

Gudrun Young

‘Extremely talented – she is good with clients, hardworking and puts effort into everything.’
Legal 500 2019



Year of Call: 2001

020 7353 5324

Gudrun Young is a highly sought-after barrister specialising in criminal defence, inquests, serious fraud, regulatory law and professional discipline.

She is regularly instructed in the most serious and high-profile cases. Her criminal practice encompasses murder, sexual offences, organised crime, large scale drug conspiracies, inquests, money-laundering and complex fraud. She has particular expertise in conducting cases involving sexual allegations, often involving the cross examination of young or vulnerable witnesses.

In the field of professional discipline, Gudrun has represented a wide variety of professionals including teachers, nurses, doctors and dentists. She also advises in respect of related appellate proceedings in the High Court.

Gudrun is regularly instructed in coronial proceedings for both individuals and companies. Current instructions include representing a superbike racer who’s wife fell to her death from a Dubai hotel whilst they were celebrating their honeymoon and the Grand Canyon helicopter crash.

In recent years she has extended her practice to include civil personal injury litigation: her cases have included a complex occupational stress claim and one of the first “modern slavery” claims to have been litigated in the UK.

She is known to be a first-class advocate with a fierce intelligence and a meticulous eye for detail. Her preparation is impeccable and she works tirelessly on behalf of her clients. She combines this with having an approachable manner and an air of calm confidence that puts clients at ease.

Judges whom she has appeared in front of have described her as “outstanding”, “highly intelligent” and a “formidable advocate”. One who recently tried a case in which she appeared for the defence commented that she did a “fantastic job” and that her client was “superbly represented”. Another said that her closing speech to the jury was the “the best I have ever heard”.

Location

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Gudrun's rare combination of skills means that she regularly wins even the most difficult of cases. She is an advocate with a proven track record of providing exceptional representation to every one of her clients.

Gudrun Young accepts **Direct Access** instructions.

“A strong advocate with a range of experience and careful client care skills with difficult and vulnerable defendants.” – Legal 500 2017

Business Crime & Financial Services

The nature of her criminal fraud case load has given Gudrun extensive experience in matters of international corruption, large-scale investment fraud, excise duty and VAT fraud, insurance fraud and money laundering. She is also a specialist in the proceeds of crime and asset recovery and has had considerable success in successfully representing individuals in complex confiscation proceedings.

Criminal Defence

Gudrun is a highly specialised and experienced criminal defence advocate with a practice that encompasses the full spectrum of offences including murder, non-fatal violence, organised crime, money-laundering, fraud, confiscation and large scale drug conspiracies. In recent years she has appeared in a large number of murder and manslaughter cases of the utmost gravity and complexity.

She has particular expertise in conducting serious sexual cases, acting as both leading and junior counsel. She is very experienced in complex matters involving children and vulnerable witnesses and cases involving allegations of institutional and historic sexual abuse and is particularly sought after in this field.

Gudrun has also written about and lectured extensively on the subject of sexual offences.

A large amount of her work involves scientific and expert evidence requiring extensive knowledge and expertise of DNA, fibres, pathology, neuropathology, psychiatric issues and psychology. She has great skill and experience in cases involving mental health issues and expert evidence.

Cases

R v KA (2018)

Successfully defended Dr K, a trainee GP charged with one count of assault by penetration and six counts of sexual assault. He was alleged to have assaulted four different women over a nine week period. All of the allegations related to what the Crown said were “unnecessary” intimate examinations performed in the course of patient consultations. He was unanimously acquitted of all counts by the jury. Gudrun is currently representing him before the General Medical Council in related proceedings.

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R v PM (2018)

Successfully defended a well-known photographer accused of various counts of sexual assault said to have been committed against aspiring models and actresses in the course of professional photoshoots. He was unanimously acquitted of all counts after two separate trials. The case was extensively reported in the press.

R v Melia Kaya (2018)

Represented a young woman accused of causing death by dangerous driving as a result of a collision in which her younger sister was killed in an extremely sensitive and difficult case that was widely publicized.

R v Ronald Jones (2018)

Successfully defended a grandfather accused of historic familial child sex offences.

R v Patrick Brooks & Ors (2018)

Several defendants charged with the grooming, systematic abuse and rape of a vulnerable 12 year old girl with severe learning difficulties and autism. The complainant had to be cross-examined very sensitively and carefully through an intermediary. Gudrun's client was the only one to be acquitted.

R v Sothilingham & Ors (2017)

Multi-handed murder involving a complicated history of gang violence between rival Tamil gangs in London, culminating in a brutal attack in a car park involving machetes, samurai swords and axes. The defendant was acquitted of murder following a two month trial at the Central Criminal Court.

R v Stephen Watts (2017)

Successfully defended a man accused of multiple accusations of familial rape and abuse said to have been committed 50 years ago.

R v David Regan (2017)

The defendant was a respected and successful solicitor specialising in family law who was arrested following links to a notorious paedophile ring. He was accused of a large number of offences relating to the possession and distribution of images of such abuse, described in court as the most horrific and disturbing case of its kind.

R v Fen Chen & Ors (2017)

A large-scale conspiracy to launder money involving Chinese and Albanian criminal gangs involved in criminal activity on an international scale. The gang were arrested following several months of surveillance culminating in a two week period during which over £1.8 million was paid into dozens of High Street banks. Benhadir Shabani whom Gudrun represented was the only defendant to be acquitted.

R v Fiona Smith (2017)

A prison officer accused of misfeasance in a public office who was acquitted at trial, having been told by a judge that she had "no defence", following the uncovering of the fact that documents used to incriminate her had been

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tampered with by her employers.

Osman Ahmed v R (2017)

Appeal against conviction (leave having been refused by the Single Judge) on the basis that the defendant had been negligently represented at his first trial. The case raised complex issues of law concerning legal professional privilege and adverse inferences. The conviction was quashed and the appellant was subsequently acquitted at his re-trial.

R v Robert Meekoms (2016)

Successfully represented a man accused of historic sexual offences allegedly committed against his daughter who suffered from severe learning difficulties and autism.

R v Adam Johnson (2016)

Junior Counsel on behalf of Sunderland and England footballer, Adam Johnson at his trial on two charges of sexual activity with a child, relating to an incident between him and a 15 year old fan. Following a 3 week trial at Bradford Crown Court he was unanimously acquitted of the most serious charge, but convicted of a lesser charge of digital penetration. The case attracted widespread publicity in the national and international press.

R v Blaga & Ors (2015)

Multi-handed case involving numerous individuals alleged to be part of a large-scale, sophisticated criminal organisation trafficking women from Hungary to work as prostitutes in brothels throughout the United Kingdom.

R v Mirga & Ors (2015)

Multi-handed “grooming” case involving a gang who targeted vulnerable children in the Peterborough area and committed numerous offences of rape, forced prostitution and sexual assault upon a large number of girls, including one with significant learning difficulties. Represented one of the few defendants to be acquitted, who himself had learning difficulties and required the use of an intermediary.

R v Jones & Jones (2015)

Successfully represented a mother accused of complicity in horrific allegations of sexual abuse said to have been committed by her husband.

R v Vernon Quaintance (2015)

Historic allegations of abuse by multiple complainants against a senior figure within the Catholic Church dating back 40 – 50 years.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Gudrun is regularly instructed in coronial proceedings for both individuals and companies. She is a member of the

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Coroners' Inquests and Public Inquiries team in chambers and provides advice and representation in relation to these areas. Her recent experience includes representing the family of a patient who died in hospital in which a finding of neglect was made in relation to the sub-standard treatment he had received, a death in custody, and a high profile case involving a man who had committed suicide following significant failures in his psychiatric care. Gudrun is currently instructed on behalf of several care homes regarding deaths of elderly patients.

Cases

Inquest into the death of Abigail Elson

Currently instructed in ongoing inquest proceedings on behalf of superbike racer Sean Emmett in the inquest of his wife Abigail Elson, who fell to her death from a hotel room in Dubai when they were returning from their honeymoon in 2014.

Grand Canyon Helicopter Crash

Currently instructed to represent the family of Jonathan Udall, who along with his new wife and 3 of their friends was killed in a helicopter crash over the Grand Canyon whilst on honeymoon in February 2018.

Occupational Disease & Injury

Gudrun undertakes personal injury cases with a particular emphasis on occupational disease litigation, including noise induced hearing loss and stress cases. Recent cases include a complex case involving an employer of a large organisation suing a former employer for stress related psychiatric illness and one of the first "modern day slavery" cases, in which she represented a defendant company accused of trafficking workers from Lithuania and perpetrating a number of human rights abuses against them. The defendant company was widely reported in the press as being the "worst gangmaster in the UK".

Professional Discipline

Gudrun has a successful practice in the area of professional disciplinary work. She has been instructed in cases before the National College of Teaching and Leadership, the General Medical Council, the General Optical Council, the General Chiropractic Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Accreditations

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Appointments & Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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