



# NATASHA PATEL

## SOLICITOR

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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

Natasha joined Lloyds PR Solicitors as a Case Worker in June 2011. She has since qualified as a Solicitor in November 2013 and became a Duty Solicitor soon after in August 2014.

Natasha specialises in dealing with all areas of criminal law, including serious crimes which are often dealt with in the Crown Court. Natasha has prepared various cases which have involved a degree of complexity, including murder, multi-handed drug conspiracies, complex fraud, robbery, firearms and sexual assaults. This has included vulnerable defendants with mental health issues and also youth defendants who are under the age of 18.

Natasha is also an advocate in the Magistrates Courts where she attends on a regular basis, as well as attending Police Stations. Natasha often attends the Youth Court and enjoys dealing with such matters.

Natasha supervises the Magistrates Court and Police Station Departments at the firm.

Natasha is a fluent speaker of Gujarati and Hindi and also understands some Punjabi.

## NOTABLE CASES

### HOMICIDE / SERIOUS VIOLENCE

• **R v J (St Albans Crown Court)**

Assisted in preparation of the case where the defendant was charged with the murder of his father and the body had been buried in the garden. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

• **R v S (Central Criminal Court)**

This case was called Operation Lightpill. Assisted in the preparation of a case where the defendant was one of eight that was charged with one count of murder, four counts of attempted murder and one count of violent disorder.

**Branch London**

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- **R v M (Central Criminal Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with the murder of his father. The defendant was vulnerable and suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. The defendant pleaded to a lesser offence of manslaughter with diminished responsibility.

- **R v A (Central Criminal Court)**

The case was called Operation Manfield. Represented the defendant who was charged with murder. The defendant had hit the deceased with a metal pole twice causing the death. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

- **R v R (Central Criminal Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with murder by way of a shooting in East London. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

- **R v S (youth) (Central Criminal Court)**

This case was called Operation Leweston. Represented the defendant who was a youth and the youngest of eight defendants. He was charged with conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm which was linked to a murder. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

- **R v H (youth) (Luton Crown Court)**

Represented a 14 year old defendant charged with murder. A stabbing which involved three defendants under the age of 16.

- **R v B (Reading Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with perverting the course of justice which was linked to a murder. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

- **R v F (Reading Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with murder. The defendant was extradited to the UK from St Vincent to stand trial three years after the incident took place. The defendant was acquitted of murder.

## FIREARM'S

- **R v L (Wood Green Crown Court)**

Represented a defendant charged with the supply of class A drugs and possession of a disguised firearm. The Crown accepted pleas to possession of class A drugs and through defence expert evidence we successfully argued that the firearm was not disguised and had dual purpose which therefore fell out of the guidelines of a minimum 5 year sentence.

- **R v K (Kingston Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The Crown accepted a lesser offence to possession of the firearm only.

- **R v B (Snaresbrook Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant charged with violent disorder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

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- **R v G (Snaresbrook Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with possession of ammunition.

- **R v S (youth) (Isleworth Crown Court)**

Represented a youth who was charged with two others with GBH and possession of a firearm. It was argued that the firearm was an imitation which was accepted by the Court and Crown.

- **R v F (Inner London Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with attempted murder. The defendant was found not guilty by reason of insanity and given a hospital order.

## DRUGS

- **Operation Zeus (Isleworth Crown Court)**

Represented defendants who in the London Borough of Hillingdon were involved in supplying class A drugs to undercover Police Officers.

- **R v H (Croydon Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with cultivation of cannabis plants on a large scale.

- **R v R (Manchester Crown Court)**

This case was called Operation Hackneyman. Represented the defendant who was charged with conspiracy to import approximately 30kg of cocaine, class A drugs, from Jamaica to the UK via various airports through packages hidden in suitcases.

- **R v D (Bristol Crown Court)**

This case was called Operation Castle. Represented the defendant who was involved in county line drugs supply in Yeoville. It involved police surveillance.

- **R v P (youth) (Winchester Crown Court)**

This case was called Operation Rate. This involved county line drugs supply from London to Hampshire. The case involved 16 defendants.

- **R v H (Kingston Crown Court)**

This case was called Operation Dowlas. Represented the defendant who was initially charged with 9 others for conspiracy to supply class A drugs in Bedfordshire. The defendant was acquitted after trial.

- **R v M (Woolwich Crown Court)**

This case was called Operation Weapon which was a county line drugs case. The drugs line operated between London and Kent supplying class A drugs. Represented the defendant who was 17 at the time of the offence and was then 18 during the time of the proceedings. The defendant was referred to the National Referral Mechanism Team and found to be a victim of exploitation under the Modern Slavery Act. The Crown offered no evidence in this case leading to a successful acquittal of the defendant.

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## FRAUD / MONEY LAUNDERING

### • R v D (Woolwich Crown Court)

This case was called Operation Skybox. The defendant was charged with 8 others with conspiracy to defraud Lloyds Bank through "Apple pay". In this case the defendants had used "Apple pay" to fraudulently obtain items which valued to £134,111.90.

### • R v P (Lewes Crown Court)

This case was called Operation Gallant. The defendant was charged with conspiracy to lauder criminal property with others, which arose from a conspiracy to defraud HMRC. The repayments fraudulently claimed was £179,411.80. The money was then laundered through the accounts of the defendants.

### • R v M (St Albans Crown Court)

This was called Operation Klister. Represented the defendant who was charged with 17 others with conspiracy to commit fraud and conspiracy to drive dangerously over a two year period. This was a "crash for cash" case where there were induced/staged accidents to allow insurance claims to be made. This fraud valued at over £1 million.

### • R v G (Harrow Crown Court)

Represented the defendant who was charged with conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation. The total fraud value attributable is £2,375,360.63 across a total of 221 fraudulently opened bank accounts.

### • R v A (Blackfriars Crown Court)

This is called Operation Falcon. The defendant is charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering which is a part of a fraud investigation of over £12 million which included 10 defendants.

## ROBBERY / THEFT / BURGLARY

### • R v HW (Harrow Crown Court)

Represented the defendant who was vulnerable and charged with conspiracy to commit high value burglaries.

### • R v MM (Kingston Crown Court)

Represented the defendant who was charged with two robberies and an attempted robbery, and possession of a firearm, of three different betting shops in North West London, along with another. The investigation was conducted by the Flying Squad.

### • R v D (Luton Crown Court)

This case was called Operation Hade which involved 11 defendants charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and violent disorder in Welwyn Garden City. The defendant was a youth at the time. The defendant was the only one out of the eleven that was acquitted of all offences.

### • R v M (Isleworth Crown Court) (youth)

Represented a youth who was charged with possession of a firearm with intent and aggravated robberies.

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- **R v A (Central Criminal Court) (youth)**

Represented a youth charged with three knife point robberies.

## IMMIGRATION / FACILITATION

- **Operation Gesticulate 2013 (Kingston Crown Court)**

Assisted in preparation of the case involving large scale operation of facilitating entry in to the UK

- **R v C (Isleworth Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with facilitation of multiple people in the UK by providing use of British passports

- **R v EA (Canterbury Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with facilitating illegal entry in to the UK. The defendant was vulnerable with severe mental health issues. He was acquitted after a trial on fact.

## SEXUAL OFFENCES

- **R v W (youth) (Isleworth Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with 9 counts of historic sexual assaults, including rape. The complainant was 12 years old and had learning difficulties.

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- R v P (Harrow Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with a number of arsons and sexual assault arising from drug use.

- **R v B (Blackfriars Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was charged with facilitating an offence of a sexual against a child. The Crown were not able to proceed with the prosecution and the defendant was acquitted.

- **R v R (Inner London Crown Court)**

Represented the defendant who was a taxi driver and was charged with sexual assault of the female customer. Counter allegations were made during trial and the defendant was acquitted.

## EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Natasha graduated from the University of Leicester with an Economics and Law degree in 2009. Passionate about law, she then went to complete her LPC at BPP Law School in 2010. Since joining Lloyds PR Solicitors she has become a Police Station Representative and advises clients on matters that are dealt with in the Police Station, Magistrates Court and Crown Court. She is also a qualified duty solicitor and supervisor.

- 2009 – BA Hons Economics and Law – University of Leicester
- 2010 – Legal Practice Course – BPP Law School
- 2012 – Police Station Accreditation Course – University of Swansea

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- 2013 – Admitted to the Roll of Solicitors
- 2014 – Duty Solicitor Qualification
- 2017 – Accredited Supervisor

## MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- The Law Society
- The Junior Lawyers Division
- The Young Legal Aid Lawyers
- The Society of Asian Lawyers

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