

KAJ SCARSBROOK

Call 2014

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Kaj specialises in criminal law and courts martial.

He is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in major and complex trials. He is often instructed in cases involving difficult disclosure exercises, undercover police work, and encrypted communications. Kaj has experience defending in a wide variety of cases. He is approachable and straightforward with his clients and maintains sensitivity and compassion for their needs and concerns.

Kaj is a CPS panel advocate (Level 4 for Crime and RASSO) and a member of the CPS Counter-Terrorism Panel (Level 3).

He has a thriving Court Martial practice and is experienced with dealing with the unique complications of military life and service offences. He is regularly instructed by clients from all arms of the military and prides himself on client care.

Kaj previously worked as a general legal editor at Sweet & Maxwell on titles such as Archbold and Wilkinson's Road Traffic Offences. He has previously served as an infantry officer in A (London Scottish) Company, the London Regiment.

He is experienced at advising young and vulnerable defendants and has assisted in training Registered Intermediaries.

Kaj sits as a member of the British Cycling Disciplinary and Appeals Panel.

Expertise

Crime

Featured Crime cases

R v G and others (Operation ETERNITY) (Bristol CC, 2025)

Leading junior (leading Caitlin Evans) in the prosecution of a conspiracy to convey drugs, knives, and mobile phones into prison using a corrupt prison officer to bypass prison security.

R v H and others (Operation STARSHIP) (Winchester CC, 2025)

Led by John Cammegh KC in the prosecution of a 10-handed attempted murder involving an attack using machetes in Bournemouth town centre.

R v K (Bristol CC, 2025)

Acquittal of a man charged with two separate rapes, one alleged to have occurred whilst on bail for the first.

R v B (Winchester CC, 2025)

Acquittal of a police officer charged with multiple counts of rape and sexual assault.

R v T (Bristol CC, 2023)

Led junior in the successful prosecution of a police officer for perverting the course of justice.

R v M (Gloucester CC, 2023)

Acquittal of a man accused of two historic rapes said to have occurred against child family members in the late 2000's.

R v S [2023] EWCA Crim 1182

Kaj appeared for the defence in an appeal against conviction for assault by penetration following a route to verdict given to the jury which conflated the issue of guilt on two separate counts on the indictment and did not contain a specific separate direction in relation to a reasonable belief in consent. The Court of Appeal quashed the conviction.

R v V (Reading CC, 2023)

Successful prosecution (led by Tahir Khan KC) of a man who murdered another with a single blow from a horseshoe at Reading Train Station.

R v M and others (Operation SEGA) (Snaresbrook CC, 2020 – 2024)

Junior counsel in a series of linked prosecutions involving the disruption of multiple drug-dealing networks in East London, and associated firearms offences. A total of 129 defendants were charged across six linked police operations and 28 drugs lines involving complex phone, intelligence and undercover evidence as well as Encrochat material.

R v M and others (Operation YAMATA) (Snaresbrook CC, 2022 – 2024)

Prosecution counsel in a series of linked, multi-defendant prosecutions involving organised Class A drug networks in North London.

R v M and others (Operation SCARF) (Stafford CC, 2018 – 2022)

Junior counsel in three trials of a long-running multi-defendant slavery case involving a considerable disclosure exercise and complex third-party disclosure.

R v U and others (Kingston-upon-Thames CC, 2020)

Successful prosecution of a three-handed false imprisonment case, where two young cousins were imprisoned, tortured, and blackmailed by a family member and his associate.

R v L (Bristol CC, 2019)

Junior counsel in the defence of a client accused of being a member of a paedophile ring. L was accused of conspiring to sexually abuse a child and taking part, with two others, in a rape on one occasion.

Operation Resolve (2017)

Instructed as one of a number of junior counsel tasked with reviewing material in preparation for the trials relating to the Hillsborough disaster, involving the analysis of statements, exhibits and reports gathered over a thirty-year period and necessitating application of both the current disclosure test and the pre-CPIA regime.

Courts Martial

Featured Courts Martial cases

R v T (Bulford MCC, 2023)

Acquittal of a Royal Navy officer of sexual assault of a colleague; praised as “professional, supportive and responsive throughout”.

R v P (Catterick MCC, 2023)

Acquittal of a Royal Air Force airman for battery involving a “play-fight” with another service person whilst intoxicated.

R v D (Bulford MCC, 2022)

Acquittal of a serving Royal Navy junior rate of sexual assault of a colleague whilst deployed abroad.

R v E (Bulford MCC, 2021)

Acquittal of an ex-Army soldier accused of sexually assaulting and penetrating a colleague after a night out in the United Kingdom.

R v B (Bulford MCC, 2020)

Acquittal of a senior Royal Naval Police NCO accused of misconduct in a public office and negligently performing a duty. It was alleged by the prosecution that the client had failed to report a rape allegation and actively dissuaded and prevented the complainant from making the allegation officially on multiple occasions over a period of two years. The board acquitted Kaj’s lay client within fifteen minutes of retiring.

R v N (Bulford MCC, 2020)

Acquittal of a serving Naval Senior Rate accused of assaulting a subordinate on board whilst alongside in Bahrain.

R v B (Colchester Court Martial Centre, 2018)

Led in the defence of a senior British Army Brigadier accused of negligently performing a duty in relation to claiming school fees whilst serving abroad.