

Narita Bahra QC

‘A very capable and formidable advocate who is incredibly hardworking and tenacious.’
Legal 500 2018



Year of Call: 1997 QC: 2019

020 7353 5324

Narita is one of the most sought after and able leading defence barristers. She has cemented a reputation as a barrister who can skillfully deal with the most difficult of cases. Her excellent track record, high success rate and commitment to human rights make her the leading choice in high profile cases.

Narita has extensive trial experience. She has established a reputation for meticulous preparation, mastery of detail, effective cross-examination, jury rapport and excellent client relations. Her language skills and experience of handling cases involving an international jurisdiction make her a highly recommended Silk.

Recognised and ranked as a persuasive and fearless premier league advocate by professionals, lay clients and legal directories.

Narita regularly appears on [Sky News](#) and [BBC news](#) as a legal correspondent and is a regular author and contributor to legal journals.

Narita accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

“She has excellent strategic oversight, particularly in multi-handed cases.” – Legal 500 2016

Criminal Defence

Narita has an established defence practice focusing on terrorism, murder, organised crime (including overseas drug cartels, firearms and armed robberies) and serious sexual offences.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

Narita's expertise and reputation as an artful tactician who achieves successful results has merited instruction as counsel of choice by both professional and lay clients in private and legally aided serious and complex criminal cases. She is experienced in cross-examining expert witnesses, jury handling, identifying inadequacies in the prosecution case and challenging non-disclosure.

Narita is respected as a Silk who leaves "no stone unturned" in the forensic preparation and presentation of her client's case.

Narita advises and appears in significant criminal appeals. She provides clear and focused oral and written advice to both lay and professional clients. Narita has appeared before the Special Court and is currently instructed to seek adjudication upon a point of law in the European Court of Human Rights.

Cases

R v Bosoanca

Narita led Fiona Robertson in this case. Cristina Bosoanca was accused of trafficking her best friend from Cyprus to the UK, via Romania, and forcing her to work as a prostitute. The prosecution offered no evidence on all counts on the indictment faced by Narita and Fiona's client. The CPS failed to disclose vital evidence until 17 days into the trial, leading HHJ Perrins to order an inquiry. Bosoanca had spent 13 months in prison, during which time she gave birth to a son with a genetic disorder.

R v Krzyzyk

Krzyzyk was cleared of sexually assaulting a woman in a Mayfair night club last year. The case was overturned following the release of vital CCTV evidence. The case gained national coverage after the police failed to hand over vital security video footage until the first day of trial. The victim had alleged that she was hysterical and crying after the alleged assault, however the recording showed her continuing to drink and chat with friends. The footage, which was described as containing 'nothing of interest' by police ultimately led the jury to reach a 'not guilty' majority verdict.

R v KJ

Narita Bahra acted as lead Junior for a client who was charged with an array of Money Laundering, Fraud, supply of class A drugs and cultivation of class B drugs offences. Narita and the defence team succeeded in maneuvering the prosecution into a position where they had to offer no evidence on the main conspiracy to money launder offence, class A drug offences and a substantive money laundering allegation at the outset of the case. This resulted in the defence severing the client and her husband from the four co-defendants and thereby removing any links or associations with class A drugs. Evidence of class B drugs found at co-defendant's premises were successfully argued to be inadmissible.

R v Mehmood

Narita represented Mehmood in a three million pound drugs conspiracy. The prosecution alleged that Mehmood played a leading role in the conspiracy by providing drugs to co-conspirators during a drought resulting from police closing down respective drugs factories.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

R v GO

Narita represented a client faced with a forty-six count Indictment, alleging an array of rapes and sexual offences against two step children. Legal argument successfully resulted in the Court directing that the number of counts to be tried before the jury be reduced to twenty-four.

R v TU

Narita and **Harry Bentley** represented 1 of 16 defendants allegedly involved in four shootings that took place in Bedford on 8th July 2017. Their client was acquitted of firearms charges and the prosecution did not seek a retrial after a hung jury on the conspiracy charge.

R v

R v WD

Narita's client ran a renowned Holistic Energy Healing Service. He contended that his holistic healing focused on all aspects of a person, not just the physical portion where ailments were most obvious. He sought to alleviate physical symptoms by using energy to address the imbalance in his client's system.

R v Mr S

Narita lead **Christopher Ware** in a child sexual exploitation and historic grooming case in which six defendants from Diego-Garcia, were tried on a fourteen count indictment including allegations of gang rape, sexual activity with a child and supplying drugs. The six child witnesses were school girls aged between 13 and 15 years at the time of the alleged offences. Intermediaries were utilised to assist the complainants. The client was the only defendant who faced allegations made by three complainants.

The case involved complex strategic and tactical decisions which enabled successful arguments to be mounted, which identified significant flaws in the prosecution disclosure exercise and its impact on the integrity of the investigation and trial.

This resulted in the prosecution taking the unusual step of offering no evidence on all counts, prior to the close of the prosecution case.

R v Bailey

Narita secured an acquittal of three counts of Fraud and three counts of theft for her client, the Personal Assistant to Barbara Broccoli, Producer of James Bond, and employee of EON Enterprises Limited. Due to a number of disclosure failures over three years of investigation, the prosecution offered no evidence and not guilty verdicts were entered on the entire indictment.

R v Rana [December 2015]

Leading **Harry Bentley**, Narita secured an unanimous acquittal for their client, who was one of seven defendants tried for Conspiracy to Commit Violent Disorder. The case was prosecuted by appointed Treasury Counsel, due to the sensitive religious, cultural and political aspects involved.

It was alleged that violence was planned as revenge in the United Kingdom as a direct retaliation against the

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

followers of those who had desecrated the Sikh holy scriptures in Punjab, India previously over an eighteen month period. The defence team's instruction of experts enabled the successful exclusion of damaging material. Their client's case was distinct from all other co-defendants and therefore, involved exercising judgement and "nerves of steel" in the forensic analysis and presentation of the case.

R v Hill [2015]

Narita secured the unanimous acquittal of an Assistant Headteacher charged with six sexual offences. The case took over 26 months to complete due to novel and complex legal argument, relating to challenging Computer Expert Evidence. The Court ruled in favour of the defence submissions, which challenged the reliability and means by which the alleged images had been obtained and attributed. The jury acquitted of the remaining sexual offence allegation in less than 10 minutes at the retrial.

R v Boureanu

Narita Bahra was instructed to lead on behalf of the first defendant in a multi handed Human Trafficking and Controlling Prostitution case. The Crown's case was that Narita's client was the main organiser for arranging and facilitating the transfer of complainants from Eastern Europe to the UK, where they were then forced to into employment as sex workers. The case involved obtaining and challenging disclosure from International jurisdictions. Narita was allocated the sensitive and skilful task of undertaking the issue of admissibility and the bulk of cross-examination of the complainants by the Trial Judge, in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Rules and vulnerable witness safeguards. The case involved challenging disclosure, cell site and DNA expert evidence.

Graff Diamond Robbery

Narita was instructed as Leading junior for the fourth defendant in the largest diamond heist in British history [£40 million] at Graff Jewellers, Mayfair. The case rested on expert evidence of face recognition, APNR and cell site. The case received National media coverage.

R v Phipps

The Crown alleged that the client had attempted to Murder the complainant by carrying out a savage and ferocious stabbing and then leaving the complainant for dead. The case was tried before the Resident Judge at Stafford Crown Court. Narita successfully cross-examined twenty eye witnesses who were present at the time of the alleged stabbing. The jury acquitted the twenty one year old male in less than an hour.

R v Chohan

Narita was instructed to defend the only sixteen year old in a twenty defendant Class A Drugs Conspiracy. The prosecution alleged this was an established and large-scale operation spanning over two years. Narita's client was placed in a significant role and was often stopped with thousands of pounds of cash and observed by police plugging drugs.

Narita was selected as Counsel of choice based on her experience and understanding of problems faced by vulnerable youths in the Crown Court and her knowledge of specialist provisions and considerations for these individuals.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

Narita identified that her client was suggestible and easily influenced by authority and adults. An Educational Psychologist and Psychiatrist were instructed and issues of suggestibility and duress were advanced. Consideration was given to whether the client required the aid of an intermediary to aid his communication. This enabled her vulnerable client to participate effectively in the court process and receive a fair trial.

The Police's failure to acknowledge developmental differences between Narita's client and the adults co-defendants during all the searches and interrogation context was a live issue in the trial. Narita was able to demonstrate the strengths and limitations of a youth's memory, their communicative capacities, their social styles and orientation to adult questioners, and their susceptibility to suggestion.

Business Crime & Financial Services

Narita has extensive experience in complex fraud and money laundering cases. Noted for handling fraud cases with an international dimension, particularly in South East Asia. Narita excels at distilling and explaining complex factual matrices to both clients and juries in a concise and clear manner.

Her areas of expertise include:

- Anti-competitive conduct (cartels, market abuse, insider dealing)
- Civil/commercial fraud
- Fraudulent trading
- Mortgage fraud
- Money laundering
- Revenue fraud
- VAT/MTIC fraud

Narita is recognised as having vast and practical knowledge of the increasing prosecutions involving the Hawala banking system (an alternative unregulated remittance system running in parallel with the established regulated banking system). It is legal in some jurisdictions but illegal in others.

This is coupled with an excellent knowledge of ancillary proceedings, such as criminal confiscation, asset forfeiture and restraint law.

Narita is increasingly instructed in quasi-criminal and regulatory proceedings. She represents professionals such as accountants, financial advisors and solicitors, as well as senior executives, facing charges relating to dishonesty or corruption in business practices.

Cases

HMRC v LM

Narita led **Chris Ware** and **Joshua Carey** to defend a complex and unusual joint HMRC and Police investigation in which it was alleged that tax evasion emanated from mobile phone theft through companies. This involved consideration of a vast amount of evidence and complex issues of taxation law as well as the Crown Court's

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

jurisdiction to interfere with and decide matters that ordinarily fall solely to be determined by the First-tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber).

HMRC v PL

Narita's client was a businessman, charged alongside 10 co-defendants with being knowingly involved in a conspiracy to evade excise duty on diesel fuel on a large national scale. The HMRC investigation of these allegations spanned over four years. Laundering involved red diesel, meant for use by agricultural and other off-road vehicles. To help farmers, the tax on this type of fuel is much lower than on regular diesel and it's dyed red and treated with chemicals so that it can be easily detected. The prosecution alleged that red diesel was stolen in huge quantities and then a variety of methods were deployed to launder, eradicate the red dye and other chemical markers, including filtering the coloured fuel through charcoal or more bizarrely cat litter. The case collapsed following disclosure failings.

R v O

The prosecution alleged that Narita's client was one of three males who played a Leading role in this serious organised offence, involving eight co-defendants. The organisation unwittingly used Easyworld International Money Exchange Bureaus to launder in excess of £78 million. The police uncovered a factory based in London at which the funds were being laundered.

Narita was able to limit her client's accepted involvement to a figure below £1.5 million.

Operation Kadenza

Narita acted for Z who was a Barclays employee. The Crown alleged that he had opened 144 fraudulent accounts enabling over three million pounds to be laundered, as well as passing on sensitive details to those committing the Cyber Fraud in Operation Kadenza in excess of £113 million.

After 2 years the prosecution offered no evidence and Not Guilty verdicts were entered on two counts of conspiracy to defraud and money launder in the main Operation Kadenza Fraud, as the Prosecution were unable to substantiate the tenuous link between the main conspirators and Narita's client.

Z pleaded guilty to one count of entering into an arrangement which facilitated the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property, contrary to section 328 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, limiting his involvement to £1.5 million pounds.

R v Chaudhari

Narita and **Joshua Carey** instructed to represent a Director in a European Union Match Funding Conspiracy to Defraud in excess of a million pounds. The client, along with her brother and his former Director, are accused of having conspired to commit fraud against the Home Office by preparing paperwork to demonstrate implementation of learning activities for third country nationals to assist in integrating them into the community for which the Home Office would provide grants to facilitate those activities.

R v G

Narita secures an acquittal for client charged with Money Laundering in excess £500 000. Unusually, Narita was

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

instructed three years post charge and after four previous defence teams. Deploying an understanding of Islamic Banking (Sharia compliant finance) and instructing a Forensic Accountant successfully enabled the jury to understand and identify gaps in the complex prosecution case.

Sharia prohibits acceptance of specific interest or fees for loans of money, whether the payment is fixed or floating. Sharia compliant UK financial institutions, which have been growing faster than banking assets as a whole, played a significant role in the trial.

R v Shah

Defended in an eight handed Conspiracy to commit visa fraud. The case involved eight defendants charged with a multi million pound fraud emanating from hiding assets via money loops to misuse the visa application system. The case involved cross-examining forensic accountants. Narita successfully prevented the Crown from seeking to add additional counts at the outset of the Trial and successfully defended the Crown's application to Voluntary Bill these additional charges in the High Court. This case involved a series of public interest immunity applications.

R v Champaneri

Narita as leading counsel defended the first defendant in a nineteen handed conspiracy to commit fraud at Southwark Crown Court. The case related to abusing protection offered by Banks and Credit Card companies. The Crown alleged that Narita's client was the orchestrator and puppeteer of the conspiracy. Narita was instructed imminently prior to the commencement of the trial. The case involved mastering in excess of 26 000 pages of evidence and anticipating the cut -throat defences run on behalf of many co-defendants. Narita was required to undertake careful consideration of the strength of the evidence and tactical decisions regarding the approach to be adopted regarding presentation of the case. Cross-examination of forensic accountants and expert witnesses was undertaken.

R v Shah & Mehrpoor

Narita was instructed as junior Counsel to Martin Hicks QC in what was described by the Serious Organised Crime Agency as, "*The largest importation of heroin into the United Kingdom from the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan and Afghanistan*". The client was described as "an international drug smuggler of the highest order". The street value of the drugs was in excess of £103.2 million and money-laundering allegations against the client were valued at £12 million. A Hawala defence was advanced at trial which set out that their client's financial affairs represented legitimate financial transactions executed in the form of Hawala banking. Narita worked very closely with the expert witnesses who conceded they were dealing with novel issues of banking and law in this case.

R v Sakha

This ten defendant case involved a conspiracy to defraud the Oxfordshire Police and Pervert the Course of Justice. The Prosecution unusually offered no evidence against Narita's client at the conclusion of her evidence in chief and prior to cross- examination commencing. The trial continued for all other co-defendants. This unusual outcome was according to the trial judge "*as a result of Miss Bahra's dogged and skillful approach to disclosure*".

R v Poole

Defended the finance director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra of a fraud in excess of 2.3 million pounds and dealt with all ancillary confiscation matters.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

Accreditations



Appointments & Memberships

- 2015/2016: Female Fraud Lawyers Forum Committee Member
- 2015: Winner of the Excellence in Law Award
- CPS Panel Advocate
- Contributor to Lincoln's Inn Educational Programme Advocacy Tutor
- Criminal Bar Association
- Member of selection panel (Lincoln's Inn Bar Scholarship Awards)
- Publicity Officer for the Female Fraud Forum
- South Eastern Circuit
- Society of Asian Lawyers
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- City Sikhs Advisory Board

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane