



Very High Cost Cases (VHCC)

Information on Advocates
for VHCC Defence Teams
July 2007



■ Introduction from Senior Clerk

Chambers' criminal team already have specialist knowledge of VHCC cases and are experienced in undertaking the Advocate role within such Defence Teams. We have a number of Advocates within the team who fit the essential and desirable criteria and we are therefore well placed to assist solicitors in the tendering process for places on the new VHCC Panel.

Within this document, we have prepared a comprehensive list of counsel in order to assist you with your bidding process. You will note that the information forwarded is compliant with the selection criteria set out by the LSC. In addition, all case summaries and supporting evidence are available upon request including original signatures of Advocates and the *Equal Opportunities Monitoring of Key Defence Team Members' Form for Advocates*. You can find the detailed CVs of all our barristers in the **Crime section** of our website www.gcnchambers.co.uk.

As you are no doubt aware, at least half of Advocates in a leading role are required to fulfill specific qualifying criteria. Overleaf is a comprehensive list of those members who meet both the essential and desirable criteria as well as those who do not fit the qualifying criteria but are also eligible to be part of a Defence Team. The Legal Services Commission has made it clear that there is no limit to the number of Advocates that a particular firm has in their Defence team. In fact the Legal Services Commission states in the Information for Applicants:

"The LSC is keen to ensure that issues regarding Advocate availability are considered at the earliest possible stage. Therefore, all lists of Defence Team members must contain a sufficient number of Advocates to ensure availability is maximized. For the purposes of this tendering exercise, sufficient numbers of Advocates should be taken to mean at least the requirements for any individual VHCC. Therefore, your list should include at least two Advocates for every VHCC you are bidding for." [p6, Information for Applicants]

i.e. If you are bidding for 4 VHCCs, then your list should include at least eight Advocates.

Garden Court North Chambers has an experienced criminal team which is highly regarded in terms of experience, reputation, credibility and trust. Each member of our team shows a common determination to pursue vigorously the interests of every client and we take pride in our proven ability to provide skilled and committed representation.

We therefore hope that you will give consideration to including in your Defence Teams those members who have not met the essential criteria.

In respect of the hourly preparation rates (£145, £150, £155) obviously the higher rate would be preferred by chambers however we understand that you want to achieve success with your bid and may choose to tender at the more competitive lower rate. We confirm we are happy to leave that decision to you and will accept your choice in this respect.

I would be more than happy to meet and assist in the process in any way that I can, leading up to the deadline. If you wish for any further information in respect of any individual please call **0161 236 1840**.

Sarah Wright - Senior Clerk
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www.gcnchambers.co.uk

■ VHCC Qualified and Non Qualified Barristers

KEY

Q-Case = meets "Qualifying case" criteria
Q-Hours = meets "Qualifying hours" criteria

E = Advocate meets Essential criteria
D = Advocate meets Desirable criteria
L = Leading Advocate

Name	Year of Call	Essential (E)	Desirable (D)	Leader (L)
Farrhat Arshad	1998			
Mark Barlow	1992	○	○	○
Laura Cawsey	2004			
Andrew Fitzpatrick	2003			
Mark George	1976	○	○	○
Peter Hodson	1994	○		
Mary McKeone	1986			
Erimnaz Mushtaq	1999			
Nick Stanage	1997			
Kate Stone	2004			
Pete Weatherby	1992	○		○

○ denotes eligibility according to the specific VHCC qualifying criteria.

When you compile your proposed Defence Team, at least half the Advocates in a Leading role are required to fulfill specific qualifying criteria. However those listed above who are not yet qualified according to these criteria, are still eligible to form part of your Defence Team for the purposes of your VHCC (Crime) Panel tender.

■ Index to evidence of Advocates' Qualifying Cases / Hours

How to use this index to complete your application forms

We have set out below detailed lists of all qualifying cases by individual.

On your Application Forms you must provide detailed information for at least half of those Advocates who will take a Leading role in your Defence Teams.

To assist you to transfer this information onto your Application Forms, we have already prepared packs of information for each of the cases listed below giving :

- case summaries
- supporting evidence
- the appropriate pages of the Application Form [pp 8 to 12] pre-completed with details of Advocates.

These packs can be forwarded to you upon request to enclose with your applications.

KEY	
Q-Case = meets "Qualifying case" criteria	E = Advocate meets Essential criteria
Q-Hours = meets "Qualifying hours" criteria	D = Advocate meets Desirable criteria
	L = Leading Advocate

	Case	VHCC	Date Contract Signed	Q Case/Hours
Mark Barlow (E) / (D) Legal Aid No. 8088R				
Qualifying case no 1	R v James Carragher	Yes	15/4/04	(Q-Hours – Over 500)
Qualifying case no 2 (L)	R v Thomas Robson	Yes	12/11/04	(Q-Case)
Mark George (E) / (D) Legal Aid No. 6058K				
Qualifying case no 1 (L)	R v James Carragher	Yes	15/4/04	(Q-Hours – Over 500)
Qualifying case no 2	R v AB	Yes	3/5/05	(Q-Case)
Peter Hodson (E) Legal Aid No. 018GN				
Qualifying case no 1	R v Nigel Rush	Yes	19/5/04	(Q-Hours – Over 300)
Pete Weatherby (E) Legal Aid No. 7694N				
Qualifying case no 1	R v JJ	No	trial over 41 days	(Q- Case)
Qualifying case no 2 (L)	R v Nigel Rush	Yes	19/5/04	(Q-Hours - Over 300)

■ Key facts

VHCC Panel tendering

The tender closing date is :

12 noon on Friday 27th July 2007

Full details including the application pack can be downloaded from:

http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/criminal/tendering/vhcc_panel.asp



Farrhat Arshad
Call: 1998



Andy Fitzpatrick
Call: 2003
Former solicitor
admitted 1984



Mary McKeone
Call: 1986



Mark Barlow
Call: 1992
Also called to Bar
of Northern Ireland
in 2006



Mark George
Call: 1976



Nick Stange
Call: 1997



Andrew Byles
Call: 2003



Peter Hodson
Call: 1994



Kate Stone
Call: 2004



Laura Cawsey
Call: 2004



Erimnaz Mushtaq
Call: 2000



Pete Weatherby
Call: 1992



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People's rights through justice

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