

Grace Forbes



Year of Call: 2015

Grace has a busy and substantial criminal practice.

She has a successful practice in criminal defence, appearing predominantly in the Crown Court. She has recently effectively defended clients accused of financial crime, the supply of class A drugs and serious violence.

Grace also has experience in conducting private prosecutions. She has recently been instructed as counsel in a number of private prosecutions involving dishonesty. She has advised on charging decisions, disclosure, the conduct of the trial, sentence and costs.

Grace has a strong practice in professional discipline, particularly in nursing and midwifery. She now predominantly defends, but she relies on the insight and experience gained from case-presenting on behalf of professional disciplinary bodies.

Grace also has experience as counsel in inquests, having represented a number of doctors and nurses appearing as Properly Interested Persons in Coroners' Courts. She contributed to a sensitive disclosure review in relation to the upcoming inquest into the Manchester Arena Bombing.

Grace has worked on a number of inquiries and investigations. She has contributed to a number complex and voluminous disclosure reviews, including on behalf of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, an individual facing a Serious Fraud Office investigation and a football club facing a FIFA investigation.

She has been recognised as an effective and skilled advocate across her practice, relying on careful attention to detail, thorough preparation and robust advocacy.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

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DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

Criminal Defence

Grace has a substantial and successful criminal defence practice, defending predominantly in the Crown Court.

She represents clients at Crown Court trials and sentencing hearings, specialising in cases involving financial crime, serious violence and the supply of Class A drugs.

She has been recognised as a calm, persuasive and robust defence advocate by Judges and clients alike. Clients feel safe in her hands.

R v K and 8 others (2018)

Grace appeared as sole counsel on behalf of a woman facing an allegation of conspiracy to commit fraud in a trial that lasted 10 weeks. The defendants were accused of being party to a boiler room fraud, totalling over £800,000. The case attracted publicity. The case required the command of a large volume of financial and documentary evidence.

R v A and 2 others (2018)

Grace appeared as sole counsel on behalf of the first defendant, accused of fraud relating to repair and construction work. The case turned on careful cross-examination of the lead Prosecution witness.

R v S (2018)

Grace appeared as sole counsel on behalf of a man accused of an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The defendant suffered from mental health problems and the case required a combination of sensitive handling of the defendant's evidence and robust challenge of the Prosecution witnesses.

R v C (2017)

Grace appeared as sole counsel on behalf of a woman accused of possession with intent to supply 2 KG of Class A and B drugs and money laundering. The drugs were found at her property. The case involved detailed legal argument about the appropriate legal directions.

Private Prosecution

Grace has a strong private prosecution practice and a broad spectrum of experience.

She has advised clients on every stage of a private prosecution, including which charges to pursue, what evidence to gather, disclosure, tactics at trial and sentence.

She has recently been instructed as counsel in a number of private prosecutions concerning allegations of serious dishonesty involving the breach of a high degree of trust.

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Professional Discipline

Grace has a significant professional discipline practice and has particular experience in cases involving nurses and midwives.

Her practice in this area is now predominantly based in defence, although she has useful experience in case presenting on behalf of professional disciplinary bodies and brings that knowledge and insight to her cases.

She has experience in cases involving allegations of clinical errors and incompetence, and is able to familiarise herself with complex medical evidence quickly.

She also has experience in cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct in a professional setting, including allegations of sharing pornography at work, sexual relationships with colleagues and inappropriate behaviour towards patients. She can draw on her experience in criminal courts to shape the conduct of such cases.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Grace has appeared in a number of inquests on behalf of Properly Interested Persons. She has represented both nurses and doctors in difficult inquests where there is a high risk of criticism of their conduct.

Grace has been praised for her tactically astute and robust representation of clients at inquests.

Inquiries & Investigations

Grace has experience in a wide range of inquiries and investigations.

She was instructed on behalf of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse ('IICSA') on a number of investigations, including disclosure reviews as part of the investigations into the Child Migration Programme, Rochdale, the Anglican Church and Bishop Peter Ball.

She appeared as junior counsel at the IICSA Inquiry Seminar on 'The Criminal Justice System'. She facilitated research into how cases of child sex abuse are dealt with by the criminal justice system and spoke at the live-streamed seminar.

Grace also contributed to a voluminous disclosure review on behalf of an individual involved in the provision of financial services who faced a Serious Fraud Office investigation.

She assisted with a sensitive disclosure exercise on behalf of a professional football club in anticipation of a FIFA investigation.

Grace was also instructed to assist with a disclosure review in relation to the upcoming Manchester Arena Bombing Inquest.

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Appointments & Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Female Fraud forum

Education & Qualifications

- 2015: Scholarship, Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association, International Internship
- 2014: Bar Professional Training Course, City Law School
- 2013: BA (Hons) Law, Queen's College, Oxford University

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