



Naomi Parsons

Call: 2008

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Naomi acts in criminal, regulatory and public law cases. In recent years, her criminal practise has focused on financial crime and terrorism. Her public law practice encompasses judicial review, inquests and inquiries.

Naomi has been instructed in cases with an international dimension. She is fluent in Russian and Spanish and has taken instructions in both languages.

Crime

Naomi defends and prosecutes in the Crown Court. She has particular experience in complex financial crime and terrorism.

She has maintained a broad criminal practice, both prosecuting and defending criminal offences across the spectrum, including drug conspiracies, organised crime and serious violence.

Financial Crime

Naomi is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in cases of complex fraud and money laundering. She was a led junior in the high-profile prosecution of the immigration fraud uncovered by the BBC Panorama (the 'Tier 4 student visa scandal'), in which she also appeared in related judicial review proceedings.

Naomi represents the Department for Business, Energy and Strategy (BEIS) in insolvency offences. She also appears for the Department in the Companies Court in petitions to wind up companies in the public interest.

Recent cases include:

- **R v K and others (2016-2017)** Led junior in successful prosecution of six defendants for their

involvement in fraudulently obtaining Tier 4 student visas.

- **R v H and P (2016)** Led junior in successful prosecution for fraud and money laundering offences.
- **R v S (2015)** Led junior defending a company director in trial of £14 million money laundering allegations in the under bond alcohol trading industry.

Terrorism

Naomi has experience in prosecuting terrorism cases, both as sole counsel and a led junior. She has prosecuted offences under the terrorism legislation, and understands well the particular demands involved in preparing and conducting terrorism trials.

Recent cases include:

- **R v JC (2017)** Prosecution for preparation of terrorist acts (s.5 Terrorism Act 2006) and making explosive substances (s.4 Explosives Act 1884) (making a 'pipe bomb' and dissemination of threats via Snapchat)
- **R v A (2016)** Led junior in prosecution for offences of encouraging terrorism (ss.1 and 2 of Terrorism Act 2006) (twitter messages).
- **R v A (2016)** Prosecution for preparation of terrorist acts (s.5 Terrorism Act 2006) (prosecution of individuals upon return from travel to Syria).

Professional Disciplinary & Regulatory

Naomi regularly appears before professional disciplinary and medical regulatory panels. She accepts instructions from both professionals and regulatory bodies, particularly in the education and healthcare sectors. She has experience of all forms of Interim Order and Fitness to Practise proceedings involving issues of performance, health and misconduct. The cases frequently require cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses in respect of sensitive subject matters.

She advises on appeals to the High Court, and appears frequently in the High Court on judicial review.

Recent cases include:

- **Nursing and Midwifery Council v IA (2017)** Successful defence of registrant on charges of dishonesty and clinical misconduct.
- **Nursing and Midwifery Council v AA (2017)** Successful defence of registrant on charges of dishonesty. Successful argument that admitted clinical misconduct did not amount to impairment.
- **National College of Teaching and Leadership v IJ (2016)** Acted on behalf of a teacher facing multiple allegations of rape and sexual abuse of former pupil.

Public Law

In 2014, Naomi was appointed to the Attorney General's Civil Panel (C List) and undertakes a wide variety of work on behalf of the government, including judicial review, civil claims and inquests. She has advised and represented a number of government departments, including the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice.

Since 2014, Naomi has acted regularly on behalf of the government in national security-related civil litigation, and in particular in cases involving national security deportations and exclusions, terrorism prevention and investigation measures, and claims for damages arising out of British Military involvement in Iraq. Naomi is familiar with 'closed' proceedings.

Naomi regularly appears in the Administrative Court in judicial review proceedings in matters of immigration and unlawful detention. She has particular expertise in the 'ETS' litigation, having been involved with judicial review of ETS cases, and successfully prosecuted Tier 4 visa fraud offenders.

Recent cases include:

XYZ v Ministry of Defence (2016 to present) Naomi is currently acting for the MoD in respect of claims of torture by Iraqi civilians.

Inquiries and Inquests

Naomi has experience of appearing in inquests including those in which Article 2 is engaged. She also has extensive inquiry experience, having been involved with the Al-Sweady Inquiry for both the investigation and evidential stages. The Inquiry explored alleged torture by British soldiers against Iraqi civilians in 2004.

Recent cases include:

- **Inquest into the death of Sian Hollands (2017)** Represented a nurse 'scapegoated' over the death of 25 year-old suffering from pulmonary embolism following admission to A&E (issues involved delayed diagnoses, treatment and Article 2).
- **Al-Sweady Public Inquiry** Naomi was Support Counsel, and later Judicial Assistant to the Chairman to the Inquiry, Sir Thayne Forbes. Naomi was responsible for analysis of the evidence during the course of the oral hearings.

Education

CPE (City) (Distinction)

BA Hons (Russian and Spanish) (Nottingham): First Class

Memberships

Criminal Bar Association

Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyer

Constitutional and Administrative Bar Association

Bar Human Rights Committee