Ruth Smith

Call: 1987

Ruth is the best advocate in Cardiff. She achieves astounding results against the grain. She is my go-to of choice for serious cases.

Chambers UK, 2027

clerks@30parkplace.co.uk +44 (0)2920 398421

Ruth Smith is a highly experienced criminal barrister at 30 Park Place Barristers in Cardiff, specialising in serious fraud, regulatory crime, serious sexual offences, serious violence and firearms offences. Her regulatory practice includes trading standards, health and safety and DWP fraud cases

Ruth is ranked as Tier 1 Counsel in Chambers and Partners and as a Leading Individual at the Bar in the Legal 500.

Ruth has a wealth of experience defending and prosecuting in all manner of criminal cases of the upmost gravity including offences of murder, terrorism , rape, robbery, kidnap, grave sexual offences, (involving multiple complainants, multiple defendants and young children), drug conspiracies and dishonesty.

She is a specialist in cases involving vulnerable and disabled persons, both children (as young as three) and adult and is well known for her skill with dealing with such witnesses.

She prosecutes for the CPS, DWP and local authority and has been on the rape panel and has been a CPS Level 4 Panel Advocate for over 25 years.

Appointments

- CPS Level 4 Advocate Panel
- CPS RASSO Advocate Panel

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Education

- Inns of Court School of Law

Memberships

- Wales and Chester Circuit

Notable and reported cases

R v Morgan

Leading junior counsel in a murder trial – Defendant acquitted of violent disorder (in which the murder took place).

R v C and E

Defence counsel in a multi-handed organised crime group trial involving allegations that both defendants had organised a shooting linked to unpaid drugs debts. A shotgun was discharged multiple times through the letter box of the property which caused serious injury to the 14 year old brother of the intended target.

R v T & Others

Defence counsel in a trial involving a Dubai-based organised crime group. Allegations that the defendant's boyfriend and others were recruited to travel from Western Super Mare to Ferndale to set fire to drug debtors elderly grandmother's house in the early hours of the morning. The victim's house was destroyed and two further houses damaged. Defended T who was the driver of the vehicle conveying males and petrol to street acquitted at trial of involvement in all offences.

R v JW (Operation Sitella)

Defence counsel in a large-scale conspiracy to supply cocaine, heroin and cannabis estimated by the Prosecution to involve the supply of 50 kilos of class A drugs.

R v CJ (Operation Fluegga)

Defence counsel. Case involving an organised crime group importing large quantities of Cannabis from America shipped using parcel delivery services to evade detection.

R v KT (Operation Fimbry)

Defence counsel for one of the defendants charged in the 'Ely Riots'.

R v Christopher Phillips

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Defence counsel. Defendant charged with denying the lawful burial of his mother in keeping her in a freezer for 3 years and fraud arising from his continued claims for her pension and benefits.

R v Devonte Toutsaut (Operation Arbus)

Leading junior defence counsel in a multi handed (12 defendants) organised crime group case involving kidnap, torture and blackmail involving firearms. One of the victims suffered life changing injuries. Evidence involved a combination of cell site data, phone material, CCTV and association in evidence at multiple locations in the UK. Trial 1 lasted 4 months before the Court ordered it be discharged and retrial split the defendants into two groups. Ruth's client was one of only three who were acquitted by the Jury.

R v Api Ratuniyarawa

Defended in this very high profile case of sexual assault by a Fijian International Rugby player who was due to play for the Barbarian rugby side in Cardiff and who had committed three sexual assaults over three consecutive nights.

R v GR

Defence counsel in a trial involving allegations of historic rapes and other sexual offences committed on pupils by a teacher in the 1970's.

R v GW

Defence counsel in a case involving historic sexual offending against multiple complainants when they were children.

R v JL

Prosecution counsel in a case where the defendant had autism and had attacked vulnerable women after threatening them with a weapon.

R v Olasemo

Defence counsel. A sophisticated fraud involving the defendant posing as an American military officer on a dating website to embezzle £100,000 + from multiple complainants who became his "girlfriends".

R v Bidmead & Others

Defence counsel in a conspiracy to commit armed (gun) robberies in Spar shops in Newport.

R v Salimpirik

Defence counsel in a 4 defendant gang rape trial.

R v Peter and Avril Griffiths

Referred to in the media as the 'Fred and Rose West of Barry' – Junior defence Counsel for AG in a multi complainant historic rape trial.

R v Natalie Parsons

Defence counsel in a terrorism case heard at the Old Bailey. The case involved allegations of the manufacture of explosives and pipe bombs.

R v Joseph Jeremy & Others

Junior defence counsel. Robbery and knife point murder involving a 'cut throat' defence. The defendant was both a juvenile and autistic with complex behavioural problems.

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