



## Simon Spence QC

Call: 1985

Silk:2009

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Simon Spence QC undertakes an even mix of prosecuting and defending work across Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and London. Before taking silk, he worked regularly as a leading junior and often led in high-profile cases. In 2008 he was the Prosecution junior in the successful prosecution of Steve Wright, the man accused of murdering five Ipswich prostitutes.

### Crime

#### Homicide

Simon has prosecuted and defended numerous murder and non-fatal violent offences in East Anglia for many years, as a junior and in silk. These cases include a number of very high profile and complex cases which have attracted national and international media attention.

- **R v P and others (2018)** - Prosecuted a 10 defendant, 7 victim child sex ring in Birmingham with several members of the same family, including one who was both a defendant and a complainant. The trial lasted nearly 2 months and resulted in guilty verdicts leading to sentences which cumulatively exceeded 100 years. The Judge described it as the worst case of child exploitation he had seen in over 40 years at the Bar and on the Bench.
- **R v H (2018)** - Prosecuted a defendant who stabbed to death a female debt collector. The case involved complex forensic evidence and attracted national media attention.
- **R v K, M and H (2018)** - Prosecuted the murder of a vulnerable homeless man in a car park involving the analysis of a sequence of events leading up to the fatal assault and detailed forensic evidence linking all three defendants to the fatal assault
- **R v P (2018)** - Currently defending in a murder arising out of alleged group rivalry in a case which has aroused a large amount of local feeling and has attracted media attention.
- **R v F (2016)** Defended a 15 year old boy charged with the double murder of two strangers in Colchester. The case attracted national publicity and led to Simon being interviewed for three TV documentaries. Press Link: [BBC](#)
- **R v Y and others (2012)** Prosecuted a 4 handed murder trial which arose out of a drugs 'turf

war' between 2 London drugs gangs targeting Norwich as a place for potential supply: an evidentially complex case during which two defendants pleaded guilty and one was convicted.

- **R v H (2003, 2011)** Prosecution junior in murder of an old lady in her own home. The evidence rested on contested fibre evidence and the case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the CCRC: [Conviction upheld](#). Hall later admitted his guilt. Press Link: [The Guardian](#)
- **R v W (2008)** Prosecution junior in case of serial killer of 5 prostitutes in Ipswich in 2006, a case which attracted global coverage. Press Link: [BBC](#)
- **R v N (2006)** Prosecution junior in murder of defendant's girlfriend. No forensic evidence and very difficult circumstantial evidence to present but defendant convicted. Press Link: [Daily Mail](#)
- **R v T (1997)** Defended Squadron Leader charged with murdering his wife. Press Link: [Independent](#)

## **Sexual Offences**

Sensitive and difficult sexual offences have been the mainstay of Simon's practice throughout his career at the Bar, with a particular emphasis on child and vulnerable witnesses. Significant cases include:

- **R v R (2013)** Defended historic rape case that collapsed following late disclosure of diaries by prosecution.
- **R v A & A (2005)** Rape of student nurse involving abuse arguments relating to LPP and intercepted prison documents. Press Link: [Ipswich Star](#)

## **Professional Disciplinary & Regulatory**

### **Health & Safety**

Since taking silk, he has experience in HSE, VOSA and Trading Standards cases, all of them successfully defended.

- **R v B (2015)** A Trading Standards case which collapsed before a 2 day abuse of process argument was due to take place concerning charging decisions.
- **R v AK (2013)** A Trading Standards prosecution that collapsed on a submission of no case concerning the misuse of RRP's and 'was' prices.
- **R v B (2011)** A HSE prosecution of a landlord in which a fire broke out and a tenant was badly burnt.
- **R v AS (2011)** A VOSA prosecution of a haulage company and its directors.

## **Inquiries & Appellate Work**

### **Appeals**

Simon has extensive experience of appellate work in all areas, including two appearances in the House of Lords and responding to a CCRC reference in a murder case 5 years after the original conviction.

- **R v S (2015)** An appeal against conviction in a murder case considering the hearsay provisions as between two defendants in a 'cut-throat' case.
- **R v S (2014)** A murder appeal against conviction considering the strength of circumstantial evidence.
- **R v R (2014)** An appeal against conviction before the Lord Chief Justice of a high profile murder conviction involving the calling of fresh evidence. The original trial lasted for 5 months and the appeal brief was returned to Simon overnight. The Lord Chief Justice observed that the appeal had been conducted with 'exemplary skill'.
- **R v H (2009)** CCRC reference involving disputed fibre evidence in a murder case with 4 forensic scientists giving evidence and being cross-examined. In a 76 page judgement the court described the case as 'uniquely complex'.
- **R v M (1995-1996)** Provocation in murder (HL decision subsequently overturned).
- **R v G (1992)** Duress as a defence to attempted murder.

### **Inquiries**

Simon sits as a Legal Assessor for the Disciplinary Committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

### **Recommendations**

- *"Confident and assertive in court"*. **Legal 500 UK 2017**
- *"First-class barrister with an exemplary jury manner"* **Chambers UK 2013**
- *"An ideal choice of counsel where a "very charming" barrister with fluent oral skills is required. Murder, violence and sexual offences are prominent in his practice."* **Chambers UK 2012-13**

### **Publications, Lectures and Training**

#### **Lectures/Presentations**

2012 Howard League for Penal Reform

2011 Policing Conference for Liberty

## **Memberships**

Criminal Bar Association

South Eastern Circuit – Northern Circuit

Howard League for Penal Reform

Fellow of the Royal Society for Arts

## **Other Tenancies**

Door Tenant, Dere Street Chambers, York