MINKA BRAUN

Called 2000

Practice

Minka has a highly successful, exclusive defence practice. She has been instructed in cases alleging the full spectrum of serious offences including terrorism, murder, fraud, rape, large-scale drug importation, violent disorder and people smuggling. She is also frequently instructed directly by the Court of Appeal.

Minka Braun is associated with the following areas of expertise:

Crime
Fraud & Financial Litigation
Human Rights
Restraint, Confiscation & Asset Recovery

Cases

Homicide

- **R v Nixon –** Junior counsel in manslaughter case where the deceased, after having been struck to the ground by the defendant, was run over by a passing car. The case involved careful analysis of causation and raised issues of novus actus. An acquittal was secured in this highly charged trial.
- **R v Edrich** - Junior counsel in spousal murder case where complex issues of fitness to plead arose.
- **R v Ramirez & Others** - Junior counsel in 'brandy bottle murder' case where drug barons punished a drugs runner for perceived disloyalty by beating him to death.

Organised Violence

- **R v Mohammed & Others** - Represented the first of four brothers accused and subsequently acquitted of grievous bodily harm. It was alleged that the brothers had avenged their father's honour outside their Mosque.
- **R v Stevens & Others** - Secured from the jury their only acquittal in a complex, nine-handed, grievous bodily harm trial.
- **R v Ngwendema & Others** - Junior counsel in a multi-handed conspiracy to kidnap and falsely imprison the 14-year-old brother of a rival gang member.
- **R v Larman & Others** - A successful submission of no case to answer was made in this five-handed, grievous bodily harm trial.
- **R v Lokko & Others** - This multi-handed, gang-related, youth, robbery trial involved complex legal argument relating to identification evidence.

Violent Disorder

- **R v Cregan & Others** – Counsel for first of 28 defendants alleged to be anti-fascist activists involved in organized violence against neo-fascists attending a far-Right music event.
- **R v Moore & Others** – Acted for Tottenham supporter alleged to have been involved in organized football violence.
- **R v Meachen & Others** – Trial of Chelsea supporter alleged to have been involved in organized football violence.
- **R v Dedier & Others –** Case alleging a conspiracy to commit serious violence during August 2011.

Fraud

- **R v Brogan & Another** - Leading counsel for the first defendant in a large benefit fraud case. The case involved a 5-day fitness to plead hearing relating to the defendant's serious mental impairment.
- **R v Maughan & Others** – Counsel for the first of five defendants facing allegations of conspiracy to launder the proceeds of crime. Acquittals secured on all counts.

Sexual Offences

- **R v Khan** - Allegations of marital rape necessitated careful and sensitive analysis of Sharia law. Acquittals were secured on each count.
- **R v Barry** - A submission of no case to answer was upheld in a trial alleging historic rape.
- **R v Allen** - Historic allegations of indecency against children and more recent allegations of possession of indecent computer images resulted in acquittals in all subsequent trials.
- **R v Squires** - The cross-examination of a 7-year-old child with mental health difficulties was necessary in this case which alleged serious indecency against children. Sentence was halved on the subsequent appeal.
- **R v Hylton** - Allegations of sexual assault were made against a defendant who was profoundly deaf and without speech. The use of a deaf cultural expert, along with legal arguments relating to the accommodation necessary to secure a fair trial for this defendant ensured he was acquitted on all counts.

Drugs Offences

- **R v Rogers & Another** – Acquittal secured for a serving soldier alleged to have imported more than 30 kilos of cannabis into the UK. The trial involved a cut-throat defence with a serving soldier suffering with PTSD following deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **R v Jojart** - Acquittals were secured in a case alleging conspiracy to import a large quantity of class B drugs.
- **R v Head & Another** - Acquittals were secured in a cut-throat trial case alleging the importation of a large quantity of class A drugs.

- **R v Brown** - Acquittal secured in case alleging the large-scale importation of Class C drugs.
- **R v Masson** – This case related to130 kilos of cannabis imported into the country in a grand piano.

Other Offences

- **R v Muhid & Others** - Junior counsel for one of eight defendants in 'Al-Qaeda fundraising' trial. The case involved careful analysis of speeches made by defendants in a mosque, along with consideration of the permitted parameters of free speech and the right to manifest religious belief.
- **R v Pun and Others** - Junior counsel in lengthy trial alleging a conspiracy to facilitate the breach of immigration law.
- **R v Torto** - Junior counsel in the 'bogus college case' involving a sophisticated people-smuggling ring.
- **R v Winter** - Case of causing death by dangerous driving with multiple fatalities required analysis of numerous technical expert reports.
- **R v Leo** - An allegation of arson with intent to endanger life was made against a severely mentally disordered defendant. An acquittal was secured following trial.

Reported Cases

- **R v Nwadinobi** [2009] EWCA Crim 1006: The Court of Appeal upheld the submission that a direction must be given that time spent in custody should count toward sentence, unless the court forms the opinion (on the basis of material before it) that it is just in all the circumstances not to give such a direction.
- **R v Tullett** [2011] EWCA Crim 2803: The terms of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order were too wide and Draconian in prohibiting unsupervised contact with children where there was no evidence of any predisposition towards contact offences with children.
- **R v Uhegbu** [2011] EWCA Crim 2737: Successfully argued that conviction was unsafe due to inconsistent verdicts
- **R v Guest** [2011] EWCA Crim 1542: Appeal against prohibitions contained within a SOPO allowed.

Associated Work

- Advocacy Trainer for the Inner Temple
- Judge at various advocacy competitions
- Deputy Editor, Inner Temple Yearbook

Professional Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Lawyers for Liberty
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

Languages

German, Hebrew and Yiddish

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