



Practice Profile

"She is nothing short of brilliant" (Chambers & Partners, Financial Crime)

"Kathryn is a fierce cross-examiner; determined, methodical and robust. Her advocacy is focused and persuasive – legal argument is her natural home" (Legal 500, Fraud 2025)

"Kathryn is diligent, hard-working and details oriented, and at the same time very personable. She is a delight to work with and puts clients at ease. She demonstrates a breadth of knowledge and brings a refreshing perspective, drawn from her criminal prosecution and defence practice and corporate investigations experience" (Legal 500, Business & Regulatory Crime (including Global Investigations) 2025)

"An outstanding and persuasive advocate able to distil complex matters into the core issues that are the central points in a clear and understandable way." (Legal 500, Business & Regulatory Crime (Including Global Investigations) 2024)

"She is willing to reach an informed and confident view on challenging and strategically important issues." (Chambers & Partners, Financial Crime 2024)

"She swiftly gets to the heart of the issue and provides highly expert, tailored, clear advice that both is user-friendly and provides the best workable solution under the circumstances." (Chambers & Partners, Financial Crime 2024)

"Kathryn is bright and charming - she has a great manner with the client and in court. She presents complicated strategic advice in a clear and concise manner." (Chambers & Partners, Financial Crime 2024)

Nominated: Legal 500 UK Corporate Crime Junior of the Year 2024 and 2022. Kathryn is also recommended as a leading junior in fraud in the Lexology UK Bar Index.

Advocacy

Kathryn is recognised as an "extraordinarily persuasive" and accomplished criminal court advocate, who has "a charismatic presence" and "lovely manner in court". She is experienced in jury trial and appellate work and has acted as both leading and junior counsel in a wide range of financial crime and serious general criminal cases.

"Exceptionally good and very hard-working", Kathryn acts for both for the defence and also for the prosecution where there is a novel or complex question of law with instructions coming from HMRC, The Insolvency Service and the Serious Economic Crime and Special Crime teams at the CPS.

Kathryn is currently instructed as junior alone in a range of trials involving allegations of fraud; money laundering; cheat on the revenue; Companies Act offences; serious violence against women and other complex general

crime. These instructions include issues requiring sensitive witness handling, challenging expert evidence as well as complex legal argument.

This combination and range of experience enhances Kathryn's ability to defend and to advise on Private Prosecutions, an area where she has growing expertise.

In addition, Kathryn acts in contested applications for account freezing and account forfeiture orders and has experience representing individuals in regulatory proceedings.

Advisory (Individuals)

Kathryn has a substantial advisory practice advising individuals pre-charge on their personal liability to criminal and regulatory proceedings. She is "detail-oriented, logical and comprehensive in her approach" with "an in-depth knowledge of criminal procedure".

Bringing "a really broad range of experience", she is sought after for her insights into and "clear, strategic advice" on emerging areas of criminal law. Her recent instructions encompass a diverse range of issues such as corporate criminal liability, the feasibility of initiating private prosecutions, LPP and directors duties.

Kathryn is experienced advising potential witnesses working within corporates under investigation. She is "very approachable", has "excellent client management skills" and builds "excellent rapport with clients".

She advises at all stages of an investigation. She is well-versed with the opportunities to co-operate with investigations and is "organised and methodical" in her approach. Similarly, she is experienced in managing a strategic case in the face of the use of aggressive investigatory powers.

Advisory (Corporates)

Kathryn "provides legal advice which is informed by pertinent strategic and commercial considerations" to corporates.

In recent years, Kathryn has acted for a global bank, international mining company, law firm and a range of smaller companies providing strategic advice on white collar, regulatory and collateral civil fraud investigations. She is therefore experienced advising Boards, senior management and in-house legal teams and working effectively and sensitively with the corporate to manage often conflicting legal /regulatory obligations and personnel issues. She is recognised as being able to "explain the matter in a clear digestible way that makes her advice both indispensable and user friendly.

She is familiar with reputational damage concerns and has worked with PR teams to prepare appropriate press releases and advises on legal privilege and market sensitive/ insider information.

Kathryn is experienced and comfortable working in parallel with teams of foreign lawyers and commercial /litigation firms including magic circle. Kathryn has worked on cases involving parallel criminal, civil or regulatory proceedings in the USA (DOJ and SEC) and Luxembourg and has experience of working on cases where the underlying dishonest conduct / bribery took place outside of jurisdiction in Russia, China, and Africa (Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya and Mozambique).

Kathryn is often instructed when the issue is first identified to offer immediate strategic advice and support for a corporate where an internal investigation is necessary. She has conducted individual-issue internal investigations alone and worked as part of a team to scope the corporate's criminal and regulatory exposure.

Kathryn advises on self-reporting, co-operating with prosecuting authorities, managing regulatory obligations and complying with obligations arising from insolvency service investigations.

Kathryn's Privacy Policy can be downloaded [here](#).

Areas of Practice

- Financial & Corporate Crime
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Prosecution
- Homicide
- Sexual Offences
- 5KBW Criminal Appeals
- 5KBW Criminal Appeals Resources

What The Directories Say

"She is very good and knows her stuff. She is really user-friendly and nice to deal with." *Chambers UK 2025 - Financial Crime*

"Kathryn is excellent and a very assured practitioner." *Chambers UK 2025 - Financial Crime*

"Kathryn is a great junior, with a strong background in non-financial crime, which is incredibly useful when advising on financial crime-related matters." *Chambers UK 2025 - Financial Crime*

Professional Appointments

- Master of the Bench, Inner Temple [2019]
- Master of the South Eastern Circuit, Inner Temple [2020-current]
- CPS Specialist Fraud panel – level 4
- CPS Special Crime panel – level 4
- CPS Counter Terrorism panel – level 3
- CPS General Crime panel – level 4
- President of the Inner Temple Junior Bar Association [2013]
- Professional memberships
- Fraud Lawyers Association [committee member]
- Private Prosecutors Association [member]

News

Six Defendants Found Guilty of Murder and Robbery

26 February 2025

Mr Michael Obasi disappeared on the evening of 14 March 2024. He was a much-loved son, father and brother. His family reported him missing immediately. His body was found in a park by a dog walker on 16 March 2024. He had been robbed, beaten and left to die. A major police investigation identified 6 suspects through tracking the use of Michael's bank cards and the disposal of his property. The case at trial was built on a timeline of CCTV before and after the attack, showing the defendants entering the park as a group and leaving in two groups – one with Michael's bank cards and the other with some of Michael's other possessions. Two younger defendants aged 14, and 16 at the time were linked to the attack through DNA evidence. All six defendants were convicted of murder following a trial before Mr Justice Wall and a jury. The first three defendants were also charged with an attempted robbery of another man on 15 January 2024. They were convicted of that count.

Prosecuted by Kathryn Arnot Drummond led by Peter Finnigan KC from QEB Hollis Whiteman instructed by the Complex Casework Unit at CPS West Midlands.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14438923/thugs-murder-devoted-father-shopping-bank.html>

<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/news/west-midlands/news/news/2025/february/six-people-convicted-of-murdering-father-in-birmingham-park/>

Defence of Private Prosecution for Fraud

31 January 2025

Kathryn Arnot Drummond represents client who faced private prosecution for fraud.

Issues: *private prosecutions, duty of candour and s.19 POA 1985 costs*

The case had a substantial history of civil proceedings in the High Court, which had resulted in the imposition of an Extended Civil Restraint Order against the private prosecutor. To circumvent the order, he obtained summonses against several defendants without informing the magistrates' court or defendants of the ECRO, in breach of his duty of candour.

After a letter of representations on the merits, which also argued that the proceedings were an abuse of process, the CPS were due to take over and discontinue proceedings. At the request of the defence (and to ensure finality to the proceedings), the prosecutor agreed to offer no evidence.

Application was made for costs under section 19 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985. The prosecutor argued that the bringing of a private prosecution could not itself amount to an improper act where a District Judge had issued a summons. Kathryn relied on a line of authorities including the leading case of R (Holloway) v Harrow Crown Court [2019] EWHC 1731 (Admin). After argument and a further hearing on quantum, the District Judge found that the bringing of this private prosecution was itself an improper act and costs were awarded to the defendant in full.

Kathryn was instructed by @PeterCzemczky at @Hickman&Rose.

TRIAL OF MEDEA “Georgian Princess acquitted of killing her own children and her husband’s mistress”

28 October 2024

Mark Heywood KC leading **Kathryn Arnot Drummond** acted for the defence on a pro bono basis, having been assigned by the charity “Classics For All”, founded in 2010, whose purpose is to encourage the learning of classical subjects in state schools.

In the Supreme Court on Thursday 24 October 2024, Medea, Princess of ancient Colchis on the eastern shores of the Black Sea (now Georgia), and wife of Jason of the Argo, the classical Greek hero who won the Golden Fleece, was tried for the killings of her own two sons and of Princess Glauke of Corinth. The case was heard by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd-Jones, Justice of the Supreme Court, and a jury of classicists, lawyers and students. The trial was live streamed to an audience of several hundred.



The truly formidable case for the prosecution was based on the dramatic and eponymous play, written by Euripides in 431BC, and comprised eye witness accounts and detailed confession evidence, suggesting a wicked and vengeful motive and careful planning.

In focussed but broadly based submissions, the defence team had 25 minutes or so to deal with the poignant written accounts but also with the 2,500 years of subsequent affirmation of guilt and damning publicity. Mark Heywood KC attacked and disassembled the fundamentals of the prosecution case, as well as the reliability and credibility of the primary accuser, to show that the alleged unlawful killings did not happen. In 7 minute submissions described by Lord Lloyd-Jones as covering the whole of Classical Greek mythology, Kathryn Arnot Drummond gave individual voice to Medea herself from the ancient texts and masterfully demonstrated why the playwright had cast her as he did, given the treatment of women in Classical mythology.

In verdicts delivered immediately, without deliberation, the jury acquitted by a majority of 35-16 on all counts. Her Royal Highness, who attended the trial, was discharged by the Court. She expressed her deep gratitude to her counsel team and said that the long wait for justice had been worth it.

The trial and verdicts were reported in The Times, Saturday 26 October 2024 print and digital editions, and online: see <https://www.thetimes.com/article/27ea6290-30e0-4085-a6a4-cdb36d964448?shareToken=109c779cb48bd2627b2930dd52fd8a31>

The live-stream recording of the trial is here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/WthbzjZb1Ec?si=jqIaOlohcdcX3DwT>

The charity, in collaboration with the Supreme Court, assisted by Lord Justice Singh, has held a series of such trials, the next of which is likely to take place in 2025: see <https://classicsforall.org.uk/news-and-events/events/past-events>

Extracts of counsel's submissions can be viewed here:

Mark Heywood KC

Kathryn Arnot Drummond

Legal 500 Bar Awards 2024

9 July 2024

Chambers are delighted to announce that **Mark Heywood KC** has been shortlisted for Financial Crime Silk of the year, **Louise Oakley** has been shortlisted for Crime and Extradition Junior of the year, and **Kathryn Arnot Drummond** has been shortlisted for Corporate Crime Junior of the year.

The Legal 500 celebrates excellence across England and Wales; with these awards recognising chambers, as well as individuals in specific practice areas. There are also categories for arbitrators, juniors, silks and sets.

The awards ceremony will take place in September. We wish all nominees the best of luck!

OCG Convictions for Importation of Class A Drugs

1 July 2024

An Organised Crime Group who imported 177kg cocaine and 632kg ketamine from Europe have been convicted after a four week trial at Hove Crown Court.

In a joint operation by the NCA and Sussex Police's Serious Organised Crime Squad, two runs were detected showing lorry collections in Belgium and France.

Phone, ANPR, DNA and financial evidence showed the way in which the OCG was operating. Tachygraph and refrigeration expert evidence showed the steps taken by the drivers to evade detection.

Following a trial, the group was sentenced to a total of 41 years imprisonment.

Kathryn Arnot Drummond, leading Laura Jeffrey from 6KBW College Hill, appeared on behalf of the Crown instructed by the CPS.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13577591/Pictured-Crime-gang-smuggled-24m-worth-hard-drugs-UK-jailed-total-41-years.html>

Alleged Offences Under the Companies Act 2006

2 May 2024

Kathryn Arnot Drummond and Anna Dutka represented the directors of a residential property management company in proceedings brought by Companies House for alleged offences under the Companies Act 2006. The directors were all professionals working in FCA regulated roles and philanthropic institutions. Following written representations, the Prosecuting Solicitor withdrew all charges against all directors. Instructed by Adam Palmer of ColmanCoyle.

Chambers Welcome Kathryn Arnot Drummond

19 March 2024

We are delighted to announce that Kathryn Arnot Drummond has joined 5KBW. Kathryn was called to the bar in 2008 and has a specialist practice in all aspects of financial crime. Kathryn was nominated by the Legal 500 in 2022 for UK Corporate Crime Junior of the Year and will join our financial and corporate crime teams.

Joint Head of Chambers, Mark Heywood KC has said of Kathryn's move, "*We are delighted to welcome Kathryn to 5KBW. She has demonstrated excellence in her chosen fields of practice and further adds to the depth of talent within our set. We wish Kathryn every continued success in her practice and are very much looking forward to working with her.*"

What the directories say

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Recent Cases
