

## Hannah Thomas



Year of Call: 2016

020 7353 5324

Hannah joined Chambers in March 2019 following the successful completion of her pupillage.

During her time in Chambers Hannah has established a busy practice, predominantly in criminal law. She also has a growing practice in the fields of professional discipline, civil asset recovery, and inquiry work.

Hannah has particular expertise in crime, having worked in the criminal team at a City solicitors' firm prior to coming to the Bar. She now prosecutes and defends in the magistrates, Youth and Crown Courts. She is a Grade 1 prosecutor and also has extensive experience conducting private prosecutions.

In her defence practice, Hannah is regularly instructed in serious matters beyond her year of call. Most notably, she has appeared in the Divisional Court in an appeal by way of case stated. Owing to her excellent client care and communication skills, Hannah is often chosen to represent clients who have vulnerabilities.

Hannah is interested in the proceeds of crime sphere. She is currently engaged in a contested confiscation matter, and regularly acts for the Government in cash forfeiture hearings.

In the professional discipline field Hannah is frequently instructed by the Nursing and Midwifery Council to present cases of all levels of seriousness and complexity before fitness to practice committees. She is often instructed in cases that are likely to raise complex issues such as human rights points, and serious allegations such as sexual misconduct.

Hannah was recently instructed as 'second junior' counsel for Ofsted in its capacity as a Core Participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. She worked on the Roman Catholic Church Investigation.

### Location

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### Contact Us

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# Criminal Defence

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Hannah has developed a wealth of experience in criminal defence covering a broad spectrum of offences. Her recent instructions include Class A drug supply, attempted GBH, benefit fraud, weapons offences, breach proceedings and confiscation proceedings.

She has experience of assisting professional clients with tactical, clear advice early in the case to achieve successful outcomes whilst avoiding the need for a lengthy trial.

Hannah is increasingly instructed in appellate work. She has successfully defended appeals in the Crown Court on a number of occasions and has also appeared in the High Court, where she was commended for her advocacy skills.

Hannah has a keen interest in assisting vulnerable defendants. In addition to mandatory vulnerable witness training, Hannah is nearing completion of specialised youth justice training to enable her to more effectively represent children charged with serious offences.

## Recent cases:

**R v SD** – SD was charged with two counts of supplying Class A drugs. The case involved extensive legal argument and the Crown was held to account for its disclosure failings. This resulted in the Crown offering no evidence on both counts, on the day of trial. Instead, a count relating to the supply of Class B drugs (which SD had always admitted) was added to the Indictment. He was sentenced on that basis alone.

**R v LO** – LO pleaded guilty to benefit fraud. Following detailed analysis of the figures, representations were made to the Local Authority and the total 'loss' was reduced by £15,000. LO received a suspended sentence of imprisonment.

**R v DS** – DS was charged with the second breach of a non-molestation order taken out against her by her son. The defence of reasonable excuse was successfully run at trial and DS was acquitted.

**R v OGV** – OGV had pleaded guilty to possession of a knife, whilst in breach of a suspended sentence order for possession of two offensive weapons. This triggered a statutory minimum sentence of 6 months' imprisonment. The Judge was persuaded to not activate the suspended sentence and also to suspend the statutory sentence of imprisonment.

**R v YK** – YK successfully appealed to the Crown Court against his conviction for driving whilst using a mobile telephone.

# Private Prosecution

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Hannah has a keen interest in private prosecution work, having conducted over 10 successful private

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prosecutions.

Recent instructions include the successful prosecution of a market trader selling counterfeit goods, who asserted that his ignorance of the nature of the goods was a defence. The case was won following successful legal argument on that point. The private prosecutor was granted their prosecution costs from central funds, and a significant proportion of their investigation costs from the defendant.

## Professional Discipline

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Hannah acts for the Nursing and Midwifery Council ('NMC') in all manner of hearings, from interim order panels, to contested fitness to practise hearings, to final order reviews.

Hannah is often instructed in cases that involve serious or complex issues, such as allegations of sexual misconduct, force-feeding patients, and dishonesty.

### Recent cases:

**NMC v SB** – Nurse charged with sexual misconduct against female colleagues. The fitness to practice committee made the decision to strike him from the register.

**NMC v SM** – Sensitive case involving a midwife charged with misconduct relating to mandatory record-keeping where a baby had died.

**NMC v BS** – Nurse charged with allegations of incompetence, misconduct and lack of English language proficiency. Hannah successfully defended a submission that a lack of English language proficiency could not impair fitness to practice in relation to a nurse who did not have to meet the new statutory scheme at the time of her registration.

## Inquests & Public Inquiries

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Hannah was recently seconded part-time to Ofsted in its capacity as a Core Participant in the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ('IICSA').

Hannah was instructed as 'second junior' counsel. She worked as part of a team reviewing documents disclosed by the Inquiry in the Roman Catholic Church investigation, analysing risk and themes, and assisting first junior and lead counsel in preparation for the Inquiry hearing.

## Public Prosecution

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Hannah is a Grade 1 prosecutor. She has been instructed by the CPS to prosecute both in the magistrates and Crown Courts. Hannah has also represented the CPS in an appeal against conviction in the Crown Court, successfully defending the conviction.

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Hannah frequently represents HMRC in civil cash forfeiture cases, providing advice and conducting contested hearings.

## Accreditations

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- Criminal Bar Association Bursary Award 2017 – Excellence in Advocacy
- Mona de Piro Prize, Middle Temple Major Scholarship (2015)
- Postgraduate Scholarship, City University London (2015)
- Future Lawyer Excellence Award, City University London (2014)

## Appointments & Memberships

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- Women in Criminal Law (2019)
- Government Legal Department Junior Junior Scheme (2018)
- CPS Advocate Panel: Level 1
- Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)
- Criminal Bar Association (CBA)
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association (YFLA)

## Education & Qualifications

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- Bar Professional Training Course, City University London (2015-2016)
- Graduate Diploma in Law, City University London (2014-2015)
- BSc Psychology (First Class Hons), Warwick University

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