

Karlia Lykourgou



Call: 2013

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Profile

As an experienced court advocate committed to high standards of client care, Karlia achieves excellent results through careful case preparation, informed legal argument, and persuasive advocacy.

She is sought after for serious and complex cases involving violence, weapons, trafficking, sexual offences, drugs, theft and fraud; and successfully represents clients at the Court of Appeal, Divisional and Administrative Court.

Karlia is able to provide plain, accessible advice to clients at all stages of proceedings on a private or legal aid basis. Direct access instructions are also welcome.

Prior to joining the Bar, Karlia worked for a number of non-governmental organisations and law offices supporting clients facing the death penalty and lengthy prison sentences. This included roles at the Centre for Criminal Appeals and Reprieve, where she helped clients to appeal murder convictions through applications to the Criminal Cases Review Commission; and liaised with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to assist British nationals facing capital charges for drug importation in Pakistan.

Karlia has a keen interest in international law and spent time in Cambodia conducting

research for DC Cam to facilitate the work of the ECCC in their prosecution of Khmer Rouge cadres for crimes against humanity. She was also part of a legal team instructed to represent 34 Cypriot claimants seeking damages from the British Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for torture carried out during the “Cyprus Emergency.”

Education

Law with American Legal Studies LLB, University of Leeds

Public International Law LLM, University of Leiden, The Netherlands

Languages

English

Greek

Related practice areas

Criminal Law and Appeals

Extradition

Professional Discipline and Regulation

Violent Offences

- **R v SH [2019]** - Successfully represented a 15-year-old youth who pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent (s.18 GBH) and possession of a bladed article after stabbing his step-father in the groin. Following submissions to the judge and probation, he was sentenced to 18 months in a secure home for vulnerable youth rather than a detention centre.
- **R v MJ & Ors [2018]** - Secured the acquittal of man charged with affray and common assault by arguing self-defence despite CCTV showing two kicks to the head with a shod foot.
- **R v KD [2018]** - Successfully persuaded the Court of Appeal to reduce the sentence of a young man who pleaded guilty to affray and assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH).
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BS and RS v R [2018] – Secured a successful appeal against conviction for a man convicted of three counts of common assault involving a pool cue.

- **R v HP [2017]** - Secured the acquittal of a father charged with common assault against his daughter. Involved cross-examining a 9-year old over video-link.

Sexual Offences

- **R v JF [2020]** – Instructed to represent a young man accused of date rape.
- **DP v Metropolitan Police Commissioner [2018, 2019]**- Instructed to represent a man accused of five separate allegations of rape against a sexual risk order applied for by the MPC. The defendant was successfully acquitted of a breach of the interim order and appealed the substantive order.
- **R v AL [2018]** - Secured the acquittal of a man charged with disclosing private sexual images of his girlfriend.
- **R v LS [2018]** - Successfully represented a man who pleaded guilty to sexual assault and voyeurism involving his housemate. The case involved lengthy legal argument on whether a Newton Hearing should be held on the basis of plea entered. This point was resolved in the defendant's favour.
- **R v LL [2017]** - Successfully represented a man who pleaded guilty to inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity and ensured he received a hospital order instead of custody.

Drug Offences

- **R v NC [2018]** - Secured the acquittal of a young man charged with possession of Class A drugs with intention to supply by arguing possession for personal use.

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R v M [2018] - Secured a two year suspended sentence for a young man who pleaded guilty to possession of Class A drugs with intention to supply. (The sentence starting point for this offence is 4.5 years.)

- **R v RP** [2017] - Successfully represented a woman charged with importing 1.92kg of cocaine into London Gatwick.

Dishonesty Offences

- **R v SL** [2018] - Secured the acquittal of a man charged with stealing £3500 from his employer at the Coral betting shop, despite CCTV showing him placing money in his pocket.
- **R v WD** [2018] - Secured the acquittal of a man charged with burglary, despite evidence that he sold the stolen items on ebay and worked next to the complainant's property.
- **R v HM** [2018] Successfully represented a man charged with robbery and fraud.
- **R v SR** [2017] - Successfully represented a woman who pleaded guilty to benefit fraud and secured her a suspended sentence.

Intimidatory Offences

- **R v LW** [2019] – Successfully represented a man charged with coercive and controlling behaviour against a partner, ABH, common assault and dangerous driving.
- **R v MA** [2018] - Successfully represented a man charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm and coercive and controlling behaviour against his partner.

Driving Offences

Karlia represents individuals charged with a range of driving offences including dangerous

and careless driving, and driving with excess alcohol/ drugs. She is often able to save clients driving licences by arguing exceptional hardship and special reasons.

- **R v EWP** [2018] - Secured the acquittal of woman charged with careless driving after her car veered into the oncoming lane and resulted in a multiple collision.
- **R v JL** [2018] - Successfully defended a man charged with dangerous driving for driving his car at a pedestrian.
- **R v IE** [2017] - Secured the acquittal of a man charged with failure to provide a specimen arguing that he was frightened of needles and should have been given the option of providing a urine sample.

Extradition

Karlia is able to provide assistance to clients facing conviction and accusation arrest warrants in respect of Part 1 and 2 territories. Her submissions are detailed and explore any available avenues at first instance and appeal that may be open to clients to avoid removal. This includes careful analysis of developing Article 3 arguments in different jurisdictions and post-Brexit provisions.