



Called 2021

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Danielle Byford

Danielle joined the criminal bar, having spent over four years as a criminal paralegal and police station representative, at two leading criminal defence solicitors' firms in Essex. As a result, Danielle built up extensive experience, preparing cases and representing clients of all ages, backgrounds, and vulnerabilities.

She regularly appears in the Crown Court, Youth and Magistrates Courts, where she represents clients charged with a wide range of offences, including serious assaults, motoring, public order, drugs supply, robbery, fraud, and sexual offences.

Danielle now prosecutes and defends in equal measure. Danielle has conducted private prosecutions on behalf of local authorities, undertaken confiscation proceedings and was recently instructed as independent counsel for the HMRC, reviewing potentially privileged documentation that was seized as part of a major criminal investigation. She has a growing regulatory practice and is regularly instructed as a Advocate for the Nursing and Midwifery Counsel.

Solicitors describe Danielle as a "*passionate*" and "*eloquent*" and she is "*unphased by challenging clients or complex cases.*"

Members of the Judiciary have described Danielle as being "*clear, focused and down to earth*" ..."*thorough and well-prepared, with facts at her fingertips*" and "*elegant and persuasive in her submissions.*"

Criminal Defence

R v RR (2022)- The defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of PWITS Class A and possession of a bladed article. The defendant was a second striker for bladed article and third striker for PWITS. After careful submissions, Danielle successfully persuaded the Court not to impose the mandatory minimum sentences, and the Court imposed a sentence of two years imprisonment, suspended for two years.

R v ML (2022)- The defendant ML was charged with section 20 GBH (domestic) and was remanded in custody. The nature of the section 20 GBH allegation was that the defendant hit the complainant with a bottle whilst under the influence of alcohol, causing injury. The defendant pleaded guilty on a basis. Danielle



persuaded HHJ that the matter could proceed to sentence without a Newton hearing. Despite the aggravating features in this offence, together with the defendant being under a community order, Danielle persuaded HHJ to sentence the defendant to a minimal prison sentence, with the defendant receiving a six-month custodial sentence, and the community order being revoked.

R v DD (2023)- The defendant was charged with three counts of possession of a bladed article and driving offences. Danielle made representations to the Crown, which meant one bladed article offence was no longer proceeded with. The defendant pleaded guilty on a basis to the offences which all carried a starting point of six months. Due to Danielle's persuasive mitigation, the defendant received a community order.

R v DG (2022)- Danielle represented a vulnerable defendant who faced sentence for multiple drug offences including PWITS Class A. The Crown placed the defendant in significant role, however the basis of plea and interview asserted lesser. Danielle was able to persuade the Court to deal with the case without a Newton hearing, and the defendant was sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended for two years.

R v AH (2023)- The defendant was charged with possession of a bladed article. After drafting the defence statement and representations for the Crown to review their case, the CPS were persuaded to offer no evidence.

R v LN (2023)- The defendant was a vulnerable 11-year-old youth, with significant learning difficulties, charged with robbery. Danielle was able to build rapport with the defendant, and drafted a basis of plea which limited his involvement. This meant that after entering a guilty plea on the day of trial, he received a 3-month referral order.

R v DF (2023)- The defendant was charged with fraud by false representation. The fraud concerned opening a number of catalogue accounts, and bank accounts in C's name. The defendant failed to attend Court and the trial proceeded in their absence. Danielle remained instructed to test the evidence of the Crown, and after careful submissions were made, Danielle asserted that the Crown had failed to prove identification. The defendant was formally acquitted of all charges.

R v CT (2023)- The defendant was charged with ABH. On the day of trial, the prosecution wished to apply for an adjournment to secure the attendance of the complainant. Danielle opposed the application to adjourn, and the adjournment was refused. Following this, the Crown wished to proceed, formally making the application of *res gestae*. Danielle was able to successfully oppose the *res gestae* application, which resulted in the Prosecution having no alternative but to offer no evidence.

Criminal Prosecution

R v VV (2022)– Following trial, Danielle succeeded in obtaining the conviction of a defendant charged with voyeurism. The facts concerned the defendant entering a female toilet at a train station and recording the victim over the top of the cubicle door.



R v AP (2023)- Danielle secured the conviction of a defendant charged with breach of NMO at Huntingdon Crown Court. The defendant at trial, raised that he had a reasonable excuse in sending the email, which was in breach of the terms of his restraining order, as he stated it was a matter of national security. The defendant was unanimously convicted following trial.

Professional Memberships

The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

Criminal Bar Association

Young Fraud Lawyers Association

Women in Criminal Law

Awards, Qualifications & Other

CPS Advocate Panel: Grade 2

Nursing and Midwifery Advocate

BPTC-City Law School: Very Competent

LLB Law Degree-Greenwich University: First Class Honours

Ann Felicity Goddard Scholarship: Gray's Inn Pupillage Scholarship (2022)

The James Crouch Award: Gray's Inn BPTC Scholarship (2018)

The Rosie Keane Memorial Award: City Law School Scholarship (2018)