



Lisa Bald

Call 2009

Lisa Bald has been a trial advocate for 16 years, purely practising in criminal law.

Her expertise has been recognized by Chambers & Partners – the UK Bar, in which she has been ranked for six consecutive years.

Directory contributors describe her as “an incisive lawyer”, “an excellent, persuasive advocate who will think innovatively around an issue”, “she has superb jury skills and is just a naturally brilliant advocate”.

Lisa specialises in cases of the utmost gravity whether they be allegations of murder, baby shaking, large scale drug importations or rape. She primarily defends but also prosecutes at the highest level (grade 4).

Examples of her trials in 2025 include conspiracy to murder (with a firearm) and importation of class A drugs on a massive scale (defending), an attempted murder shooting on Coldharbour Lane (defending) and the murder of a victim of servitude (prosecuting).

Lisa also accepts private instructions for individuals facing sexual allegations where her experience as a prosecutor is invaluable. She is often instructed to draft representations to the Crown to stop prosecutions pre-charge.

Lisa is also familiar with the challenges facing instructing solicitors in securing proper payment for legal aid work. In *Stuart Miller Solicitors v Lord Chancellor* [2025] EWHC 2149 (SCCO) Lisa successfully persuaded the Costs Judge that despite the fact that the case was listed only for sentence, and there had been no mention during the hearing of it being a newton hearing, it was right to remunerate the solicitors with a newton fee, not a sentencing fee.

Practice Areas

Murder & Manslaughter

Notable murder & manslaughter cases

R v CB & Others, Kingston Crown Court

CB was acquitted of attempted murder, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of a firearm.



R v JK & Others, Central Criminal Court

Allegation of a contract killing and massive class A drug importation arranged on Encrochat

R v E & B (2025)

Prosecuting a gang-related murder. B coordinated a 'hit' on a gang rival he spotted in his postcode, with E shooting the victim, in a brazen attack in the middle of the day. There were no eyewitnesses and although the victim survived he would not give an account to police. Therefore, it was crucial to introduce a 999 call from a neighbour who refused to give evidence but saw the hitman on an e-scooter, putting a firearm in his manbag. This description exactly matched a video of E on an earlier occasion. Therefore, the prosecution made a hearsay application using the new authority of R v B.O.B. [2024] EWCA Crim 1494. The application was successful. Both defendants were convicted.

R v B, C & Others, Snaresbrook Crown Court

Lisa defended C, who was accused of murdering 16 year old TF when he was just 5 minutes away from his home, walking his dog. The prosecution relied on joint enterprise to convict C.

R v WSM, Winchester Crown Court 2024

The defendant was a TikTok influencer who had murdered a vulnerable veteran, after she perceived he had mistreated her dog. Lisa's efforts for the prosecution in this complicated case were commended by the Assistant Chief Constable of the Hampshire Constabulary.

R v OI & Another, Chelmsford Crown Court 2023

Lisa represented the stepfather of a twin baby who had been murdered by its mother, he was accused of allowing the death s5 DVCVA 2004.

R v AF, Reading Crown Court 2023

Lisa represented a burglar who was accused of attacking an elderly pensioner who surprised him during a dwelling burglary.

R v IF & Others, Cambridge Crown Court 2023

Lisa defended IF, who was accused of a joint enterprise attempted murder in which a man was brutally attacked with a hammer in a racist assault. The prosecution case was that IF was part of a honey trap ploy. Lisa's application of the guidance in Jogee, led to her client's sole acquittal of all charges (attempted murder and s18) at half time.

R v MP & Others, Cambridge Crown Court 2023



Lisa defended MP, a young man with severe learning difficulties who was accused of a joint enterprise double attempted murder in a gang drugs dispute. MP was acquitted of both counts of attempted murder.

R v NB & Another, Oxford Crown Court 2021

Lisa was led by Jon Swain in this allegation of murder, after a young drug dealer was stabbed to death in a quiet residential area.

R v NH & Another, Warwick Crown Court 2020

Lisa forced the Crown to concede an Application to Dismiss on an Assisting an Offender (wanted for murder) allegation after seeking to exclude admissions made by the defendant in breach of PACE 1984.

R v MS & Another, Central Criminal Court 2019

Lisa was led by Charlie Sherrard KC in this allegation of murder arising out of a neighbour dispute over drug dealing in a residential

Crime

Notable crime cases

R v Gustavson, 2024

This is the rarest case of consensual harm to come before the criminal courts. The defendant was accused of removing the penis of the 'Eunuch Maker', Mr Gustavson – another defendant suffering from extreme body dysmorphia and a propagator of not only this proclivity but also BDSM practices. This ongoing case reignites the question of where the limitations of personal choice fall? Society allows citizens to tattoo and pierce – this technically is a form of harm. It allows people to add to their bodies, in the form of implants and Botox.

R v CL & Others, Woolwich Crown Court 2024

Lisa defended the Assistant Governor of a well known London prison for allegations of public misconduct, after a detainee was attacked severely by prison officers in revenge. CL was acquitted of all charges.

R v PM & Others, Luton Crown Court 2024

Lisa defended PM, accused of a cryptocurrency motivated kidnap, blackmail and arson.

R v KC & Others, Chelmsford Crown Court 2024

Lisa defended a vulnerable woman accused of participating in a marriage sham conspiracy.

R v PC & Others, Chelmsford Crown Court 2024

Lisa defended PC, accused of an aggravated burglary involving the brandishing of knives, a meat cleaver and pepper spray.

R v AW & Others, Central Criminal Court 2023

Lisa defended AW, who was accused of committing a joint enterprise robbery, as a precursor to a murder. AW was acquitted at trial.

R v RJ, Wood Green Crown Court 2021

The defendant faced allegations of Possession of a Firearm with Intent to Endanger Life in a road rage incident. He was acquitted of all charges after legal arguments re the sufficiency of forensic evidence were submitted.

R v FJ, Chelmsford Crown Court 2021

The defendant had used the dark web to obtain a regular supply of Class A drugs. He had also arranged delivery of a semi-automatic handgun and ammunition.

R v RO, Wood Green Crown Court 2019

RO accepted slashing the complainant in the face with a machete but claimed self-defence. Despite, RO's previous convictions for drug dealing, possession of a firearm and a silencer, he was acquitted. The case involved substantial arguments re disclosure and non-defendant bad character.

R v PM & Others, Wood Green Crown Court 2019

Armed robbery case involving multiple s78 arguments relating to social media content, assertions of gang membership and the impact of cellsite evidence.

R v SQ & Others, Luton Crown Court 2018

Lisa defended in this 8 handed case that revolved around gang culture, drill music and a drive by shooting. SQ was accused of providing the firearm that was used to shoot two complainants on a residential street. The case required complex arguments regarding the admissibility of WhatsApp messages, non-conviction bad character and the confines of s98 CJA 2003. After a 3 month trial, SQ was acquitted on all charges.

R v BO & Another, Snaresbrook Crown Court 2018

BO was accused of using the dark web to import firearms into the UK from Spain. The defendant had been identified as a result of a pro-active investigation by the police. The case involved a 86,000 pages of

computer evidence involving bitcoin transactions and police surveillance.

Drugs & Money Laundering

Notable drugs & money laundering cases

R v JK & Others 2025, Central Criminal Court

Lisa was led in one of the largest drug importation conspiracies revealed by the Encrochat hack.

R v BD & Others 2024, Wood Green Crown Court

Lisa instructed as leading junior in a massive class A drug conspiracy closely connected to the world of chemsex. BD is accused of a leading role in this nationwide conspiracy.

R v GW & Another [2023] EWCA Crim 1682

The Court of Appeal agreed with Lisa's submission that the appellant should have been sentenced as a significant role not a leading role offender. They endorsed her suggested reduction of 4 years, from 24 years to 20 years (before credit), despite the appellants managerial function in a massive drug conspiracy (83 kilos of class A drugs and evidence of 2.5 tonnes passing through the warehouse unit that he managed).

R v H & H

The two defendants were accused of importing a large amount of cocaine into the United Kingdom. The evidence was extremely strong, but Lisa capitalised on the National Crime Agency's failures in their investigation on a lesser count of money laundering to persuade the jury that the entire investigation was corrupt and dangerous.

R v VL & Others, Inner London Crown Court 2021

Lisa acted in the prosecution of a Brazilian OCG who supplied chemsex drugs in the Kent area.

R v SD & Others, Kingston Crown Court 2019

Lisa represented SD for the second time. The case involved complicated arguments re the overlap of differing conspiracies, the distinction between s98 and the bad character provisions and the admissibility of cell site evidence.

R v SD & Others, Bristol Crown Court 2018

Lisa represented SD who was accused of playing a crucial role in a county lines drug conspiracy.

R v TJ & 4 Others, Inner London Crown Court 2018

Lisa defended TJ in this case which revolved around a county line drugs running into the Surrey area. TJ was accused of leading the operation and the Crown relied on a massive amount of call data and cell site material to put TJ in possession of the numerous drug line handsets. The defence team had to marshal complicated disclosure issues and legal arguments tackling the impact of potentially overlapping conspiracies.

R v AK & Another, Birmingham Crown Court 2017

Two Turkish men were accused of attempting to smuggle over £200,000 of drug money out of the UK. AK explained that they had been transporting gold bullion across Europe legitimately. Both were acquitted by the jury.

R v JK & Others, Croydon Crown Court 2017

The prosecution were forced to offer no evidence during a conspiracy to supply class A trial after Lisa's successful 6 day s78 argument using R v Boardman. Lisa's client was said to be the leader of the conspiracy. The trial against three other defendants continued but as a result of Lisa's argument the telephone evidence against them was ruled to be inadmissible.

R v AA, Canterbury Crown Court 2016

Lisa defended in this allegation of Class A drug importation. The defendant claimed he had travelled back from Calais with Class A drugs under duress – his family members had been threatened by a local gang. The defence relied upon psychological evidence to show that the defendant had a particularly low IQ and was highly suggestible. The defendant was granted special measures to ensure his effective participation in his trial.

R v TR, Woolwich Crown Court 2016

Lisa defended this vulnerable defendant who had an extremely low IQ. She was accused of possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply. She explained that the drugs found in her home had come from a friend of hers who had robbed a local drug dealer. The defence relied on expert psychological evidence to help explain her unusual account and accused the police of misconduct. TR was acquitted of all counts – both possession and possession with intent to supply.

R v SB, Reading Crown Court 2012

Lisa was led in this conspiracy to supply class A drugs. The Crown alleged that SB was involved in an operation to import shipments of cocaine hidden within carbon fibre yams.

Fraud

Notable fraud cases

R v AS & Others, Southwark Crown Court 2022

Lisa defended AS in this case alleging an international conspiracy to launder money. AS was acquitted of all charges.

R v DD & Others, Southwark Crown Court 2021

Lisa defended DD, a lorry driver who was found to have transported £1.5 million's worth of contraband cigarettes. Lisa's legal argument prevented the Crown from adducing the defendant's Belgian convictions for exactly the same activity.

R v EL & Others, Inner London Crown Court 2021

The defendant was part of an OCG that cloned TFL travel cards. Due to quick preparation and negotiation, EL received a suspended sentence for his activities.

R v TE & Another, Manchester Crown Court 2017

Lisa defended in this £2 million conspiracy to defraud which revolved around a 'rogue trader' operation, perpetuated on a very large scale. An entire company was accused of defrauding its customers at every stage of its business – advertising, delivery, fitting and customer service.

R v WJ & Others, Blackfriars Crown Court 2017

Lisa defended WJ in a multi-handed tobacco smuggling conspiracy involving 5 defendants. The case involved a significant amount of cell site and tachometer evidence.

R v MG & Another, Swansea Crown Court 2016

Led junior in a complex VAT fraud conspiracy which involved a vast amount of evidence (over 70,000 pages).

R v MM, Blackfriars Crown Court 2015

Lisa defended in this multifaceted international fraud and money laundering conspiracy. Fraudsters cloned a bona fide investment company and then proceeded to cold-call high net worth individuals. They were persuaded to transfer large sums of money, supposedly to purchase shares that they were assured would significantly increase in value. The profits from the fraud were then transferred to bank accounts across the world.

R v EB & Others, Blackfriars Crown Court 2013

Led junior in an international money laundering conspiracy where the defendant was said to have laundered over £26million. The case involved complicated issues surrounding coded lists discovered at the defendant's address and also the defendant's fitness to plead.

Appeals

Notable appeals cases

R v Watters [2023] EWCA Crim 1682

Lisa persuaded the Court of Appeal that the sentencing Judge had wrongly categorised her client as a leading role offender in a conspiracy where records suggested 1000's of kilograms of cocaine and cutting agent had been trafficked. As a result of Lisa's submissions, the appellant's starting point was reduced from 24 years to 20 years.

R v K [2023] EWCA Crim 1364

Vietnamese national who despite pleading guilty to the production of cannabis, had his conviction quashed after Lisa convinced the Court of Appeal that the prosecution was an abuse of process. She pursued this appeal, even after K became uncontactable.

R v Martins [2021] EWCA Crim 223

Lisa appealed with leave, the defendant's conviction for Robbery. The legal argument revolved around the level of indirect force necessary (and evidence to support that indirect force) to convert a theft into a robbery. This decision was reported in the Archbold News Issue 8, 2021.

R v J [2021]

Lisa appealed with leave, the appellant's sentence for Attempted Possession of a Firearm, Ammunition and Importation of Class A drugs. Lord Justice Treacy praised Lisa's ingenuity in his judgment.

R v Poku [2019] EWCA Crim 1209

Lisa was instructed by the Registrar to assist the appellant re his appeal as to the application of the sentencing guidelines in his case. The Court of Appeal commended her "attractively developed" submissions re the boundaries of greater harm for a s18.

R v LT & Others [2018 EWCA Crim 973]

LT was accused of a violent reprisal attack on a drug dealer. He had stabbed the victim multiple times in the

face. After pleading guilty, Lisa was able to persuade the judge at Isleworth Crown Court to impose a non custodial penalty on this 16 year old. Despite being appealed by the Crown as unduly lenient, the Court of Appeal upheld the merciful sentence.

R v JC 2017

Lisa successfully appealed her defendant's sentence of 54 months imprisonment for possessing criminal property obtained from class A drug dealing. The Court of Appeal agreed that the sentencing Judge had erred in substituting the Money Laundering Guideline for the Definitive Drug Guideline. The defendant's sentence was reduced to 30 months.

R v JW 2013

Successful appeal of an extended sentence imposed for an offence of s20 Grievous Bodily Harm; the appeal point was identified while representing the defendant at a parole hearing. The defendant was released immediately after serving over 5 years in custody.

R v LB [2012] EWCA Crim 346

Successful application to the Court of Appeal when Lisa was a pupil barrister; the defendant's sentence for actual bodily harm was reduced from 28 months to 16 months.

Qualifications

Lincoln's Inn Keble College Scholarship 2014
Very Competent BVC BPP London
2.1 Law (LLB) Kings College London

Directory Quotes

"She is a seasoned advocate."-Chambers UK, 2026

"She has superb jury skills and is just a naturally brilliant advocate."-Chambers UK, 2025

"Her advocacy is excellent. She's got a twinkle in her eye that juries like."-Chambers UK, 2024

"An imaginative barrister who's always looking at different ways to run a case."-Chambers UK, 2023

"A dedicated and intellectual barrister who gives sage advice and makes the solicitor feel part of the team..."-Chambers UK, 2022