Public and Private Law 2024

CPS Grade 4 RASSO, General Crime and Serious Crime Panels

FLBA

South Eastern Circuit

Direct Access Qualified

Cases of note

Maryam recently prosecuted Logan Procter Derby Crown Court, who pleaded guilty to the murder of his stepfather and the killing of the family dog. The case was widely covered in the national press, including in BBC News, Sky News, and ITV News.

Maryam recently prosecuted Edwine Kiplangat at Reading Crown Court, who pleaded guilty to the murder of his partner in the context of domestic violence, and to the stabbing of a female friend and the biting of the hand of a male housemate who both tried to stop the attack. The case was widely covered in the national press, including in BBC News.

*Maryam recently finished prosecuting a 25 day trial at the central criminal court of Yonas Girma and Ellis Heather. The case involved the murder of a content creator and brother of the musician Morrisson. On the 17th of July Mr Heather received a 28 year minimum term. The case was widely covered in the national press, including in*BBC News and Sky News.

Maryam prosecuted at Luton Crown Court the case of Peter Janoski and Dylan Myrie. Following a nine week trial, Mr Janoski went received a sentence of 29 years, and Mr Myrie was sentenced for manslughter.

Maryam prosecuted the child rape case of CA at Luton Crown Court last year the Defendant received an extended sentence of 19 years for assaults on two sisters.

Precharge representations for a private client facing serious allocations of violence and public disorder on behalf of ABV solicitors the case was dropped.

Quotes

Maryam is a brilliant silk who is able to think on her feet and deal with large and complex cases with ease.
Chambers and Partners 2027

She is exceptional and top class!

Chambers and Partners 2027

She fiercely and forcefully puts forth her case for the client.
Chambers and Partners 2027

Clients really like her and she just gets really good results.
Chambers and Partners 2026

She is well-prepared and researched and is able to deal with all complex matters effectively and persuasively.
Chambers and Partners 2025

Maryam is a skilful advocate dedicated to justice and excellence. She never fails to amaze with her commitment whilst always going the extra mile. She is exemplary in her representation of clients.
Chambers and Partners 2025

Maryam is a firm, direct and confident advocate who knows what she needs to do to achieve a result.
Chambers and Partners 2024

Maryam is a very capable criminal lawyer who works hard and masters her brief.
Chambers and Partners 2024

She is a well prepared and persuasive advocate.
Chambers and Partners 2024

Tenacious advocate, who is a force to be reckoned with; good with defendants making them feel at ease in the most difficult of situations.