

Poppy Cleary

Call: 2022

Practice Areas:

- Crime
- Extradition

Poppy completed pupillage at GJS in 2024. She was taken on as a full member of Chambers, having impressed with her standard of advocacy and display of excellence throughout her pupillage. Prior to pupillage, Poppy worked for Advocate as a case worker covering criminal, public, family and immigration law. Before that Poppy worked for Liverpool Law Clinic as a case worker in family and immigration law. In both roles responsibilities included drafting applications, writing case summaries, research and conducting client conferences.

Poppy has extensive volunteer experience supporting refugees and asylum seekers. She spent six months volunteering in Calais with the NGO Collective Aid, working in a small team to deliver material aid to displaced communities. After that, Poppy spent three years with SolidariTee, a charity supporting legal aid NGOs across Europe. She was appointed Fundraising Director, responsible for ensuring the central fundraising target of £140,000 per annum was met. This was achieved through developing corporate and brand partnerships and overseeing the fundraising endeavours of over 30 university teams worldwide.

Poppy completed an internship with the Ministry of Justice at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Poppy obtained an LLM specialising in Human Rights Law from the London School of Economics, from whom she received a substantial scholarship to support her studies, in addition to a scholarship from Goodenough College. Poppy received a Lord Denning and Residential scholarship from Lincoln's Inn to undertake the BPC. Poppy graduated with a first class honours degree in Law with a Year Abroad (City University Hong Kong) from the University of Liverpool.

Notable cases

2024: Instructed to prosecute in a multi-handed 6 day trial at Basildon Crown Court. 3 defendants were charged with being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine and diamorphine). Poppy secured guilty verdicts against 2 of the defendants, having been instructed to offer no evidence against the third. Poppy was highly praised by the Judge and those instructing for her meticulous preparation and confident advocacy.

2024: Instructed by Edwards Duthie Shamash Solicitors, Poppy succeeded in persuading the Crown to offer no evidence against her client charged with two counts of assault against an emergency worker. Poppy made representations that her client had been suffering from poor mental health at the time and that the public interest test was not met. Not guilty verdicts were recorded on both counts.

2024: Instructed by Tuckers Solicitors, Poppy succeeded in persuading the Crown to offer no evidence against her client charged with obstructing a Police Officer in the course of their duties. Poppy highlighted that the body worn footage showed four police officers were able to arrest her client without delay, therefore there had been no obstruction. Not Guilty verdicts were recorded.

2024: Instructed by IBB Law, Poppy secured an acquittal for her client charged with harassment. Poppy successfully opposed the Crown's application to adjourn the trial when the complainant failed to attend. As a result, the Prosecution offered no evidence and Not Guilty verdicts were recorded.

2024: Instructed by Taylor Rose, Poppy succeeded in getting her client's case discontinued after written submissions on an application to dismiss. Her client was charged with having a dog dangerously out of control. Poppy highlighted that her young client was neither the owner of the dog nor responsible for it at the time of the incident. The case was discontinued.

2024: Instructed by Haq Hamilton Solicitors, Poppy secured an acquittal for her client charged with driving without due care and attention and without insurance. Poppy highlighted inconsistencies in the recollection of the Crown's only witness and called defence witnesses who gave clear, consistent and credible evidence. Not guilty verdicts.

Academic

2023 - Master of Laws specialising in Human Rights Law (London School of Economics) -

2022 - Bar Practice Course (University of Law) - Very Competent

2021 - Law with a Year Abroad LLB (University of Liverpool) – First Class Honours

Awards

- John Jones QC Essay Competition (2nd place) - Defence Extradition Lawyers Forum (2023)
- Graduate Support Scholarship- London School of Economics (2022)
- Goodenough Scholarship- Goodenough College (2022)
- Lord Denning Scholarship – The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (2021)
- Residential Scholarship- The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (2021)

Pro Bono

- Advocate
- Liverpool Law Clinic



Great James Street Chambers

Tel: +44 (0)20 7440 4949

clerks@greatjames.co.uk

www.greatjames.co.uk



Memberships

- Lord Denning Society
- Society of Labour Lawyers
- Defence Extradition Lawyers Forum
- Grade 2 – Crown Prosecution Service