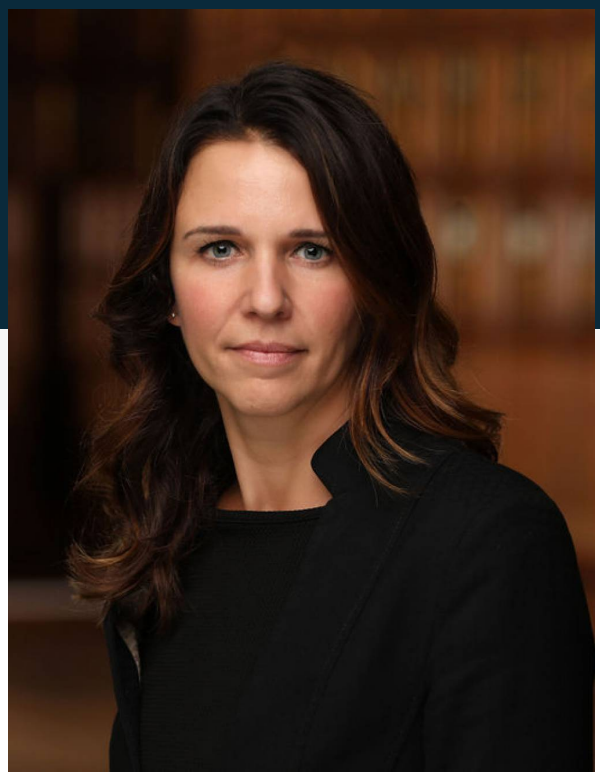
Clea Topolski KC.

Year of call Call: 2008 - KC

Barrister • 2024



clerks@crucible.law

What others say:

- *"Clea's submissions are a joy to listen to. I tend to adopt what she has said as it can't be said any better."*
  "Clea is charming, persuasive and personable."
  "Clea is confident in making difficult decisions and consistently makes the right choices for her clients."
  "Clea has so much care and compassion for her clients and the work. She is a force to be reckoned with in court."
  "Clea has expert knowledge of the law, is a skilled advocate and has huge respect for her clients." **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2027**
- *"She knows how to get the best out of opponents and is a sensible and charming advocate".*

  "She is brilliant with clients and great with judges, and her written work is superb".

  "Clea Topolski is excellent at her job. She always goes the extra mile for her client, making sure they feel very supported".

  "Clea is exceptional, from her analysis to her client-care skills". **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2026**
- *"Clea is a very skilled, determined and effective advocate. She is very strong on the law which*

Present and recent instructions:

- **R -v- BA** Acquittal after jury retired for just 20 minutes after a 5 day trial involving allegations of rape. Privately instructed.
- **R -v- JD** Privately instructed to represent a serving member of the armed forces on allegations of sexual assault by 2 complainants.
- **R -v- JA** Privately instructed in a case involving controlling and coercive behaviour, strangulation and sexual assault.
- **R -v- AW** Representing a man accused of murder with a firearm in a multi-handed trial at The Old Bailey.
- **R -v- JT** Representing a female youth accused of manslaughter in a multi-handed trial.

makes her advocacy that much more effective." **Legal 500 - 2026 (2024 Silks)**

- *"Clea is an all-rounder, she is super bright and a safe pair of hands. She gets on with professional and lay clients and judges and juries love her."*

  "She is exceptional with client care and judges."

  "She is super talented and proactive. She has leadership qualities and a really lovely tone in court." **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2025**
- *"A real strategist, who prepares every avenue of defence for her client and has the ability to draw everyone together."*

  "She's bright, she's got good judgement and she has a really nice style of advocacy."

  "Her written work is flawless." **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2024**
- *'Clea is a charming individual and forms great bonds with lay clients. She is thorough and hardworking and quickly and efficiently analyses evidence.'* **Legal 500 - Crime, Leading Juniors 2024**
- *'Brilliant with professional and lay clients, she is able to present cases well and is someone who knows the issues straight away - Clea has all the attributes to become a silk in the coming years'. 'She leaves no stone unturned and wants the best result for her client'.* **Chambers & Partners - Crime 2023**
- **Legal 500 - Crime, Leading Juniors 2023**
- 'A very able advocate who works collaboratively and always keeps a clear focus on the important issues in her client's case. She is diligent and prepares her cases fully.' **Chambers & Partners, Crime in London (Bar) 2022**

Practice Profile:

Clea has worked within criminal defence since 2003, when she was first a paralegal in a busy high street solicitors' office. She initially qualified as a solicitor before securing higher rights shortly thereafter. She then transferred to the Bar where she has practiced ever since. She took silk in 2024.

She practices exclusively in criminal defence work and is particularly specialist in homicide and serious sexual offences. She is regularly instructed in cases concerning the commercial supply and importation of

- **R -v- JEB** Acquitted after trial involving allegations of conspiracy to murder.
- **R -v- YM** Representing a man accused of attempted murder with a firearm involved in the supply of class A drugs.
- **R v. ZI** Represented a man accused of conspiracy to kidnap tried at the Old Bailey.
- **R v. FR** Represented a woman accused of conspiring to assist in unlawful immigration (small boats crossings) tried at Maidstone Crown Court.
- **R v. HR** Represented a woman accused of murder concerning a stabbing in East London. Handling of several child witnesses to the murder as well as raising the defences of loss of control and diminished responsibility.
- **R v. DH** Represented a youth accused of murder in a 7 handed trial at the Old Bailey.
- **R v. VDM** Represented a man accused of murder in a four handed group attack over drug territory at the Old Bailey
- **R v. BA** Represented a man accused of rape at Snaresbrook Crown Court
- **R v. V** Represented Mr V in a multi handed boiler room fraud at Southwark Crown Court.
- **R v. S** Multi handed murder at Southwark. 6 handed murder concerning an alleged ambush in a park.
- **R v W** Represented a male accused of raping his 9 year old niece. The case involved a s28 cross-examination.
- **R v. A** Conspiracy to murder at the Old Bailey. 6 handed trial concerning a shooting in a club with alleged gang rivalry.
- **R v T** Represented a man accused of causing death by careless driving. The facts concerned Mr T who was driving a HGV who hit a motorcyclist who was overtaking him.
- **R v. B** Murder at the Old Bailey. 7 handed "execution style" shooting with shot guns resulting in the murder of one victim and two attempted murders of two others.

drugs as well as fraud and financial crime. She is adept at putting the lay and professional client at ease and is often commended for her client care. She is routinely instructed in paper heavy cases with complex legal and factual issues.

She regularly practices from the Central Criminal Court and the south-eastern circuit and accepts instructions in appellate work in the Criminal division of the Court of Appeal.

Clea was the founding member of an outreach programme in a south London secondary school that gives students from “non-traditional” backgrounds, an opportunity for mini pupillage. The programme is a resounding success.

*Call 2014 and solicitor 2008.

Qualifications:

- LL.B (Hons), College of Law

Professional memberships:

- Criminal Bar Association

Other details:

- She is a member of both Amnesty International and Liberty.
- When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her two young children, and is a keen runner.

Serious crime:

A specialist in serious violent crimes, she is well-known for her client care and ability to provide advice regarding often complex cases in a friendly and clear manner. She has substantial experience dealing with vulnerable clients, whether suffering from mental illness or of a young age.

Notable serious crime cases:

R v G 2021

Central Criminal Court - Junior alone - unanimously acquitted of attempted murder.

R v L 2020

Kingston Crown Court – instructed in a multi-defendant conspiracy to rob and possess firearms case involving the targeting and robbing of cash in transit vehicles.

R v T 2020

Central Criminal Court – led junior in a two-handed murder resulting in acquittal.

R v L 2020

Kingston Crown Court – large scale conspiracy to supply class A drugs.

R v C 2020
Defended the female defendant in a kidnapping case, when her role was to be a visual assurance to the female complainant getting into a fake taxi-cab.

R v M 2019
Defended in a serious kidnapping case, when the complainant was a drug dealer targeted for his drugs and money.

R v D 2019
Kingston crown court successfully argued a stay of proceedings as an abuse of process in a multi-handed s18 trial.

R v F 2019
Maidstone Crown Court defended in the first of three trials of a large-scale prison mutiny case. One of the few defendants to be acquitted of Criminal Damage

R v T 2019
Blackfriars Crown Court – defended in the original trial of this modern slavery case which resulted in a hung jury in January. Made a successful half time submission in the re-trial in October.

R v S 2018
Led junior in a murder committed in a domestic setting, with a 12 year old as the Crown's key witness.

R v SS 2018
Successfully defended a man charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

R v D 2018
Multi-handed s18 assault.

R v D 2016
Represented a man in a large conspiracy to burgle residential properties spanning over 5 years.

<u>Serious Sexual offences</u>

R v P 2020
Inner London Crown Court – instructed in a multiple complainant historic sexual assault case.

R v B 2018
Historic sexual assault on the step-child in the familial home

R v J 2018
Historic sexual assault and buggery of children

R v H 2017
Defended a man charged with multiple rapes, false imprisonment and assault which included careful cross-examination of a witness with learning difficulties.

R v R 2016
Successfully defended a man charged with sexual assault

Extradition:

She has a growing practice in extradition where she represents clients from final hearings to appeals in the High Court.