

## Website Biography

Natalie Smith  
Senior Associate

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I qualified as a solicitor in 2003 and specialise in criminal litigation and since then have gained extensive experience in defending clients accused of serious and complex crime, with a particular emphasis on the law relating to sexual offences. I am also a Member of the Sovereign Base Areas Bar and have represented military personnel in Courts Martial in the UK and overseas.

Dependable, conscientious and sympathetic, my clients consider me to be a dedicated solicitor. I have successfully defended in cases involving very serious criminal allegations, particularly those that are damaging to reputation.

### Education

Cardiff law School - 2000 – 2001 – Legal Practice Course.

London School of Economics 1996 – 1999 LLB Law.

### Career

Senior Associate, Hodge Jones and & Allen 2017 – Present.

Consultant Solicitor ITN Solicitors 2014 – 2017.

Consultant Solicitors BSB – 2013 – 2014.

Rustem Guardian Solicitors 2012 – 2013.

Sonn Macmillan Walker 2005 – 2012.

TV Edwards Solicitors 2003 – 2005.

Joy Merriam and Co (trainee) 2001 – 2003.

### Client Comments

- We felt utterly desperate until our first meeting with Natalie. From that moment onwards she exuded empathy, compassion and professionalism that gave us confidence and hope when everything seemed so bleak. She continued to do so throughout. We cannot be too praiseworthy of her tireless and detailed involvement.
- After my first telephone conversation with Natalie I immediately began to believe that I could trust the justice system again and this was just underlined once we had met. Natalie is an absolute professional and I cannot speak highly enough of her care for my family and me and the diligence she showed in digging through evidence. She has a great insight into people and their behaviour.

- From day one Natalie was very supportive and reassuring to me. She listened very carefully. She also worked very closely with me looking through the evidence and took immense effort to understand some of the medical terminology. Natalie gave me my life back. I would highly recommend Natalie.
- Natalie was a fantastic sounding board for me during a personally very difficult period of my life, following a false allegation. She was highly committed and diligent throughout all stages of preparation for the case. She was able to do this without compromising her objective position as a lawyer.
- I cannot express my gratitude enough for what she did for me she was always very understanding and patient, which had a great calming effect on me as I can be a very opinionated and outspoken person (usually at the wrong time and place). She covered my case from start to finish and was always there when I needed her to reassure me.
- Natalie was able to assimilate a complex legal procedural framework in a very succinct and understandable manner, especially given the high emotional impact it had at the time. This was very impressive.
- She was a very calming influence and was able to introduce me to an excellent barrister who represented me in court. This not only demonstrates Natalie's broad network of fellow legal professionals but also her ability to evaluate a situation and refer me to a lawyer she knew I would take great comfort in, on both from a personal and professional level.
- I would have absolutely no problem in recommending Natalie to a friend or family member.
- Natalie helped my husband to cope, to take the year from interview to trial a step at a time. She helped him maintain as much dignity as possible through this terrible ordeal. At trial Natalie was a rock for the whole family. Throughout the year she never gave any false hope that the world would come to rights and the trial be abandoned, she helped us to understand but reassured us that the judicial system would eventually provide justice and that it was a system we could trust. Above all she was the one person that my husband could speak openly to throughout the year as I, his usual confidant, was conflicted by being the main witness for the defence. His trust in Natalie held him steady and was unwavering.

## **Notable Cases**

### **Sexual offences**

R v M – Historic allegations of sexual abuse and violence in a catholic care home for boys. The client faced a lengthy indictment containing in excess of 50 counts and was deemed unfit to stand trial following a contested fitness to plead hearing.

R v R – Represented a musician accused of grooming over 10,000 children.

R v N – Allegation of sexual assault. The complaint was made by a patient against the medical professional who treated her. Crown discontinued proceedings following

the service of expert evidence casting serious doubt on the veracity of the complainant's account of how the sexual assault took place.

R v S – Allegation of rape and sexual assault. The complainant alleged she'd been asleep when raped. Acquitted at trial.

R v S – Allegation of sexual assault on a British military base. Conducted the advocacy at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

R v D – Indecent Assault. Defence of sleepwalking explored as well as sleep hallucination by the complainant when waking from sleep. Acquitted at trial.

### **Murder/Attempted Murder**

R v B – Murder / manslaughter – involved highly complex medical evidence relating to the death of a baby. Following the service of expert evidence and representations, Crown agreed to accept plea to manslaughter and client was sentenced to a suspended sentence.

R v J - Murder - (Operation Cherry tree) - underworld shooting with evidence gathered by the FBI. Client acquitted at trial.

R v S - Murder - gang attack culminated in the victim being murdered in an ambulance.

R v C- Allegation of attempted murder. The victim was the defendant's mother - the defendant suffered from severe mental health problems.

### **Fraud**

R v R - Extensive Carousel VAT fraud.

R v B - Advanced fee fraud conducted by bogus Countess who claimed she was related to both the Hapsburg and Bourbon dynasties.

R v B - Fraudulent provision of business services including to a highly regarded business corporation.

### **Drugs offences**

R v H – Extensive, multi handed conspiracy to supply class A drugs.

R v A - Being Concerned in the Supply of drugs. Police test purchase operation.

R v B - Importation of class A drugs into the UK via the Eurostar.

R v K – Possession of class A drugs with intent to supply. Defendant arrested smuggling drugs in their underwear into a well-known London nightclub.

## **Serious violence and other offences**

R v S – Multi- handed conspiracy trial following gang attack in North London when youth was stabbed to death.

R v A - Multi handed Violent Disorder involving stabbing.

R v M - High value Criminal Damage (concerning graffiti gangs causing extensive damage to trains and railway stations).

R v O - Series of robberies of elderly people in their homes in the North London area.

R v B - Blackmail of an elderly lottery winner.

R v P - Conspiracy to supply counterfeit documents, alleged to involve international organised crime cartels.

R v O – Allegation of conspiracy to rob multiple travel agents in the South East of England.

## **Memberships and Appointments**

Law Society since 2003.

Higher Rights of Audience 2008.

Member of the Sovereign Base Areas Bar 2013.

Member of the Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers' (FACT) Advisory Panel.

## **Twitter**

@SeriousCrimeMum

## **Website**

I set up my own website to help those who have been falsely accused

[www.defendingfalseallegations.co.uk](http://www.defendingfalseallegations.co.uk)