

Year of Call: 2015
Practice Areas: Crime, Family,
Email: clerks@cobden.co.uk

Profile

Suzanne joined Cobden House Chambers in October 2017 following the successful completion of her pupillage. Suzanne accepts instructions in criminal and family law.

Criminal Law

Suzanne is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend. She has experience in the Crown Court including trialling, representing appellants and respondents in appeals from the Magistrates Court and appearing in preparatory and sentencing hearings. (She has been instructed on a wide variety of matters involving theft, violence, threats to kill and serious sexual offences) Suzanne has extensive prior experience of multi-agency working which has proved extremely useful in criminal matters where there has been social care involvement.

Suzanne undertakes work in the Magistrates' Court. She also has experience in regulatory matters such as licencing.

Suzanne accepts instructions in all areas of criminal law, prosecuting and defending, commensurate with her experience.

Suzanne is a category 2 prosecutor.

Family Law

Prior to joining Cobden House Chambers, Suzanne forged a successful career as a consultant in multi-agency child protection, specialising in online behaviour and the use of technology. She has a comprehensive knowledge of multi-agency working (including in areas such as child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse).

Suzanne has experience of a wide range of Children Law matters having appeared regularly before the Family Court in her previous role within the Children and Family Department of a large local authority. She has also had experience of cases involving mental health, trafficking, and capacity issues.

Suzanne accepts instructions in both private and public family law matters.

Hobbies and interests

Suzanne enjoys music and plays a variety of instruments.

Notable Cases

Criminal Law

R v Francis [2019] EWCA Crim 1201

Successfully appealed the imposition of the minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment in the case of a woman found to be in possession of a sawn-off shotgun. The Judge at first instance had declined to find that exceptional circumstances applied in this case. The Court of Appeal accepted the submissions of Ms Hargreaves finding that exceptional circumstances did apply and reduced the term of imprisonment from 5 years to 3 years.



R v B [2019]

Defended a man accused of conspiring to commit grievous bodily harm with intent. Included telephone, cell-site and medical evidence. Client was acquitted.

R v B [2019]

Defending a man accused of conspiring to commit grievous bodily harm with intent. Included telephone, cell-site and medical evidence. Client was acquitted.

R v S [2019]

Defended at trial on a 10-count indictment including serious sexual offences– involved assimilating and interpreting digital phone and ISP data including that from multiple platforms. Successfully resisted an application to admit prejudicial material obtained during the course of the 5-day trial.

R v D [2019]

Prosecuted trial on a count of exposure in the Crown Court.

R v A, R v Aw [2019] R v Aw

Appeared for respondent in a 2-day forfeiture hearing. The defendant had been convicted for murdering an elderly man for financial gain. – Successfully secured forfeiture of all monies seized.

In the linked appeal of R v Aw, successfully responded on behalf of the CC of Lancashire in a 2-day appeal. The appeal was dismissed allowing the retention of all monies seized.

R v I [2019]

Defended, at trial, a man facing trial for assault. Successful application made to exclude flawed identification involving social media led to charges against the defendant being dismissed.

R v H [2018]

Defended a man facing trial on indictment for multiple offences including assault occasioning ABH x2, threats to kill and resisting arrest with intent. Pleas accepted on day one of trial to ABH, battery and breach of restraining order (on a limited basis). Client's immediate release secured.

R v N [2018]

Represented a client with complex mental health issues convicted of a sexual assault leading to the imposition of a hospital order rather than a custodial sentence.

R v C [2018]

Assisted in case involving a professional accused of fraud. Analysis of a large amount of data and records led to the charge of fraud being dropped in favour of a regulatory offence with a resulting sentence of a conditional discharge.

R v B [2017]

Defended a man accused of theft from a vulnerable adult. Included cross-examination of vulnerable adult- secured acquittal.

Family Law

A Lancastrian Council v M [2019] EWFC B6

Represented a father who had appeared in multiple previous care matters. Represented the client in finding of fact and a fully contested final hearing. Dealing with complex issues of culture and mental health

K v K [2019]

Represented the father in finding of fact within private proceedings where he faced allegations including multiple rapes and assaults– findings not made.

T v T [2019]

Represented the father in private proceedings where intractable hostility was a considered an issue along with a child presenting with a high level of emotional and mental distress.

BBC v M & F [2019]

Represented a mother with learning difficulties in care proceedings. Successfully resisted a plan of adoption and secured contact going forward within a final placement with family members under special guardianship.

S & N v C [2018]

Represented paternal grandparents applying to the court to re-establish contact with their grandson against a history of issues between the parties. Despite the mother initially opposing the court giving consent to the grandparents' application, arrangements were negotiated that led to a Child Arrangements Order being made by agreement.

Qualifications

Year of call: 2015 (Inner Temple)

Legal Qualifications:

GDL (Distinction) BPP,
BPTC (VC) MMU
BPTC Scholarship MMU.
Dean's Award (Advanced Criminal Practice)