



Russell Fraser

YEAR OF CALL: 2010



Russell is a criminal defence specialist with experience defending in a range of cases including murder, terrorism, serious violence, fraud, and drug supply. He is particularly interested in public order, protest, and terrorism.

He has also represented clients in the parole board and prison adjudications, as well as before the mental health tribunal.

Russell is currently instructed in the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

He is qualified under the 'public access' scheme and is able to take instructions in appropriate cases.

"Russell is charming to judges and juries alike, with an unerring ability to put his finger on the point."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (PROTEST)

"Russell is a dedicated first class advocate who brings a sharp analysis to every case, is driven by his commitment and has a humanity that shines through. His ability to distil a case, have a clear vision and develop a defence results in excellent outcomes and ensures his clients have absolute confidence in him."

KATE GOOLD, BINDMANS

"Russell is a cool, calm and measured barrister. He has a straightforward but highly compelling style of advocacy."

LEGAL 500, 2024 (CRIME)

"He was all over the detail and really creative in his arguments."

LEGAL 500, 2024 (CRIME)

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

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You can also contact Russell directly:

+44 (0)20 7993 7830

CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Russell is a criminal defence specialist with a particular interest in cases involving protest, public order, and terrorism.

NOTABLE CASES

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

R v AZ [2024] Warwick Crown Court

Young man acquitted of attempted murder after being accused of participating in a group attack, following a live music event in Coventry city centre.

***R v OK* [2024] Central Criminal Court**

OK faced a count of violent disorder, following a fight and subsequent group attack outside a London nightclub, which led to a man's murder.

***R v EU* [2023] Central Criminal Court**

EU was acquitted of perverting the course of justice in connection with the murder of a north London DJ.

Press coverage: [BBC News](#), [Sky News](#)

***R v YZ* [2023] Central criminal court**

YZ stood trial for the attempted murder of his estranged wife.

***R v AH* [2023] Southwark Crown Court**

The defendant was attacked by another while sitting in his car. While driving away, he knocked over his assailant and ran over his legs, causing serious injury. He was acquitted of GBH with intent and the lesser alternative.

***R v CC* [2023] Warwick Crown Court**

Defendant charged with others with possession a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The case involved two incidents of firearms being charged towards two different residential properties containing cannabis factories.

***R v EA* [2023] Southwark Crown Court**

Large-scale fraud of over £1 million involving a small group assisting people to complete fraudulent loan applications, which were submitted to a high street bank. Led by Tom Wainwright.

***R v MB* [2021] Woolwich crown court**

Young defendant charged with murder arising from a vehicle chase and subsequent stabbing. The background to the incident was said to be a territorial drugs dispute. Led by Rajiv Menon KC.

***R v KR* [2021] Central Criminal Court**

KR had accompanied his cousin to a south London estate after an alleged drug deal double-cross. The confrontation ended in a young man's death and both men stood trial for murder. Led by Rajiv Menon KC

***R v TK* [2017] Snaresbrook Crown Court**

Acquittal of a prominent Ethiopian opposition activist of seven counts of possession of material likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, and one count of attending a place used for terrorist training. Led by Hossein Zahir.

R v JE [2017] Southwark Crown Court

Represented one of a group charged with fraud arising from a multi-million pound land banking 'boiler room' fraud. [The case received national press and television coverage:](#)

R v RH & others [2017] Kingston Crown Court

Represented a member of a gang who committed a series of burglaries in the south east, attracting media attention, owing to one of the homes belonging to a professional footballer.

R v MC & others [2016] Snaresbrook Crown Court

Seven-week trial of a number of people prosecuted for affray following an eviction of a squat in East London. Hung jury. Crown did not seek retrial.

R v TP [2016] Blackfriars Crown Court

Acquittal of man charged with possession of a bladed article following the police attendance of a domestic disturbance.

R v AS [2015] Luton Crown Court

Trial of defendant charged with robbery and car jacking.

R v GL [2015] Blackfriars Crown Court

Trial of vulnerable client under section charged with robbery with a knife.

R v SA [2015] Snaresbrook Crown Court

Client acquitted of dangerous driving.

R v MA [2015] Inner London Crown Court

Importation of heroin.

R v SK [2014] Oxford Crown Court

Secured a suspended sentence for two counts of making a false statutory declaration for defendant convicted following trial.

R v TC & anor [2014] Hove Trial Centre

Acquittal after a four-day trial for a woman charged with obstructing a drugs search following a police raid on her home.

R v AH [2014] Bristol Crown Court

Acquittal after a five-day trial for a young defendant of Somali-origin, after being accused of a racially-

motivated assault.

Protest cases

R v JY [2022] Bristol Crown Court

Acquitted of young protester charged with causing the riot in Bristol city centre following a 'Kill the Bill' demonstration in protest against the Government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

R v JG & others [2015] Willesden Magistrates' Court

Represented a group of activists tried following direct action protests against the evictions of residents of the Sweets Way estate in Barnet, North London.

R v KM & others [2013] Cardiff Magistrates' Court

Represented a group of Tamil protesters tried for public order offences following a protest at an international cricket match between Sri Lanka and India.

CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russell is experienced in defending clients exercising their right to protest. He also appears before the parole board and is interested in cases where crime, humans rights and public law meet.

NOTABLE CASES

R v SE, PS, PT [2019] City of London magistrates' court

Represented three people charged with failing to comply with a section 14 condition placed on an assembly. The case concerned the Extinction Rebellion protests in central London in April this year and was reported in the [Guardian](#). Russell is instructed on a number of other cases concerning the same protests.

R v JG & others [2015] Willesden magistrates' court

Represented a group of activists tried following direct action protests against the evictions of residents of the Sweets Way Estate in Barnet, north London.

R v KM & others [2013] Cardiff magistrates' court

Represented a group of Tamil protesters tried for public order offences following a protest at an international cricket match between Sri Lanka and India. The case received local [media coverage](#)

BACKGROUND

Russell joined Garden Court in March 2016. Before the law, he worked for a number of years in local government, including four years as a Special Educational Needs Assessment Officer for the London Borough of Brent. He was also a shop steward for the GMB trade union and was recognised for his contribution to trade unionism with awards from both the GMB and the Trade Unions Congress, in 2006 and 2007 respectively. In 2016, he spent 12 months working as a political adviser to the then Shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon MP. His work included speech writing, briefing, and policymaking. He assisted with the Justice section of the Labour Party's 2017 general election manifesto.

Russell was previously a caseworker at the human rights firm Birnberg Peirce & Partners. During his time there, he assisted the work of solicitors in national security cases, particularly Control Orders and Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures, and before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). He assisted with the case *W (Algeria) & ors v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2012] UKSC 8, concerning whether SIAC had the power to make an order for an absolute and irreversible guarantee of confidentiality, in respect of a witness's identity and evidence, before disclosing that information to the Secretary of State.

He is a member of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, Administrative Law Bar Association, Bar Human Rights Committee, Criminal Bar Association, Human Rights Lawyers Association, and Liberty.

PUBLICATIONS

Russell regularly writes articles on legal issues and legal aid and has been published by the *New Statesman*, *New Left Project*, and *Labour Briefing*.

['In the future our police, lawyers and jails will be run by G4S'](#), *New Statesman*

['Justice is not for sale'](#), *New Left Project*

AWARDS

Certificate of Honour, Middle Temple

EDUCATION

Bar Vocational Course (BVC) (Outstanding)

College of Law Graduate Diploma of Law (GDL)

College of Law LLB, College of Law

Master of Arts (MA), Joint Honours History and Philosophy, University of Glasgow

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers (Executive Committee Member)

Administrative Law Bar Association

Bar Human Rights Committee

Criminal Bar Association

Human Rights Lawyers Association

Liberty

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