



New Park Court

Sharon Beattie

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Sharon Beattie

Year of call 1986

For enquiries please call +44 (0)113 243 3277 or email

Sharon Beattie acts in many serious, sensitive and high profile criminal cases, including homicides and regulatory cases as well as appellate work. She has particular interest and expertise in, but not limited to, medico- legal issues across both disciplines.

Sharon is consistently rated as a leading individual by Chambers Directory and comments include:

“...a real top class performer...she’s seen and done everything and nothing phases her.”

Crime

Sharon is also instructed in cases involving serious crime. Sharon is regularly instructed to prosecute offences of homicide and has a particular interest in cases involving medical and scientific evidence dealing with causation, paediatric pathology and deaths during surgery.

Sharon is often first choice in sensitive and high profile sexual cases and has prosecuted consultant psychiatrists (R v Kerr (2006)2 Cr App R 31) and R v Haslam as well as other medical professionals. She regularly prosecutes cases both in the criminal and regulatory jurisdiction involving medical misconduct which varies in nature from sexual misconduct to errors in spinal surgery. Recently instructed in respect of the conduct of a Forensic Medical Examiner and presently advising in relation to complex eye surgery.

In Defence work Sharon has often been instructed to represent juvenile defendants charged with serious crime and defendants with mental health issues. She represented the defence in a case where the indictment was

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stayed as an abuse of process as a result of the 'suggestible' defendant's memory having been affected by post incident counselling. The ruling formed the basis of the article 'Abuse of Process and the Suggestible Defendant' (Archbold News).

Representative Cases

- *R v C*
Murder of infant – complex paediatric pathology.
- *R v I, W, M & L*
Led by R Smith QC. Prosecution of Four defendants charged with Murder/Causing the death of a vulnerable adult. Issues re interpretation of relevant statutory provision. Appeared in Court of Appeal in relation to L's appeal against conviction (appeal dismissed).
- *R v L & J*
Led by A MacDonald QC. Historic murder case. Case turned upon covert surveillance, and evidence from undercover police officers. Issues re admissibility of the same; Complex issues re PII and protection of officer's identities and ensuring fair and proper disclosure and service of evidence.
- *R v B*
Manslaughter.[Prosecuted as Junior alone] Death alleged to be caused by a single punch, issues re causation of injury/mechanism. Appeared in the Court of Appeal on behalf of the Prosecution in relation to the defendant's appeal against sentence (appeal dismissed).
- *R v M, M & Others*
Manufacture and transfer of firearms into criminal fraternity.
- *R v B*
Causing Grievous Bodily Harm to foetus. Issue re causation of placental abruption in pregnancy.
- *R v P*
Causing Grievous Bodily Harm with intent – victim left in permanent vegetative state. Issue re number of injuries actually inflicted and medical evidence in relation to them.
- *R v R & Others*
Large scale conspiracy re vehicle theft/cloning and export involving hundreds of cars, valued in the region of £2million.

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Regulatory

Sharon specialises in Medical Disciplinary / Regulatory Work and Serious Crime.

Sharon is regularly instructed to present the most complex cases before the General Medical Council and in the criminal jurisdiction. She therefore has vast experience in cross-examination of the most difficult witnesses including professionals, experts and also including extremely vulnerable witnesses.

Her meticulous preparation, attention to detail and skilful advocacy lends her to being instructed in the most serious of cases and she is widely regarded as one of the leading juniors within chambers' specialist GMC team.

Representative Cases

- *RE Dr C*
Sexual allegations against a consultant – issue as to abuse of process and degree of prejudice required. Submissions upheld on Appeal.
- *Re Dr X*
Conduct re misappropriation of prescription of opioids and drugs of abuse. Substantial.

Advisory Work

Regularly asked to consider pre charge issues in criminal jurisdiction in particular those relating to medico legal issues.

Undertakes advisory work as to appropriateness of regulatory proceedings following acquittals in the criminal courts, as well as advising as to evidence on complex cases.

Appellate Work

Had been regularly instructed in Appellate work in the Administrative Court in regulatory matters.

The above work is a reflection of her career to date undertaking sensitive and high profile work on a regular basis.

This work over the years has included the Prosecution of high profile professionals, which have been lined to public enquiries.

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Additionally has always been instructed in cases:

- Involving complex toxicology eg Police officer charged with Rape on female he had been asked to help; Serial Rapist buying women [who had rejected his advance] a drink as a sign of "goodwill" and then spiking it.
- Serial attacked of students in Student housing, case turned on limited scientific and "Bad Character".
- Case stayed as Abuse of Process re Suggestible Defendant [Article featured in Archbold].
- Acted for vulnerable Defendant in historic case, Defendant, formerly an engineer, as result of illness had no short term memory but good long term memory. Evidence before the jury as to the limitations of his memory. Defendant acquitted.
- Additionally she has been instructed in many serious cases involving different issues [at Grade 4] such as Robbery with facial mapping. Fraud cases with jurisdictional issues.

What the directories say

"Incredibly helpful and knowledgeable. She is very good at picking up complicated legal arguments and responding to them in a quick and effective way."

Chambers and Partners 2019 (Professional Discipline)

"Recommended for medical disciplinary cases."

Legal 500 2018 (Regulatory, Health & Safety, and Licensing)

"Approachable and thorough in her preparation." "Very experienced in some quite challenging fact scenarios. She's a very capable advocate."

Chambers & Partners 2018 (Professional Discipline)

"Very experienced in medical disciplinary matters".

Legal 500 2017 (Regulatory, Health & Safety and Licensing)

"She's really impressive, a fantastically organised advocate. She is completely on top of the information and the case as a whole." "She is very experienced and has dealt with some high-profile complex cases." "She's a big hitter - I am very comfortable instructing her on quite serious and challenging allegations."

Chambers & Partners 2017 (Professional Discipline)

"She is a very much a leading light in dealing with vulnerable patient cases and often the first choice for the really complex matters. She's a real top class performer. She's very experienced, she's seen and done everything and nothing phases her."

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Chambers & Partners 2016 (Professional Discipline)

"Specialises in medical regulatory matters."

Legal 500 2015 (Regulatory, Health & Safety, and Licensing)

"Regularly acts on behalf of the GMC in regulatory cases involving complex and technical medical evidence."

Chambers & Partners 2015 (Professional Discipline)

"Very experienced and handles some challenging cases. She is a safe pair of hands."

Chambers & Partners 2014 (Professional Discipline)

"Produces excellent advocacy, is energetic and always on top of her papers." "She has a strong track record in GMC cases concerning sexual misconduct and performance issues."

Chambers & Partners 2013 (Professional Discipline)

Appointments & Memberships

CPS Grade 4 Prosecution Panel

CPS Specialist Rape Panel

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