



Selena Jones

Year of call: 2011

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Practice Summary

Selena accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' practice and has a particular interest in Property, Local Government and Public Law. Selena previously practised at a leading set of chambers which specialises in Criminal Law, where she gained significant experience of conducting trials both defending and prosecuting in the Youth Court, Magistrates' Court and Crown Court. This experience compliments Selena's Housing and Property practice and makes her the perfect choice for cases involving criminal offences which relate to social housing properties. She is highly valued by lay and professional clients and is renowned for her "*fearless approach to defence*" and has been commended for her written and oral advocacy by those who instruct her. Selena has been commended by judges as an advocate with "*ability, knowledge, principled confidence and strong ethics together with a thoroughly pleasant and highly persuasive manner*". She is recognised for her skilful handling of cases involving vulnerable defendants and is described as having a "*wonderful aura which makes clients feel at ease*". Selena has appeared in contested confiscation hearings some of which have included the consideration of Unlawful Profit Orders. Notable cases are listed below.

Prior to pupillage, Selena was an accomplished Senior Fraud Investigator. Selena successfully led a project which was funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in respect of offences relating to Social Housing properties committed by Serious Organised Criminal Networks. A notable case was selected by the BBC; Selena worked as the lead investigator on behalf of two local authorities and the Department for Work and Pensions concerning an individual who used multiple identities to perpetuate a large-scale fraud which was valued at £314,126.77. The individual unlawfully sublet two local authority properties and dishonestly claimed Single Persons discounts and Housing Benefit. The BBC re-enacted the case and featured it in a documentary. Selena received commendation and praise from the BBC on leading "an excellent investigation.". Selena gained a wealth of experience in diverse, complex and serious fraud cases, during which she developed expertise in the prosecution of offences relating to Housing Law; an insight which has proved invaluable in her practice.

Selena also worked for 8 years as a Housing Officer where she gained extensive experience in all aspects of

landlord and tenant law; homelessness, allocations, nuisance, leasehold management, disrepair, unlawful eviction, possession proceedings, family home rights and succession. She has worked as a Housing Paralegal where she undertook legal research, drafted pleadings, assisted in the preparation of defences, prepared bundles for trial and attended court; an Appropriate Adult, which provided her with frequent experience of interacting with youths and vulnerable adults; an Advisor with a Law Centre, a FRU Representative and a McKenzie Friend with the National Centre of Domestic Violence where she represented sufferers of domestic violence in the County Courts. Selena has also worked on the disclosure review relating to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Academic

- Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn Sunley Scholarship 2016.
 - Bar Vocational Course – City Law School – 2011
 - Accredited Counter Fraud Specialist - University of Portsmouth
 - Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn Hardwick Entrance Award 2009.
 - Course Director's Prize LLB Law for Outstanding Achievement 2008.
 - LLB Law - London South Bank University; Part Time - Upper Second Class
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Appointments

- Attorney General's Junior Juniors scheme – (Appointed in 2017)
 - CPS Advocates Panel general Crime Level 2
 - Appointed as a Magistrate (2010)
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Publications

- "Criminalising subletting; A step too far, or not far enough? The Barrister Magazine, 52nd Edition, April 2012, p.12.
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Notable Cases

R v JB – Kingston Crown Court

Successfully secured an acquittal on all counts for a client who was charged with four Counts of fraud and one Count of Possession of Articles for use in Fraud.

R v OD – Bromley Magistrates' Court

Successfully represented a client who was accused of making false representations to the Department of Work and Pensions. The case was dismissed.

R v DA – Harrow Crown Court

Represented DA for a committal to the Crown Court for sentence. DA was charged with dishonestly failing to disclose information, which she was under a legal duty to disclose, namely subletting a social housing property and failing to reside at the property as her only or principal home for over 6 years. DA was sentenced to a Suspended Sentence Order.

R v GE – Guildford Crown Court

Represented GE who was accused of failing to notify a change in circumstances to obtain Housing Benefit by failing to disclose an increase in his income.

R v VT - Kingston Crown Court

Successfully prosecuted a case concerning VT's failure to disclose a change in circumstances, namely spending long periods of time abroad.

R v DM and AM - Croydon Crown Court

Successfully prosecuted two Defendants who were jointly charged on a 13 Count indictment with Frauds which were perpetrated against Her Majesty's Passport Office, the Department of Work and Pensions and the DVLA

Proceeds of Crime Act offences

R v MA – Confiscation Hearing– Harrow Crown Court 2018

Defended MA of confiscation order sought by local Authority to recover benefit gained from MA subletting her social housing property.

R v AD – Confiscation Hearing – Inner London Crown Court

Prosecuted confiscation proceedings relating to benefit fraud resulting from AD's failure to disclose a change in her circumstances.

R v RG others – Confiscation Hearing - Swindon Crown Court

Secured a nominal amount in a confiscation order made in respect of a case relating to being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.
