DEANS COURT CHAMBERS

Virginia Hayton

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Education	Professional Associations	Appointments
St Aidan's College, Durham University	Northern Circuit	CPS Advocates Panel - Cat 4 (R)
College of Law Chester	Criminal Bar Association	Approved Counsel for the Falkland Islands
BVC, Manchester Metropolitan University		

Areas of Specialism

- Fraud
- Money Laundering
- Inquests
- Prison Law
- Sexual Offence
- Trading Standards
- Regulatory
- Corporate Manslaughter
- Professional Discipline
- Health & Safety
- Environmental
- Police
- GMC Defence

- Professional Healthcare and Regulation
- Crime
- General Crime
- Fire Safety Law
- Pollution, Waste & Water

Profile

Virginia Hayton, following a general common law practice, has concentrated on Crime since 2001.

She mainly appears on the Norther Circuit, however has appeared in Courts nationwide.

She notably specialises in serious sexual offences, including familial historic rapes, gang rapes, grooming cases, and people trafficking.

She has significant and wide ranging experience in conducting inquests, representing insurers, doctors, families, NHS trusts, prison service, local authorities and private limited companies.

Virginia's practice includes representing companies and individuals in trading standards prosecutions. Virginia has provided specialist advice and representations across a wide range of matters including trade descriptions, counterfeit goods, unfair trading, product safety, food safety and food standards (particularly food labelling) as well as animal welfare cases. She has experience prosecuting and defending at all levels.

Crime

Her general criminal work includes fraud, drug conspiracies, firearms offences and offences of violence up to and including murder. She has defended in a number of fitness to plead hearings and, thereafter, finding of fact hearings involving rape and serious sex offences.

She mainly defends, however, also has a significant prosecution practice as a Level 4 prosecutor.

She has defended companies and individuals in large Fraud (multi million pound fraud allegations) prosecuted by HMRC, NCA and Crown prosecution Service.

Regulatory Crime

Her regulatory crime practice includes a broad range of disciplinary cases, Health and Safety Executive Prosecutions, and defending in the General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council. Cases ranging from those relating to the practitioner's health (physical and mental), and cases involving concerns about alcohol and opiate misuse, including self- prescription, criminal offences including sexual offences, allegations of dishonesty and performance issues.

She frequently delivers lectures in both Criminal and Regulatory Crime areas.

Notable Cases

R v SP Manchester Crown Court at Minshull Street

Practice Area: Crime

Represented one of the defendants who pled guilty to sex attack on woman drugged and raped for 20 years whose husband was complicit and actively arranged these attacks. The husband pled guilty to further crimes.

R v PG - Manchester Crown Court at Minshull Street

Practice Area: Crime

Virginia Hayton led by Michael Hayton KC, secured an acquittal in a money laundering case involving the exporting of cash to the Middle East by secreting currency in freight being flown out of Manchester Airport. The case, investigated by the National Crime Agency, allegedly involved potentially more than £20 million and the evidence spread across three continents.

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented Lancashire County Council in a high profile inquest where the deceased had been murdered by her partner who was on life licence for murdering his ex partner. The probation service and police were criticised by the jury; LCC were not criticised.

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented G4S in a self inflicted death inquest. The death was of a prisoner at HMP Birmingham. He was transferred to HMP Birmingham in February 2018, he self harmed on March 19th and then was found with a ligature around his neck on 24th April. The Jury concluded that he committed suicide. There was a series of failings with the ACCT process that the jury concluded possibly caused or contributed to his death. G4S no longer run the prison.

Read More:

Link - BBC News

HSE v Inflite Engineering

Practice Area: Health and Safety

Company was prosecuted under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 when 2 employees were knocked from a platform whilst servicing an aircraft. Another engineer had gone into the cock pit of the aircraft and pressed the wrong button which caused a jet of air to be expelled from the brakes on the aircraft. This high pressure air caused the two engineers to fall from height and they both sustained significant injuries. The Company has a turnover of over £30 million pounds. Successfully argued lower culpability.

SIA Paramount Monitoring and Responses Ltd

Practice Area:

I prosecuted on behalf of the Security Industry Authority. The Company prosecuted had provided security staff who did not have licences. The Company Director and Manager were convicted of providing a number of unlicensed security operatives to a number of venues. Defendants were convicted and sentenced.

HSE v Shearfab

Practice Area:

The Company was prosecuted for one offence of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 further to an accident to an employee whereby steel sheets fell causing a fracture to his leg. The Company was a steel fabricating company.

Processed steel components were stacked against work stations or in the workshop for short periods when they were to be worked on imminently.

The HSE put the case as being one of high culpability harm category 1. The Company did not accept this and maintained that there was a system in place in relation to the use of trollies and racking to store the steel. In respect of industry standards, the guidelines for the storage of steel changed during this case being investigated.

Company pleaded guilty to the offence, Court found medium culpability as per our submissions. Fine £10000.

HSE v Supaglaze Ltd (AKA Shepley Glass)

Practice Area:

Company is a window and composite door fabricator. Company pleaded guilty to a number of breaches under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. £30000 fine following guilty plea having mitigated that it was a medium culpability harm category 4 case.

He Cheng Ltd

Practice Area:

The case involved the company's restaurant serving customers with food contaminated with salmonella. There was a number of people hospitalised including a baby and an elderly gentleman. The company accepted liability and was sentenced to a Fine of £8000.

The company admitted the single charge of between 24th August and 2nd September 2017, placed unsafe food that was injurious to health on the market at China Red, Gladstone Street, Darlington in contravention of Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) 178/2002, contrary to Regulation 19 of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013.

HSE v Complete Maintenance Solutions

Practice Area:

Company pleaded guilty to s. 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, when an employee was operating a turret machine she got her glove entangled in the machine and sustained an injury to her ring finger. The company failed to properly guard the machine. Successfully argued level of culpability and company received a minimal fine.

JL Engineering

Practice Area:

Company faces a charge under s 2 Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Two employees have carried out an inappropriate lift of an oversized piece of steel that wasn't secured properly to the forklift truck. The steel fell and caused crushing injuries to one of the employees. Case ongoing.

NPS Worldwide

Practice Area:

Defendant is a multi national company charged with a number of breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company's principle activity was making absorbent products. One of the Company employees sustained severe injuries when she placed her hand inside a sock and boom line machine next to the propeller which caught her fingers when she was trying to remove a blockage. Matter ongoing.

Inquest into the death of MT

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented the care home; MT resides in the care home for 4 months and was suffering from vascular dementia. The home manager contacted various health care professionals for advice on how to manage her aggressive and agitated episodes. Various doctors and health care professionals prescribed sedatives and other drugs. Following an incident in December 2016 she was admitted to hospital. She died after a short stay in an EMI unit and hospital. The Coroner did not find neglect but found the care home manager had over-sedated her. Narrative conclusion given.

I nquest into the death of Shahida Shahid.

Practice Area: Inquest

Shahida ate a chicken burger marinated in buttermilk after telling the waiter that she had allergies to eggs, dairy fish and nuts. Represented the head chef. Narrative verdict and accidental death.

Read More:

Link - The Times

Link - The Telegraph

Link - Manchester Evening News

Case of John Beaumont and Susan Beaumont.

Practice Area: Crime

Defendant charged with sexually assaulting brother and two sister in laws. Historic abuse. Told them he was doing research to see whether they were infected by Chernobyl. Injected them in their groin, breasts, penis and vagina. Also inserted tubes into their anus. Crown alleged his wife, their sister assisted him in committing the offences. Defendant had a number of identical previous convictions. Defendant pleaded guilty to some offences, Crown did not proceed against the wife.

Read More

Link - Manchester Evening News

Practice Area: Inquest

Inquest into the death of BC

Death of 6 year old boy killed in a road traffic incident. Represented the driver of the vehicle. that ran him over. Accidental death.

Practice Area: Inquest

Marsden House Limited - Inquest into the death of CJ.

5 day inquest. Young male returning harm and escaped from a broken lift but fell down the lift shaft and died later in hospital from his injuries. Narrative conclusion.

Practice Area: Inquest

Friends of the Elderly. Inquest into the death of MM

Elderly resident of secure care home escapes during a pre planned electrical shut down. She walked through an insecure door and fell down a flight of steps. Accidental death

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Practice Area: Inquest

Inquest into the death of JS

10 day inquest. Represented company who employed construction worker who died following the collapse of a trench. Main contractors subsequently fined £2,000,000 in health and safety prosecution.

Practice Area: Inquest

Hamilton Care Home - Inquest into the death of AG

3 day inquest into death of elderly resident of care home who died following a fall from her bed onto hot water pipes. Died from the effects of the resultant burns.

Practice Area: Inquest

MCC - Inquest into the death of MB

Represented local authority. Elderly lady suffering from schizophrenia who had been admitted to a local hospital. Self discharged and subsequently found drowned in the River Mersey.

Practice Area: Inquest

Inquest into the death of JC

6 day inquest. Acted on behalf of the local council. Young female suffering from Prada Willi syndrome under the care of local authority and living in supported accommodation. Deceased was killed after running into traffic on the A580. Narrative conclusion.

Practice Area: Inquest

Inquest into the death of KL

10 day inquest. Involved the death of a young woman recently released from custody found hanging from a tree in a local park. Represented GeoAmey. Suicide conclusion.

Practice Area: Inquest

LCC - Inquest into the death of SM

Represented local authority in inquest into the death of man in the care of the local authority who died following a house fire caused by smoking in bed. Accidental death conclusion.

Practice Area: Inquest

LCC - Inquest into the death of AW

Inquest into the death of a resident of a challenging behaviour unit, subject to DOLS, who died following an attack upon him by a fellow resident. Represented the local authority whose care the deceased was in. Narrative conclusion.

Practice Area: Inquest

Friends of the Elderly - Inquest into the death of MP

Represented a care home involving the death of an elderly resident who died following complications arising from bed sores. Written submissions accepted by the Coroner and no neglect conclusion followed.

R. v B

Practice Area: Crime

Defendant was the youngest ever person to convicted of rape. He was 11 when he anally raped his 9 year old nephew on a number of occasions, he sexually assaulted his other 7 year old nephew and also an 11 year old friend. He had googled gay porn and gay rape websites from a young age. He had been abused himself at the age of 4. Sentence was 4 years detention. The matter was reported in the Times and also the Daily Mail.

Read More:

Link - The Daily Mail

Link - The Metro

Regina -v- Dardai and others

Practice Area: Crime

Represented a defendant in a case where four defendants from the same family were prosecuted for people trafficking. The two victims, one of which was one of the defendant's girlfriend, were trafficked into the country where they were beaten, kept in poor conditions and forced into prostitution.

Read More:

Link - The Guardian

Link - The Daily Mail

Link - ITV News

Regina -v- McKenzie-Ayres

Practice Area: Crime

Represented defendant charged with s.20 wounding.

Received a suspended sentence due to mitigating circumstances of the incident.

Read More:

Link - The Daily Mail

Link - Manchester Evening News

Link - The Mirror

Regina -v- Alexne Breier

Practice Area: Crime

This case involved the operation of a prostitution business in the UK from November 2012 to March 2014. This was a business, set up, controlled and operated by a large Hungarian family, for their benefit financially. To support the business the Defendant Brier brought young women from Hungary into the UK to work as prostitutes. He was responsible for moving them to several premises in Oldham, Manchester, Bolton and Blackburn and at / from these premises he controlled their prostitution. His family were involved in the running of the brothels where the girls worked.

Read More:

Link - BBC News

Link - Manchester Evening News

Link - The Daily Mail

Inquest touching upon the death of BC [2015]

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented the driver of the vehicle that hit the little boy. He was driving within the speed limit and it was recorded as an accident. There are no prosecutions to follow. It was accepted by all interested parties that the little boy died as a result of multiple injuries following a collision with a vehicle.

Read More:

Link - Liverpool Echo

Link - Liverpool Echo

R -v- Raymond Teret

Practice Area: Crime

Historic sex case - dated back to 1961 and the last allegation is 1996, 17 complainants. There are counts on the Indictment where Mr Teret is said to have raped the Complainant with Jimmy Savile.

The Defendant was a radio DJ on Radio Caroline and Piccadilly radio and was very well known in the 60's and 70's, he was convicted of offences against 11 of the 17 women, 7 of them rape the other 4 were indecent assault. He received a determinate sentence of 25 years.

Read More:

Link - The Telegraph

Link - The Guardian

Link - The Independant

R -v- Minto

Practice Area: Murder

Defence Counsel on Murder case where the victim was stabbed over 50 times and indecently assaulted whilst either dead or dying. Guilty verdict after a trial.

Read More:

Link - BBC News

R -v- Thomas

Practice Area: Crime

Defence Counsel for Mr Thomas who was charged with indecently assaulting a woman, unaware that she was HIV positive.

Read More:

Link - The Telegraph

R v Wiles

Practice Area: Fraud

Falsely claimed that her daughter had been abducted, leading to an investigation involving over 50 officers, a thirteen day man hunt and two innocent men being arrested.

R v Joseph

Practice Area: Drug Importation

Defending in a large scale drug importation from St. Lucia.

Re: R

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented the family informed of relative's death following routine operation. Deceased discovered still to be alive some hours later whilst in the mortuary. Victim lived for further 3 days before being pronounced dead.

R v Lowe

Practice Area: Crime

Defending in fitness to plead and thereafter, finding of fact in sexual assault.

Re: K

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented a nursing home. Patient rolled off the bed and was trapped by the cot sides and was found hanging with her head trapped between the bars of the cot side.

R v Ngowi

Practice Area: Crime

Defending a 15 year old charged with Rape of his 15 year old girlfriend. Defendant is HIV positive. Unfit to plead and thereafter found not to have committed the act following the finding of fact hearing.

Holloway v DPP, 169 J.P. 14 DC

Practice Area: Dept of Public Prosecutions

Divisional Court Case, successfully argues point of law on s. 5 Public Order Act, 1986, reported in Archbold.

R v Fishahaye

Practice Area: Rape/Robbery

Successful acquittal of multiple rape/robbery on prostitutes despite DNA evidence.

Re:

Practice Area: Inquest

Represented the insurers, young male overtook on a blind bend whilst riding his motorbike, found to be under the influence drink and drugs.

Re: Kerr

Practice Area: Inquest

Representing gas fire fitter in the property where Mrs Kerr lived when she was exposed to Carbon Monoxide poisoning in her flat. The fire was not found to be the cause of the carbon monoxide, the flat was above the RBS building and the boiler in the basement of the bank was faulty. Son survived the exposure, however Mrs Kerr did not.

R v McKay

Practice Area: Firearms

Defending 15 year old girl charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition. Successfully argued exceptional circumstances and thereafter minimum sentence not imposed.

R v Afridi and others

Practice Area: Rape

Prosecuted gang rape on 14 year old girl, having been drugged was repeatedly raped and sexual assaulted by a group of males.

R v Weaver

Practice Area: Crime

Defended in 'baby shaking' where mother blinded her 12 month old baby twin.

R v Lyons

Practice Area: Drug Conspiracy

Defending in multi handed drugs conspiracy. Inquest reported in The Times as deceased came back to life, following pronouncement of death. Subsequently died 3 days later.

R v Edwards and others

Practice Area: Fraud

Defending in large scale diversion fraud in Kingston.

R v Harrop (Wesley James) & Ors

Practice Area: Court of Appeal

(2010)[2010] EWCA Crim 2915

R v W

Practice Area: **Court of Appeal**

(2011)[2011] EWCA Crim 340

R v Ravenhill (Dale)

Practice Area: **Court of Appeal**

(2008)[2008] EWCA Crim

R v Pakes (David) & Pakes (Paul Michael)

Practice Area: **Court of Appeal**

(2008)[2008] EWCA Crim 206

Attorney General's Reference No 155 of 2004 sub nom R v Martin (Deborah Michelle)

(2005)[2005] EWCA Crim 968

Holloway (Alan) v Director of Public Prosecutions

Practice Area: **Dept of Public Prosecutions**

(2004)[2004] EWHC 2621 (Admin)

R v Patel (Asif Ibrahim) & ors

Practice Area: Court of Appeal

(2010) EXCA Crim 1858

What the Directories say

Virginia is a joy to work with. She is a superb barrister.

Chambers and Partners, 2027

Virginia is always clear to clients, who have always appreciated her advice and approach to their matters. They are often put at ease, feeling that their matter is in the best hands.

Chambers and Partners, 2027

Virginia is exceptional. She has an excellent manner with the client and coroner and all colleagues. She is very easy to work with, while being very bright and capable.

Chambers and Partners, 2027

Virginia is an excellent barrister for inquests who always strikes up an excellent working relationship with clients and reassures them.

Chambers and Partners, 2027

"Virginia is able to instil confidence and trust in the client while maintaining a no-nonsense approach."

Chambers & Partners, 2026

'Virginia is brilliant with clients. In court, she is excellent.'

Legal 500, 2026

'Virginia is great to work with. She is excellent with clients and demonstrates a real depth of knowledge in the healthcare sector. As an advocate, she is clear, concise and extremely effective before courts and tribunals.

Legal 500, 2026

"Virginia is a really great junior who is very heavily relied on by local authorities. They really like working with her because she's a steady pair of hands."

Chambers & Partners, 2025

'Virginia is able to isolate the key evidential points from a complex set of facts and apply them to the points of law in issue, and she is able to achieve this in a speedy manner without compromising the quality of her written evidence. Another strength is her oral advocacy, as she deals with cross-examination in a forthright manner, eliciting the necessary information without coming across as aggressive.'

Legal 500 2025

'Virginia is a fantastic advocate and held in very high regard by the bench and Bar alike. As well as being a gifted advocate in all aspects of criminal cases, including cross-examinations and closing speeches, she is also extremely hard-working and diligent.'

Legal 500 2025

“Virginia is very thorough and dedicated and she instils confidence in the client.”

Chambers & Partners, 2024

“She has excellent knowledge and attention to detail.”

Chambers & Partners, 2024

Virginia is knowledgeable and thorough.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

She is a very able pair of hands and very approachable. She is hugely respected by the profession and judiciary.
She is thorough, reliable and has a lovely manner with clients.
She commands a great deal of respect; she has great attention to detail and focusses on the most important points.
She brings a world of experience.

Chambers and Partners, 2022

She's fantastic on her feet and is an amazing advocate. She's very thorough, meticulous and well prepared.

Chambers and Partners, 2021

Forthright, she is a strong court room advocate with excellent client manner who takes no nonsense from prosecutors.

Legal 500, 2021

She is collaborative and she really takes comments on board. She is good with clients and is an excellent advocate. Meticulous in her preparation.

Chambers and Partners, 2021

She is is very calm under pressure and sympathetic and supportive with witnesses giving evidence at inquests. The quality of her paperwork is also excellent.

Legal 500, 2021

She's always available for advice and her responses are excellent. She's also very thorough in her preparation.

Chambers and Partners, 2020

She has a great bedside manner with clients.

Legal 500

An accomplished advocate.

Legal 500

Thorough in preparation, forthright in her advice and an excellent jury advocate.

Legal 500

A respected advocate with an impressive serious crime practice. She is particularly well versed in defending those charged with murder and sexual offences, including rape, prostitution and child abuse. She also appears for the defence in cases concerning serious organised crime. She has experience in regulatory and health and safety work.
A very sound practitioner.

Recent work: Acted for the first defendant in historic rape allegations involving gang rapes including Jimmy Saville as a participant.

Chambers and Partners

Thorough in her preparation, and robust with clients; a formidable advocate.

Legal 500

Confident, knowledgeable and hard-working, plus a very good jury advocate.

Legal 500

A respected advocate with an impressive serious crime practice. She is particularly well versed in defending those charged with murder and sexual offences, including rape, prostitution and child abuse. She also appears for the defence in cases concerning serious organised crime.

Chambers and Partners

A respected advocate with an impressive serious crime practice. She is particularly well versed in defending those charged with serious historic and current sexual offences, including rape, prostitution and child abuse.
An excellent barrister who is bright, thoughtful and a safe pair of hands.
An effective advocate who has handled some really big cases.

Chambers UK

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