

Omran Belhadi



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Profile

Omran is a criminal defence specialist with experience representing clients accused of the most serious crimes.

Omran is a creative and fearless barrister, determined to secure the best outcome for his clients. He does not shy away from making novel points of law to advance his client's case. Omran offers a full range of service from pre-charge advice to second opinions on appeals against sentence or conviction.

Omran's experience in and knowledge of the criminal system means he is regularly instructed in crime-related matters including stalking protection orders, sexual risk orders and applications to delete cautions

Before coming to the bar Omran worked with several NGOs on counter-terrorism issues including extraordinary rendition, torture, drone strikes and secret proceedings.

Omran is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public on the **Direct Access Scheme**.

Education

LLB (European Law), University of Warwick

BPTC (University of Law), Very Competent

Languages

Arabic

French

Urdu

Hindi

Spanish

German

Related practice areas

Criminal Law

Criminal Appeals

Extradition

Fraud and financial crime

Omran has a growing practice in the field of fraud and financial crime. He is adept at assimilating large amounts of information and presenting it in a simple and intelligible format.

- **R v MK** (Inner London Crown Court) – Representing a jeweller accused of defrauding his bank and being involved in a scheme to launder over £1 million.
- **R v LR** (Basildon Crown Court) – led by Farrhat Arshad. Represented a former bookkeeper accused of involvement in a £1.8 million fraud allegedly perpetrated by the partners of a conveyancing firm. The trial judge upheld a submission of no case to answer, following four weeks of prosecution evidence.
- **R v PC** (Kingston Crown Court) – Represented a serial fraudster charged with two counts of fraud. The defendant asserted he was under duress. Omran cross-examined the OIC on the basis he was biased against the defendant because of his previous convictions and had failed to properly investigate his claim of duress. The OIC missed several calls the defendant made to the police on the day of the alleged offence. Acquitted of one count, jury hung on another.

Terrorism and national security

Having worked extensively in the field of counter-terrorism prior to joining the bar, Omran brings a wealth of practical experience. He is adept at representing those charged with terror offences at all levels of court. Led by Rupert Bowers KC, he represented a man charged with eight counts of encouraging terrorism and two counts of dissemination of terrorist publications.

Omran assists Muslim community groups in advising on the ambit of current counter-terror legislation.

Sexual offences

Omran regularly advises and represents those facing allegations of sexual offending, including rape, sexual assault to possession, historic sexual abuse and distribution of indecent images. He has completed the vulnerable witness training and is a junior facilitator for the training carried out by Gray's Inn.

- **R v JC** (Kingston Crown Court) – represented a former solicitor charged with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old boy at a bus stop. Following discussions with prosecution counsel, the prosecution indicated they would accept a caution. The prosecution was discontinued.
- **R v JG** (Kingston Crown Court) – secured a suspended sentence for a man of good character who pleaded guilty to possession of Category A, B and C indecent images.
- **R v NZ** (Inner London Crown Court) – represented an 18-year-old of good character charged with rape when he was 16. The complainant was 16 years old at the time of the allegation. Acquitted.

Drugs

Omran has considerable experience in drugs cases, whether substantive or conspiracies. He is regularly instructed in lengthy trials involving thousands of pages of phone and surveillance evidence.

- **R v TI** (Snaresbrook Crown Court) – instructed in a six-week multi-handed conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. The prosecution relied on extensive phone and stop-and-

search evidence. Omran's client documented his activities on days he was alleged to be co-locating with a drug line. Acquitted.

- **R v DB** (Snaresbrook Crown Court) – instructed to represent a man charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. The prosecution relied on an expert in the interpretation of messages. Omran sought to exclude their evidence relying on s.78. The prosecution offered no evidence after Omran submitted the argument.

Serious violence and weapons

- **R v DK** (Inner London Crown Court) – represented the first defendant in a multi-handed kidnap, false imprisonment, blackmail, robbery, ABH and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The defence asserted the parties knew each other, and the alleged kidnap was a pretence. Following cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses and a further review of the complainants' phones the prosecution offered no evidence on 11 of the 12 counts before the close of the prosecution case.
- **R v AK** (Snaresbrook Crown Court) – represented a man charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Omran drafted a s.8 application which highlighted the absence of evidence against his client. The prosecution offered no evidence.
- **R v DE** (Central Criminal Court) – represented a serving prisoner accused of assaulting a prison officer. Omran's client asserted he was acting in self-defence. Three prison officers gave broadly consistent evidence. Acquitted.

Criminal Appeals

Omran regularly advises on appeals against sentence and conviction. He accepts instructions from the Registrar of Criminal Appeals and from those seeking a second opinion on potential appeals.

He has successfully appealed several sentences including a reduction from 15 months to 9 months for an offence of bladed article caught by mandatory minimum provisions (**R v AF**); reduction from 7 to 5 years for two offences of robbery and attempted robbery (**R v Goodman [2021] EWCA Crim 1466**); reduction from two years to 18 months custody for a s.20 offence against an 81 year old man (**R v BS**).

Crime related matters

Omran advises and assists clients on matters related to criminal law. This includes deletion of personal data held by the police, filtering of criminal convictions, sexual risk orders and stalking protection orders.

Omran has persuaded the police to delete youth conditional cautions (**WE v Police Force**); overturned a stalking protection order on appeal (**JF v Police Force**) and successfully opposed a sexual risk order (**Police Force v AB**).