



GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS

# Minka Braun

YEAR OF CALL: 2000, MASTER OF THE BENCH (INNER TEMPLE) 2017



Minka is a talented criminal defence barrister who is highly sought-after for her skilful advocacy, tenacity and attention to detail. Minka has secured extraordinary results in significant, multi-handed and high-profile cases.

"Minka's knowledge of the law is both learned and instinctive. She pursues with vigour any reasonable argument which may assist her client."

LEGAL 500, 2024

"Minka is stellar, and an indomitable practitioner to boot. Her results speak for themselves."

LEGAL 500 2023 BAR GUIDE

"She defends in murder, modern slavery and firearms cases."

"One of the most eloquent crime juniors and a silk in the making."

LEGAL 500, 2017

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"Extremely thorough, conscientious, able and hardworking."

LEGAL 500, 2016

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If you would like to get in touch with Minka please contact the clerking team:

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## CRIMINAL DEFENCE

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Minka is an experienced and extremely effective criminal defence barrister. She is regularly instructed in a wide array of serious cases - including terrorism, murder and complex fraud.

Minka is frequently instructed in extremely lengthy, large-scale and highly complex fraud trials. Her meticulous eye for detail and effortless ability to assimilate vast amounts of data has seen her achieve impressive results.

## NOTABLE CASES

Past notable cases can be viewed below. [Click here to see a list of recent notable cases.](#)

### Homicide

#### *R v Austin*

In the course of a dispute between drug dealers, the deceased was struck by the defendant's vehicle and killed. The trial raised issues of mechanical defect and accident. At the request of the QC leading, conducted cross-

examination of each of the eye witnesses and wrote and delivered the closing speech.

### ***R v Nixon***

An acquittal was secured where, after the defendant punched the deceased to the ground, he was subsequently run over and killed by a passing car. The case involved careful and sensitive analysis of causation and raised issues of *novus actus*.

### ***R v Edrich***

A severely depressed, former university lecturer shot and killed his wife. The case addressed complex issues relating to the defendant's fitness to plead.

### ***R v Ramirez & Others***

Two drug barons punished and bludgeoned to death one of their street dealers for his perceived disloyalty in the 'brandy bottle murder' case. The case necessitated careful blood stain pattern analysis, to distinguish between participants and witnesses to the offence.

## **Kidnapping & False Imprisonment**

### ***R v Bryan & Others***

Acquittals were secured in a high-profile case involving two girls having been kidnapped, falsely imprisoned and branded with a steam iron. Acquittals followed careful consideration of the limitations of joint enterprise.

### ***R v Ngwendema & Others***

This trial alleged a conspiracy to kidnap and falsely imprison the 14-year-old brother of a rival gang member. The issue at trial related to whether the defendant's continued presence and limited role amounted to participation.

## **Firearms**

### ***R v Mohammed & Others***

Acquittals were secured on all counts relating to the possession of a 'massive arsenal' of weapons and firearms. The case involved analysis of and cross-examination in relation to fingerprint quality and placement.

### ***R v Baffoe & Another***

This possession of firearms with intent to endanger life trial involved meticulous analysis of the limitations of seemingly 'incontrovertible' DNA evidence.

### ***R v Okubote***

Acquittals were secured in a trial alleging possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, where the prosecution sought to rely upon deficient evidence of gun shot residue recovered from the defendant.

### **Organised Violence**

#### ***R v Mohammed & Others***

Represented the first of four brothers accused, and subsequently acquitted, of conspiracy to commit GBH. It was alleged that the brothers had arranged to avenge their father's honour outside their mosque.

#### ***R v Cregan & Others***

Counsel for first of 28 anti-fascist activist defendants, alleged to have been involved in organised violence against neo-fascists attending a neo-Nazi music event.

#### ***R v Stevens & Others***

Secured from the jury their only acquittal in a complex, nine-handed, gang-related GBH trial.

### **Drugs Offences**

#### ***R v Mansaram***

Acquittals secured on each count in a trial involving the production of a massive quantity of crack cocaine. The case involved analysis of a vast amount of surveillance and scientific evidence.

#### ***R v Rogers & Another***

Acquittal secured for a serving British soldier alleged to have imported more than 30 kilograms of cannabis into the UK whilst on leave. The trial involved a cut-throat defence with a fellow serving soldier suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder 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 alleging the importation of a large quantity of 100% pure cocaine.

#### ***R v Brown***

Acquittal secured in case alleging the large-scale importation of cannabis.

### ***R v Masson***

Case related to the importation of more than 130 kilograms of cannabis imported into the country in a box containing a grand piano.

### **Sexual Offences**

#### ***R v Nangpal & Others***

Acquittals were secured on each count in a high-profile, 12-week trial which alleged the gang grooming of two young complainants over the course of a decade.

#### ***R v Scaife***

Allegation of rape against step-father resulted in acquittals on each count.

#### ***R v Reames***

Allegations of marital rape against husband resulted in acquittals on each count.

#### ***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 recent allegations of possession of indecent computer images resulted in acquittals on all counts in three separate trials.

#### ***R v Squires***

The cross-examination of a seven-year-old child with mental health difficulties was necessary in this case which alleged serious indecency against two 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 deployment of a deaf cultural expert and legal submissions causing the court to acquiesce to necessary accommodations ensured a fair trial and resulted in acquittals on each count for this defendant.

### **Other Offences**

### ***R v Muhid & Others***

Counsel for one of eight defendants in 'Al-Qaeda fundraising' case. The trial involved analysis of speeches made by defendants in a mosque, alongside careful consideration of the permitted parameters of free speech and the right to manifest religious belief.

### ***R v Pun & Others***

Counsel in lengthy trial alleging a conspiracy to facilitate the breach of immigration, a conspiracy to sell counterfeit goods, money laundering and mortgage fraud.

### ***R v Torto & Others***

Counsel in the lengthy 'bogus college case' which alleged a conspiracy to breach immigration law through the provision of false college certificates.

### ***R v Winter***

This case of causing death by dangerous driving resulted in multiple child fatalities and necessitated the 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.

## **FINANCIAL CRIME AND CONFISCATION**

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Minka has been instructed to lead and as a junior, in a significant number of vast, multi-handed and highly complex fraud cases.

Her meticulous attention to detail, along with her effortless ability to assimilate hundreds of thousands of pages of data, has caused her to be highly sought-out and achieve impressive results in such cases.

### **NOTABLE CASES**

Past notable cases can be viewed below. [Click here to see a list of recent notable cases.](#)

### **Fraud**

#### ***R v Jean-Jacques & Others***

Secured the only acquittal in this £1 million KMV bank fraud trial. The defendant was alleged to have been the

banks 'inside man' in a sophisticated fraud, where his work log-in details were used to facilitate money transfers from high-value accounts held within the bank to various untraceable offshore bank accounts.

### ***R v Hezekiah & Others***

This multi-handed trial related to a sophisticated credit card fraud valued in excess of £2 million.

### ***R v Brogan & Another***

Leading counsel for the first defendant in an elaborate benefit fraud case. The case involved a five-day fitness to plead hearing relating to the defendant's serious mental impairment and culminated in the defendant's acquittal.

### ***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 following legal submissions.

### ***R v Hossain & Others***

In this protracted case alleging a serious conspiracy to facilitate the breach of immigration law, proceedings included a trial, an appeal against a terminatory ruling and a re-trial. The defendant, the accountant who had incorporated numerous companies in support of immigration applications, was acquitted on each count.

### ***R v Khan & Others***

This 7-handed case alleged a conspiracy to defraud the Home Office in respect of false immigration applications submitted on behalf of two regulated immigration advice centres and offences relating to the cheating the Public Revenue. The trial, lasting in excess of 7 months, was rendered more complex by the multi-way cut-throat defences being run and the sheer volume of case papers (in excess of 1 million pages).

## **CRIMINAL APPEALS**

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### ***R v Tullett [2011] EWCA Crim 2803***

The terms of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) were agreed to be 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**

The appeal against specific prohibitions contained within a SOPO was allowed.

### ***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.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Minka edited the Inner Temple Yearbook from 2014 to 2017.

## **TRAINING AND SEMINARS**

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Minka is an Advanced Advocacy Trainer for the Inner Temple. In addition to teaching advocacy for her Inn, Minka is frequently asked to judge advocacy and mooting competitions.

## **EDUCATION**

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LLB (Hons), Queen Mary College, University of London

BVC, Inns of Court School of Law

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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Criminal Bar Association (CBA)

Lawyers for Liberty

Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)

## **LANGUAGES**

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German

Hebrew

Yiddish



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