



## Simon Spence QC

Silk: 2009 Call: 1985



Simon Spence QC was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2009. He 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 cases 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 Fairweather 15 year old boy charged with the double murder of two strangers in Colchester. A case that attracted national publicity and whereby Simon was interviewed in two TV documentaries. The issue was Diminished Responsibility and involved four psychiatrists. Wikipedia Link.

R v Rogers Prosecuting a double murder in which the defendant killed his mother and her friend. Difficult bad character application to make and the case relied entirely on forensic evidence, including footprint evidence and blood pattern and transfer. Media Link

R v Tucker Defended Squadron Leader charged with murdering his wife.

R v Hall 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 and Hall has now admitted his guilt.

R v Nunn Prosecution junior in murder of defendant's girlfriend. No forensic evidence and very difficult circumstantial evidence to present.

R v Wright Prosecution junior in case of serial killer of 5 prostitutes in Ipswich in 2006, a case which attracted global coverage.

### Organised Crime

Simon Spence QC has prosecuted a 4 handed murder trial in Norwich which arose out of a drugs 'turf war' between 2 London drugs gangs targeting Norwich as a place for potential

supply. It was an evidentially complex case, during which two defendants pleaded guilty and one more was convicted.

R v Y and others (2012)

Violent Crime

Long experience of prosecuting and defending non-fatal violent offences as a junior and in silk, especially involving complex and disputed forensic evidence.

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.

R v R (2013) Defended historic rape case that collapsed following late disclosure of diaries by prosecution.

R v Al-Ansari and Alobaydi Rape of student nurse involving abuse arguments relating to LPP and intercepted prison documents.

## Professional Disciplinary & Regulatory

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Health & Safety

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

R v B (2015) An ongoing Trading Standards case awaiting a 2 days abuse of process argument.

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

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Appeals

Simon has extensive experience of appellate work in all areas, including 2 appearances in the House of Lords and responding to a CCRC reference in a case described by the Court of Appeal as 'uniquely difficult'.

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, earning him particular praise from the Lord Chief Justice and a written endorsement from counsel for the Respondent for his mastery of a complicated factual scenario in such little time.

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 Hall (2009) CCRC reference involving disputed fibre evidence in a murder case with 4 forensic scientists giving evidence and being cross-examined.

R v Gotts (1992) Duress as a defence to attempted murder.

R v Morhall Provocation in murder (HL decision subsequently overturned).

Inquiries

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

## Recommendations

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"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

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Lectures/Presentations

2011 Policing Conference for Liberty

2012 Howard League for Penal Reform

## Additional Information

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Memberships

Criminal Bar Association South Eastern Circuit - Northern Circuit

Howard League for Penal Reform

Fellow of the Royal Society for Arts

Professional Appointments

Chairman of the East Anglian Bar Mess

Other

Door Tenant, Dere Street Chambers, York