

## Curriculum Vitae

### Pina Silvio

#### Professional Qualifications

**2005** Higher Rights

**1990** Admission to Roll of Solicitors

#### Academic Qualifications

**1988** Chancery Lane College of Law – Solicitor Finals

**1982** University of East London LLB (Hons) 2:1 Law

#### Language Skills

Fluent in Italian and Spanish

## Profile

Pina qualified as a Solicitor in 1990 and has been practising in Criminal courts for 30 years. As a solicitor she has gained significant experience acting for clients from arrest, appearance in the Magistrates Courts and since obtaining Higher Rights in 2005, she has worked solely in the Crown Court as a defence trial advocate.

Pina has experience of criminal defence work across a wide spectrum of criminal offences and has been instructed in cases involving murder (acting alone and led by QC), attempted murder (including gang related killings involving young defendants), large scale drug importations (including defending foreign clients), large scale conspiracies to supply drugs, serious sexual offences (including child witnesses and historical sexual abuse), terrorism, kidnap, firearm, fraud, money laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act. Pina has also defended in Very High Cost Cases (VHCC), involving analysis of large volumes of evidence and unused material, and, successful Court of Appeal applications to reduce manifestly excessive sentences.

Pina takes pride in maintaining good client care and communication, appreciating that client views are crucial to a good lawyer/client relationship and success of a case. Pina is fluent in Italian and Spanish and has represented many foreign clients, in serious offences, particularly drug importation, able to advise and take instructions in their own language, giving the client full confidence in representation.

Having practised for many years as a Solicitor, as an advocate Pina appreciates fully the difficulties faced by solicitors in preparing cases from the police station, leading up to crown court trials. Pina is committed to providing high quality service to both clients and her instructing solicitors and is always available for conferences and to provide advice and assistance at short notice.

Pina has been complimented on her tireless and meticulous preparation, her analysis and assessment of strengths and weakness of a case to determine case strategy and has been described as a "tenacious" advocate, fearless in presentation and "first class" cross examination

Pina's practice over the last 6 years has allowed her to build extensive experience in representing and cross examining vulnerable and young defendants and cases involving the cross examination of professional experts and use of intermediaries.

## Notable Cases

Set out below is a selection of cases Pina has conducted

### Sexual Offences

**R-v- P** and others: Multi defendant historical rape and sexual assaults carried out over many years, at a boy's boarding school. There were over 20 victims that came forward, many of whom had suffered severe psychological and emotional trauma as a result of the offences and delay in complaints being brought.

**R-v-B:** A series of rapes and sexual assaults on a stepdaughter who made allegations whilst the defendant was serving a 15year sentence for identical offences carried out against her twin sister. This victim had given evidence at her sister's trial but had made no allegations she had been a victim at the same time. She suffered from serious mental health issues and was cross examined at length and with great sensitivity about the delay in bringing the complaints.

**R-v-W:** A series of historical rapes and sexual assaults on a neighbour's daughter, the defendant was 81 years old, had severe heart condition and suffered from some memory loss.

**R-v- B:** A brutal stranger rape and serious sexual assault. The defendant was a serving soldier and the offences were carried out in public gardens close to his barracks. Both parties were heavily intoxicated. The case involved considerable CCTV evidence.

**R-v-F:** A series of sexual assaults on the defendant's best friend's son, a young boy with autism and ADHD, but who was exceptionally bright. This case involved an intermediary, who interfered continuously in the defence cross examination, requiring several legal arguments during the trial.

**R-v-W:** Rape and sexual assault by a 16-year-old defendant on his 5-year-old sister. The complainant had given 3 different accounts at various stages and eventually in cross examination denied her brother had done anything to her. The case involved careful and sensitive cross examination of such a young vulnerable witness.

**R-v-L:** Rape and series of sexual assaults on two 15-year-old twin brothers, known to the defendant through a local church. The case required intricate cross examination of the 2 boys as their accounts conflicted despite the similar allegations both made.

**R-v-J:** The defendant a primary school supply teacher, was charged with possession of numerous indecent images of primary school aged children of all categories and making indecent video recordings of children in changing rooms and PE classes.

**R-v-W:** Defendant charged with possession of indecent images of children from ages 4-12 and making indecent recording of his own daughter aged six. The defendant was very computer literate and computer experts were called by the prosecution and defence and cross examined extensively.

**R-V W:** Series of Rapes on a 15-year-old schoolgirl, the child of a close family friend. Defendant maintained they were having a long term consensual relationship. Through detailed cross examination of the complainant described by the trial Judge as "first class" the defendant's account was proved correct.

**R-v-R:** Rape. Complainant invited the defendant known to her, to stay overnight, having been out drinking excessively. Her account at trial differed to that given to the police, she maintained was due to poor recollection through drink in cross examination but contradicted by another prosecution witness who was at the home and supported the defence case in cross examination.

<b>Serious Violence</b>
-------------------------

**R-v- A:** Attempted Murder. A Multi handed gang fuelled shooting. It was believed this was a territory controlled drugs matter between gangs. The case was a joint enterprise and is currently being considered for appeal based on the changes in joint enterprise decisions.

**R-v-L:** Murder of defendant's brother by stabbing in their home. Extremely sensitive case, defendant had acted in self-defence.

**R-v-P:** Multi handed murder said to be related to drug dealing. Numerous street witness statements and CCTV recording and logs.

**R-v-S:** Murder. Multiple stabbings of defendant's girlfriend. Defendant had acted in self-defence.

**R-v-O:** Murder by arson. This was a highly sensitive case, attracted much publicity. It was alleged the defendant, a homeless young man, with no real motive, other than identity around the time of the allegation, had set fire to a home in which a mother and 4 children died.

**R-v- S:** Terrorism. Young 18 year old girl charged with terrorist offences. First arrested aged 16 on suspicion of supporting ISIS via social media and possible encouragement of terrorism. A second arrest and interview resulted in being charged with preparation of terrorist act , encouragement of terrorism and dissemination of terrorist publication. Contacts had been made with another ISIS convert abroad whom she was planning to marry and travel with him to Syria to join ISIS.

**R-v-G:** Terrorism. On return from trip abroad defendant stopped as it was believed he approached Syrian border and diverted. Searches revealed he was in possession of terrorist publication and items to be used for impersonating a police officer.

**R-v-W:** Serious allegations of new offence of Controlling and Coercive behaviour and Harassment in a long standing relationship , where complainant continued to live with defendant and provided contradictory evidence in court , vulnerable witness requiring sensitive cross examination.

**R-v-M:** Alleged staged arson with intent to endanger life and theft from employers. Significant damage to premises and considerable financial loss to employers. Defendant was a serious drug user said to be motive behind offences.

**R-v-S:** Arson with intent to endanger life. Defendant with severe mental health issues and previously charged with similar offence.

**R-v-S:** Series of sophisticated armed non residential burglaries on a series of GP practices, causing considerable criminal damage to the premises, carried out by defendant with serious drug addiction, in order to steal medication.

**R-v- H:** Multi handed youths aged between 13 -16 charged with kidnap and robbery of a 12 year old boy over a significant period of time. Some youths involved were on bail for serious other matters including s18 GBH. The case clearly involved high risk peer pressure and required detailed and sensitive advice on strength of case based on identification. Case required careful consideration on the law in sentencing youths for serious offences, and custodial sentences.

**R-v-G:** Serious s18 GBH by stabbing, originally considered as attempted murder, with significant medical evidence that assisted the defence in arguing the case should be reviewed resulting in less serious offence making a significant change to potential sentence.

Drugs and Firearms
--------------------

**R-v-M:** Young 21year old with no previous convictions charged with possession of firearm with intent to endanger life, possession of ammunition, and no firearms certificate. Defence argued lack of knowledge and possession as custodian not through choice, but tantamount to duress by his drug dealer. Exceptional circumstances argued at sentence hearing.

**R-v-D:** Possession imitation firearm. Lengthy legal arguments required for exceptional circumstances in respect of sentence.

**R-v-G:** Possession Firearm. Defendant argued all weapons were antiques, significant cases referred to in support of defence and experts called on behalf of defence.

**R-v-CR:** Organised multimillion drug importation from South America. Lengthy undercover observations of multiple parties involved. All instructions taken and advice given directly in Spanish.

**R-v-AP:** Multimillion drug importation said to be connected to drug Cartel in South America, involving large scale observations of numerous persons, following trail into the UK over a lengthy period of time and voluminous case papers. All instructions taken and advice given directly in Spanish.

**R-v-H:** Large scale conspiracy and possession of firearms with intent to endanger life. Case involved undercover officers and detailed observation logs. Following mixed verdicts and an error on delivery of verdicts by the foreman, the case was appealed on the basis of legal argument challenging *autrefois acquitted* and *autrefois plea*.

**R-v-D:** Multi handed drugs line conspiracy, involving youths as contacts and couriers, involving undercover police officers.

**R-v-C:** Multi handed drugs supply conspiracy involving undercover police officers and the co-defendant gave evidence for the prosecution against the others.

**R-v-S:** Conspiracy to supply drugs, said to be part of a larger operation. Arrests made after observations of multiple defendants in various locations. Legal arguments made in respect of half time submissions of no case to answer.

**R-v-S:** Observations carried out on defendant over a significant period of time on a series of possession with intent to supply allegations, which involved his sophisticated method of concealing monies earned by supplying.

**R-v-S:** Death by Dangerous Driving. An 18 year old defendant with no previous convictions. As a result of his dangerous driving and serious crash overturning the vehicle, killed one friend almost instantly and seriously injuring another with possible life changing injuries. This case attracted much publicity. Significant expert evidence considered and after a guilty plea with sensitive mitigation defendant avoided an immediate custodial sentence.

**R-v-O:** Dangerous Driving as a result of serious road rage where driver of other vehicle stopped his car on busy dual carriageway and deliberately jumped onto bonnet of the defendant's car and he continued to drive at speed for a short distance. Currently awaiting appeal.

## Fraud

**R-v-S:** Sophisticated British Telecom insider dealing in the region of £3,000,000, carried out over a period of time . The case was a VHCC.

**R-v- H:** Two handed VAT Fraud via a disguised rag trade business in the region of £2,500,000. Acted for both defendants. This was a VHCC.

**R-v-J:** Multi handed mobile telephone purchase VAT evasion of £5,000,000. Various fake companies were set up to receive monies and divert funds. Voluminous statements and exhibits and company records to consider.

**R-v-C:** High Value cars VAT evasion in excess of £4,000,000. The cars were stolen abroad at gunpoint. Chassis numbers changed and then faked imports into the UK at lower value. The VAT evasion revealed the thefts abroad. Voluminous case papers involving foreign documents.

**R-v-T:** Sophisticated credit card cloning enabling considerable sums of spending and refunding to various deliberately set up accounts in various parts of the UK in the region of £200,000.

**R-V M:** Multi handed drugs case that involved money laundering over a number of years resulting in a further charge of fraud, namely tax evasion on property purchased to conceal funds throughout UK, several bank accounts were identified, voluminous case papers containing multiple company records and bank accounts. Defence tax experts instructed and called to give evidence

**R-v- E:** Sophisticated Fraud on Department of Work & Pensions in the sum of £250,00 over period of time, involving numerous fake accounts and addresses and case papers spanning over 5 years.

## Confiscation

**R-v-H:** This was a multi million pound VAT fraud, with contested lengthy confiscation proceedings involving valuation of businesses and various properties.

**R-v E:** This was a multi million drugs conspiracy and contested proceedings involving valuation of family property, multiple bank accounts and high value items.

## Appeals and Reported Cases

**R-v- S:** This case was an appeal against a restraining order made by the crown court under s5A Protection from Harassment Act, prohibiting the appellant from travelling on any domestic or international commercial airline. The order was made at the end of a trial at which the appellant was acquitted by reason of insanity of offences of criminal damage and interfering with the performance of the crew of an aircraft in flight. The order was quashed and the appeal reported.

**R-v-M:** Appeal against a consecutive sentence passed when the appellant was on a recall and serving a licence period, which was wrong in law. Appeal allowed.

**R-v-B:** Appeal against excessive sentence for first time offender in respect of possession of drugs with intent to supply at a music festival. Appeal allowed

## Contact Details

Robin Driscoll, Senior Clerk  
Public Defender Service Advocacy Team  
Ground Floor  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ  
DX: 328 London

Inquiries to Robin Driscoll, Senior Clerk  
Telephone: 020 3334 4253  
Mobile: 07468 709022  
Email: [pdsclerks@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pdsclerks@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://publicdefenderservice.org.uk>

Offices in Cardiff, Swansea, Pontypridd, Cheltenham, Darlington & London.  
Available to meet solicitors and clients at any convenient location.