

Sarah Przybylska

"A very experienced junior who has a nice manner in and out of court."
"Very elegant, calm and measured."
Chambers UK 2021



Year of Call: 2006

020 7353 5324

Sarah Przybylska's work encompasses advice and advocacy across professional discipline, fraud, crime, and public law. She was appointed as Treasury Counsel in 2020.

Notable recent instructions include prosecuting the Finsbury Park mosque attack and acting on behalf of the Medical Defence Union at the Infected Blood Inquiry.

Sarah is instructed as leading counsel and as junior to Queen's Counsel, as well as to act alone. She has a reputation for excellent advocacy backed up by careful preparation and a keen intellect. She provides training to professionals including medical and dental experts and investigators.

Sarah accepts **Direct Access** instructions.

What others say:

"A very experienced junior who has a nice manner in and out of court." "Very elegant, calm and measured." – Chambers UK 2021

"A very good cross-examiner. She is very concise and incisive when questioning witnesses." – Chambers UK 2021

"An excellent advocate, she is very impressive and makes good judgements in how the case is presented and handles the client, witnesses and the panel well. An excellent choice of counsel." – Legal 500 UK 2021

Location

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“Her cross-examination of one of the defendants was rigorous and detailed, but carried out in an understated but highly effective manner.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“She is very well prepared, provides prompt and detailed advice and is extremely able in her advocacy. Clients respond well to her.” – Chambers UK 2020

“Ferociously intelligent and fearless. She provides sensible, pragmatic advice and is well liked by corporate clients.” – Chambers UK 2020

“Detail-oriented and has a wonderful manner with clients.” – Legal 500 2020

“Tenacious and firm in advocacy without alienating those who she is addressing.” – Legal 500 2020

“The complete package: devastatingly efficient and effective.” – Legal 500 2019

“Thorough, clear and able to get to grips with complex issues quickly.” – Chambers & Partners 2019

“An excellent lawyer” – Chambers & Partners 2019

“A consummate professional: charming, courteous and engaging to work with.” – Legal 500 2019

“Efficient, brave and committed to achieving the best outcome for her clients. A terrific advocate with a clear, commercial and user-friendly approach to advice. She possesses a talent well beyond her year of call.” – Chambers UK 2018

“Hard-working and highly skilled.” – Chambers UK 2018

“Good on the detail and a team player, she is everything you could want from a junior.” – Chambers UK 2018 “You can’t pull the wool over her eyes.” – Chambers UK 2018

“Efficient, brave and committed to achieving the best outcome for her clients. A terrific advocate with a clear, commercial and user-friendly approach to advice. She possesses a talent well beyond her year of call.” – Chambers UK 2018

“Calm under pressure.” – Chambers UK 2018

“A senior junior with authoritative knowledge of regulatory law; she gets fantastic results.” – Chambers UK 2017

“Straightforward, responsive, pragmatic and clear with advice.” – Legal 500 2017

“She gets the measure of clients quickly, and gives a true insight into how the prosecution will think.” – Legal 500 2017

“Knowledgeable, responsive, thorough and adaptable.” – Legal 500 2016

“A pleasure to work with.” – Legal 500 2016

“She is very bright and recognises the most obscure points and uses them to her client’s advantage,

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with excellent results.” – Chambers UK 2017

“Sarah Przybylska has risen to prominence at an astonishingly young age. Extremely capable, she has won the support of many senior professional clients, one of whom said: ‘Those more senior at the Bar should beware!’” – Chambers UK 2017

“She is succinct and efficient both in writing and as an advocate.” – Chambers UK 2016

“Fast developing her reputation and experience, she has sound knowledge of the law and shows good judgment when running cases.” – Chambers UK 2016

Business Crime & Financial Services

In business crime Sarah has extensive experience of pre-charge advice and a wide range of criminal proceedings.

- She is regularly instructed to advise corporate clients on a confidential basis on their potential exposure in matters relating to fraud and financial regulation.
- She has represented individuals accused of large-scale money laundering and conspiracy to defraud employers.
- She has advised companies in relation to VAT and tax liability.
- She acts for the CPS Specialist Fraud Division in cases of VAT and tax evasion.

Notable Cases:

- Advising (with Jonathan Laidlaw QC) the Bank of England in connection with its investigation into the role of Bank officials in relation to issues arising from the 2008 banking crisis;
- Advising a major investment company on the merits of a private prosecution against a former client following misrepresentations made in civil proceedings;
- Defending multi-million pound allegations of conspiracy to defraud and breach of duty made against a company’s financial and legal advisers.

Criminal Defence

Sarah is regularly instructed alone to defend in cases of fraud, drug trafficking and rape. She has recently been led in cases including allegations of murder, cocaine importation and human trafficking.

- She has defended in cases of significant complexity requiring careful handling of both clients and witnesses.
- Her written advocacy is first rate; her ‘elegant’ and ‘economical’ drafting has been recognised by the Court of Appeal.

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- She is particularly sought-after in cases where complex disclosure issues are likely to arise owing to the very extensive experience she has gained from her prosecution work.

Notable Cases:

R v HD

The defendant was the partner of a man who orchestrated a series of burglaries of high-end jewellers. After a lengthy surveillance operation she was charged with conspiracy to handle stolen goods and proceeds of crime offences.

R v KS

The defendant was prosecuted for joint enterprise murder arising from a gang-related stabbing over a drug debt.

R v JU

Represented the lead defendant in a multi-handed case of sex trafficking and repeated rape of a thirteen-year-old girl.

R v AF

Represented a woman charged with perjury and perverting the course of justice after allegedly lying on oath in a murder trial to protect a relative.

R v TF

Represented a child prostitute charged with inciting child prostitution after encouraging a friend to come and work with her at the behest of her pimp. Indictment stayed for abuse of process.

Criminal Regulatory

Sarah has experience in a wide range of quasi-criminal areas.

- She is instructed in health and safety litigation, including fatality cases, where her ability to assimilate large volumes of material has proved invaluable. She has applied her academic prowess and the tactical awareness forged in her prosecution practice to good effect.
- She has a strong advisory practice, often dealing with confidential matters of the utmost sensitivity. She has recently advised private clients on their potential exposure in areas including corporate fraud, Advertising Standards Authority investigations, overseas mercenary activities, the obligations of landlords of houses in multiple occupancy, and the reading of employees' private emails.

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Notable Cases:

R v Osborne

Prosecution of Darren Osborne who drove a van into a group of people outside the Muslim Welfare House in Finsbury Park last June, killing Makram Ali, 51, and injuring many others. Osborne was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 43 years following his convictions for murder and attempted murder.

R v Rooftop Rooms

Prosecuted a company, its directors and the site foreman for manslaughter and health and safety offences following the death of an apprentice.

Project A

Advised a client who was subject to an Interpol Red Notice following the institution of a politically motivated prosecution in their home country. The Red Notice was removed.

Project Q

Advised a high-profile couple on entering into a surrogacy arrangement overseas.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Sarah is regularly instructed in coronial proceedings for both professionals and companies. She has appeared in major inquests including the Infected Blood Inquiry, 7/7 inquest and was instructed to represent the Attorney General of Jersey in the Independent Jersey Care Inquiry. Her sensitive and user-friendly approach has won the praise of solicitors and the confidence of the professionals she represents.

Notable Cases:

Infected Blood Inquiry

Instructed by the Medical Defence Union to represent a series of senior clinicians giving evidence to the Inquiry in relation to the treatment of people with haemophilia in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

Independent Jersey Care Inquiry

Represented the interests of the Attorney General and current and former Law Officers in the Inquiry into the alleged abuse of children in state care in Jersey.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Advised a national charity on disclosure and provision of evidence to the Inquiry.

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Inquest into the death of X

Represented a doctor who supplied controlled drugs to a friend who then choked to death. Finding of death by misadventure.

Inquest into the death of Y

Represented a GP who treated an elderly woman who died in circumstances suggestive of neglect. Narrative finding with no criticism of the doctor.

Inquest into the death of Q

Represented a dentist whose patient bled to death following an extraction. Narrative finding with no criticism of the dentist.

Private Prosecution

Sarah is instructed by individuals and corporate clients to advise on the merits of private prosecutions and regularly lectures on the subject.

- Her 'succinct and effective' written advocacy makes her an obvious choice for drafting persuasive submissions to secure a summons.
- Her public prosecution experience is invaluable in drafting appropriate disclosure protocols for use in private prosecutions.
- She has a detailed knowledge of prosecution policy and procedure.

Notable Cases:

Project X

Detail Advising an international investment company on the prospects of pursuing a private prosecution against a former client following misrepresentations made by them in civil proceedings.

Project Y

Detail Advising on the prospects of a private prosecution for fraud in the context of a dispute between construction companies.

Project Z

Advising a high-net-worth individual on the possibility of pursuing a private prosecution following a civil settlement.

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Public Prosecution

Sarah was appointed as Treasury Counsel in 2020. She is a grade 4 advocate and is appointed to the serious crime group panel, terrorism panel and rape panel. She is instructed as leading counsel and as junior to Queen's Counsel, as well as acting alone.

Her prosecution practice is focussed upon serious, complex, organised and sensitive crime. She is regularly instructed to prosecute cases of murder, people trafficking, fraud, firearms, drug importation and rape. Sarah is regularly instructed in multi-defendant and multi-offence cases, often prosecuting Organised Crime Networks (OCNs), following a proactive investigation. She is familiar with the investigative techniques deployed by specialist police teams and is adept at dealing with surveillance evidence, telephone data, cell site and attribution, complex scientific evidence, the obtaining and use of evidence from abroad, and bad character evidence in the context of gang prosecutions and otherwise.

Given the nature of her practice, Sarah has advised upon and routinely deals with extremely sensitive disclosure issues. She has particular expertise in PII and the handling of sensitive material relating to investigative techniques and third party disclosure issues. Sarah is security cleared.

Sarah has also prosecuted on behalf of the Specialist Fraud Division and other CPS CCUs in matters relating to VAT and tax fraud (see Business Crime Section) and is experienced in dealing with matters relating to Proceeds of Crime and confiscation, recently advising the CPS East of England Proceeds of Crime Team in relation to a restraint issue.

Sarah appears regularly in the Court of Appeal, acting in her own cases, for the Attorney General and on discrete instructions from the Appeals Unit.

Notable Cases:

R v Osborne

Prosecuted Finsbury Park attacker Darren Osborne who ran over a group of Muslims returning from prayers during Ramadan. Osborne was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 43 years following his convictions for murder and attempted murder.

R v Vyas (ongoing)

Instructed to prosecute a man accused of serial rape and murder in Walthamstow in 2009.

R v Yenge & others

Prosecuted a six-defendant gang murder trial lasting four months, the largest murder case ever tried at Ipswich Crown Court.

<https://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/crime-court/barking-drug-dealer-denies-role-in-tavis-spencer-aitkens-death-1-5884234>

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R v Ben-Sghaier & others

Prosecuted six defendants for involvement in a large-scale boiler room fraud targeted at elderly people, whereby many parted with hundreds of thousands of pounds.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/billericay-town-cheerleader-trial-accused-11153265>

R v Slepčik & others (Operation Svanetia)

Prosecuted a network of Slovakian traffickers for bringing women from Eastern Europe to the UK for the purposes of sham marriage and prostitution.

R v Rooftop Rooms

Prosecuted a company, its directors and the site foreman for manslaughter and health and safety offences following the death of an apprentice.

R v Acourt & Others

Prosecuted Jamie and Neil Acourt, who were accused but not convicted of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, for conspiracy to supply controlled drugs following a two-year surveillance operation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/12/ex-stephen-lawrence-suspect-neil-acourt-repay-drugs-plot-court>

Professional Discipline

Sarah has been ranked by the professional directories as a leading barrister in this field since she was six years' call.

- Sarah has an extensive and varied practice in professional regulation, representing individuals from farriers to sea captains.
- She represents healthcare professionals who face proceedings brought by their regulators. She represents such clients on appeal and in related proceedings in the criminal and coroner's courts.
- She also acts for a number of healthcare regulators and has considerable experience supervising and coordinating complex investigations (including a number of cases arising from the closure of the Winterbourne View Care Home).
- She has an excellent track record in drafting successful written representations to case examiners on discontinuance of charges.
- She has a developing practice in sports regulation. She has ridden since childhood and married into a farming family, which has led to a particular interest in equestrian and veterinary

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matters, and those touching on rural affairs more generally.

Notable Cases:

Oil Companies International Marine Forum v Captain PS

Represented a sea captain and accredited vessel inspector accused of breaching OCIMF rules on the inspection of oil container ships. Panel found no case to answer on the facts.

General Dental Council v M

Represented a dentist accused of serious failings in relation to the treatment of 25 patients over 15 years. Panel found no case to answer on the facts in relation to all but record-keeping charges, in relation to which no impairment was found.

General Medical Council v P

Represented a doctor accused of misconduct in relation to behaviour in his private life, which had no bearing on his professional activities nor did it require proceedings in the public interest. Case closed with no action following submissions to the case examiners.

British Horseracing Authority v M

Represented a trainer accused of deliberately racing a horse which had been operated on to numb a foot permanently. Limited factual findings made against the trainer leading to an unusually short period of disqualification.

General Medical Council v O

Successfully appealed the GMC's decision to refused registration of a foreign surgeon suspected of falsifying documents in support of his application.

General Dental Council v P

Represented a dentist accused of dishonesty and clinical failings. Dishonesty charges dismissed; Panel found no misconduct in relation to the remaining charges.

Sports Law

Sarah advises and represents clients in relation to a range of sporting matters. She has a particular interest in equine sport and has a good understanding of specialist equine veterinary matters, having represented clients at the British Horseracing Authority, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Farriers' Registration Council. She has advised on the de-nerving of racehorses and alleged anti-doping. Sarah's demonstrable expertise in disciplinary matters and her detailed knowledge of the criminal disclosure regime make her a natural choice for sporting disciplinary matters and areas of crossover between sports and criminal law.

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Accreditations



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Appointments & Memberships

- Junior Treasury Counsel 2020
- ATC Advocacy Trainer
- Grade 4 CPS Prosecutor
- CPS Serious Crime Group Specialist Panel Level 4
- CPS Rape Panel

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- CPS Terrorism Panel Level 3
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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