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CHAMBERS

# SHAUNA RITCHIE

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Expert advocate in crime and health and safety

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# SHAUNA RITCHIE

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## Expert advocate in crime and health and safety

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Shauna Ritchie is a leading advocate specialising in serious crime and health and safety. She regularly appears in very high profile, serious, and complex cases in both fields.

One of only a handful of barristers ranked in both Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 guides in both Crime and Health and Safety, she has twice been shortlisted as Chambers UK Bar's Health and Safety Junior of the Year (in 2018 and 2022). In 2023 she was nominated Corporate Crime Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Awards, and Crime Junior of the Year at the Chambers UK Bar Awards. Shauna has been rated the "Star Individual" Junior Counsel in Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2023 Guide in Health and Safety.

Shauna has extensive experience both prosecuting and defending serious and complex cases. Her practice encompasses the full spectrum of serious criminal and regulatory offences, from murder, rape, and serious sexual and violent offences to corporate and gross negligence manslaughter and HSWA offences. She is renowned for her meticulous case preparation, sound strategic advice, and tenacious and effective court advocacy.

Shauna studied law at Kings College London and the Inns of Court School of Law and was called to the bar in 2000 at Lincoln's Inn. She is a Grade 4 CPS and Rape Panel Advocate and Specialist Regulatory Panel Advocate in Health and Safety and Environmental Law.

## Year of call: 2000

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## Education: King's College London, Inns of Court School of Law

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# PRACTICE AREAS

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## Health & Safety

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## Criminal Law

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## Environmental Law

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## Fraud & Financial Crime

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## Inquests & Inquiries

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## Gross Negligence Manslaughter & Corporate Manslaughter

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"She never fails to impress. She is extremely responsive, which instructing solicitors and clients value when faced with fast-moving and fast-paced investigations."

— HEALTH & SAFETY – C&P 2023

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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Shauna has a substantial specialist practice defending and prosecuting serious Health and Safety matters. Her expertise extends to all aspects of health and safety enforcement, including fire safety offences. Shauna has particular experience in relation to construction, asbestos, road and railways, healthcare, and the leisure industry. Her defence practice ranges from cases concerning individual workers and contractors, to company directors, large organisations, and corporate bodies. She is appointed to the List of Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law.

### Notable Cases

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#### **R v NHS Foundation Trust (Prosecution)**

- Prosecution of NHS trust for Health and Safety offences in relation to eleven in-patient ligature deaths over a ten-year period.

#### **R v STB Primary School (Prosecution)**

- Prosecution of a primary school that provided lit candles to children taking part in Christmas pageant in relation to serious burn injuries suffered by a pupil.

#### **R v M&S, WDC & Another (Prosecution)**

- Junior counsel to the Crown in prosecution alleging serious failings by large retailer and construction firm in relation to the management of asbestos removal.

#### **R v WCL & Others (Defence)**

- Junior counsel on behalf of Principal Contractor acquitted of health and safety offences following the death of a passer-by to a construction project.

#### **R v CT Ltd & P (Defence)**

- Representing duty holders in relation to breaches of Regulatory Reform 2019 (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

#### **R v L (Defence)**

- Postal worker acquitted of H&S offence arising from

road traffic incident.

#### **R v M Ltd & Others (Defence)**

- Representing large principal contractor acquitted of health and safety offences arising from a construction site death.

#### **R v S Ltd & H; R v MJE Ltd; R v WSSL & C (Prosecution)**

- H&S offences arising from incidents resulting in serious injury during equipment installation, minor injury from a crane collapse, and a worker killed in scaffolding collapse respectively.

## CRIMINAL LAW

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Shauna is a vastly experienced criminal advocate dealing with particular expertise in dealing with serious sexual and violent offences, and young and vulnerable witnesses and defendants. Her practice encompasses the full spectrum of criminal offences. Recent cases in which Shauna has been instructed include murder and attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, money laundering, corruption, and conspiracy to supply drugs and firearms.

### Notable Cases

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#### **R v E and Others**

- Junior counsel in month long abuse of process hearing resulting in stay of proceedings against all defendants on charges relating to brothel keeping.

#### **R v IM (Prosecution)**

- Successful prosecution of an off-duty police officer for rape of his partner.

#### **R v WC (Defence)**

- Junior Defence Counsel in relation to a very high-profile murder - including appeal to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division on appeal against the imposition of a Whole Life Order before the Lord Chief Justice leading a five-judge court.

#### R v KSF (Prosecution)

- Junior Counsel for the Crown prosecuting an internationally famous defendant in relation to multiple historic sexual offences in a case attracting international media interest.

#### R v D (Defence)

- Representing defendant who attempted to set fire to a woman after pouring petrol on her immediately following an attack in which he sustained a serious head injury.

#### R v E, H, & I (Prosecution)

- Prosecution for attempted murder and GBH where defendants mounted the pavement in a vehicle and drove at a crowd of partygoers.

#### R v W (Prosecution)

- Contempt of Court concerning witness to violent murder refusing to give evidence.

#### R v I & Others (Defence)

- Attempted Murder allegation following an incident in which a man was doused with petrol and set on fire.

#### R v KD & Others (Defence)

- Junior counsel acting for fourteen-year-old defendant accused of joint enterprise murder with five others, the youngest of whom was thirteen.

#### R v G & 8 Others (Defence)

- Murder acquittal following violent disorder.

#### R v U (Defence)

- Represented security guard accused of sexual offences against detained women.

#### R v H & Another (Defence)

- Defendant acquitted of s.18 GBH in relation to an incident also concerning a 'one punch' manslaughter.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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Shauna defends allegations brought by the Environment Agency and local authorities including in relation to breaches of Environmental Law.

### Notable Cases

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#### Millmore and others v Environment Agency [2019] EWHC 443 (Admin)

- Case stated appeal arising from the prosecution of five water company employees for obstruction of Environment Agency Officers in relation to an investigation into water pollution.

#### EA v S & Others (Defence)

- Represented at trial and subsequent appeal one of two water company employees acquitted of Environment Act offence of obstruction on appeal to Divisional Court.

## FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME

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Alongside her general criminal practice, Shauna has particular experience defending in large and complex multi-defendant fraud and financial crime matters.

### Notable Cases

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#### R v SM and Others (Defence)

- Defence junior counsel in one of the largest ever Trading Standards prosecutions for conspiracy to defraud arising out of the allegedly fraudulent mis-selling of heating systems. Prosecution offered no evidence following defence legal argument on disclosure.

#### R v S & Others (Defence)

- Junior counsel for only acquitted defendant in VAT fraud and money laundering offences arising out of hawala banking.

**R v M & Others (Defence)**

- Junior counsel acting for engineering contractor in case concerning allegations of fraud and corruption in relation to contracts for work carried out for a public body.

## INQUESTS & INQUIRIES

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Particular experience representing medical professionals and cases concerning workplace deaths. In the Coroner's Court Shauna has represented individuals, companies, and government departments at inquests ranging from deaths on the railway and on commercial premises, to domestic carbon monoxide poisoning, agricultural and construction industry deaths. In recent years these have included a crane collapse and a multi-fatality gas explosion. She has particular experience representing medical professionals at inquests in relation to the death of patients in their care, and corporate clients in relation to work related deaths.

### Notable Cases

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**Grenfell Tower Inquiry**

- Instructed to represent the managing director of a corporate core participant in the Inquiry and any subsequent criminal proceedings.

**Re: TB**

- Representing local authority at inquest into death of man subject to multi-agency interventions also involving police and local NHS Trust.

**Re: TO**

- Representing multinational company at inquest in relation death by electrocution of power company employee whilst at work.

**Re: JP**

- Representing Construction Joint Venture in relation to driver death following motorway upgrade.

**Re: TH, JPB, LB, and CG**

- Representing a government corporate contractor at inquest into multiple murders committed by individual on probation supervision.

## GROSS NEGLIGENCE MANSLAUGHTER & CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER

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### Notable cases

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**R v OI Ltd, KMW Ltd, and Three Others (Prosecution)**

- Two Corporate Manslaughter convictions secured in prosecution concerning a fatal fall from height by a worker, including associated health and safety offences against three company directors.

**R v S (Prosecution)**

- Leading counsel for the Crown prosecuting gross negligence manslaughter and health and safety offences arising out of a fatality during demolition work at a residential property.

**R v T & T (Prosecution)**

- Junior counsel to the Crown in a prosecution for gross negligence manslaughter and health and safety offences arising out of the death of a seven year old child when a fairground bouncy castle was blown from its moorings.

**R v GC & PD Ltd (Prosecution)**

- Junior counsel to the Crown in gross negligence manslaughter where a child was killed by the collapse of a recently constructed retaining wall adjacent to the public footway.

**R v O & Others (Prosecution)**

- Corporate manslaughter prosecution relating to worker death at recycling centre.

# INSTRUCTING SHAUNA RITCHIE

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Mayfair Place Chambers streamlines the process of instructing counsel, arranging conferences, scheduling hearings, and timely billing. It does so with the assistance of its Practice Manager, Sorcha Duncan, and through the use of state of the art software, provided by LawPage.

For initial enquiries as to counsel's expertise, availability and fees, please contact Sorcha Duncan at [sorcha.duncan@lawpage.co.uk](mailto:sorcha.duncan@lawpage.co.uk) or at +44 (0) 203 205 7138. Once instructed, solicitors and those assisting them email counsel directly in order to provide papers and instructions, book conferences, and receive or provide notifications of hearings. Counsel's calendar is immediately updated on receipt of court listings, conference invitations and Teams meetings sent directly to their email address. At the point of instruction, solicitors are invited to provide dates or periods for their preferred billing schedule; additionally fee notes are provided within 24 hours of any request.

For further details and terms please see [mayfairplace.com](http://mayfairplace.com).

"A barrister with first-class advocacy skills who will stop at nothing to ensure justice is achieved."

— CHAMBERS UK 2021 (HEALTH & SAFETY)

"A very meticulous and accomplished barrister."

— LEGAL 500 2021 (CRIME)

"She is a fantastic advocate and is extremely hard-working"

— CHAMBERS UK 2021 (HEALTH & SAFETY)

"She looks like a silk of the future. She's got an excellent court presence such that judges trust her."

— CRIME – C&P 2023