

# ATTRIBUTES TO THEMIS



Edition Two | 18 October 2020

Welcome to the Queen Mary

## Criminal Justice Society



### COMING UP


INSIDE THIS EDITION...

- 02** *SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER*
- 03** *EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES*
- 06** *INTERVIEW WITH SARAH LANGFORD*
- 09** *RECENT NEWS STORIES*
- 11** *TOP PICKS OF THE MONTH*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 20** *OCTOBER*  
*UK PRISON SYSTEMS*
- 26** *OCTOBER*  
*DECRIMINALISING PROSTITUTION*
- 03** *NOVEMBER*  
*THE STUDY OF HONOUR KILLING*
- 10** *NOVEMBER*  
*THE GREY AREA BETWEEN ARRANGED & FORCE MARRIAGE*
- 13** *NOVEMBER*  
*DECRIMINALISING DRUGS*

 <https://qm-cjs.wixsite.com/webpage>

 <https://www.qmsu.org/groups/qmcjs>



qmcriminaljusticesociety



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qmcjs



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# SEPTEMBER SUMMARY

*Highlights from last month*

*Meet our new committee members*



**NURIN  
ALIAH**

Events Assistant



**ISABELLA  
MAZZEI**

Events Assistant



**ANUSHA  
BANSAL**

First Year Representative



## OUR FIRST TWO EVENTS

*Introduction into Criminal  
Justice AND Covid-19 & CJS*

Thank you to all our members for attending both events. We hope you gained something valuable. And look forward to seeing you at our future events.

*If you missed out - do not worry, we have recorded both events - and they are available to view on our website!*

<https://qm-cjs.wixsite.com/webpage/past-events-recordings>



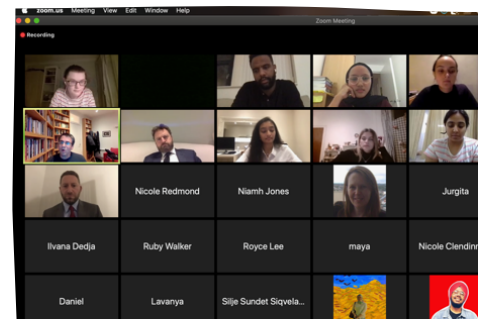
*Join our MEMBERS  
ONLY WhatsApp Group!*



**CJS Group**  
WhatsApp group



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ka2MiQ4KDtiGHdT7jtEQmD>





# EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## *Deadlines*

### **Criminal Chambers** **mini-pupillages:**

**2 Bedford Row**

Ongoing

### **Bridging the Bar**

Sign up Now!

### **Internships**

### **Reprieve**

Sign up Now!

### **Competitions**

### **Advocacy**

36 Group: plea in mitigation

**30th Oct!**

Queen Mary Criminal Justice Society's

## Events Calendar

18th October - 18th November

UK Prison Systems	20/10 18:30
Decriminalising Prostitution	26/10 18:30
Study of Honour Killing	03/11 18:30
Grey Area Between Arranged Marriage & Forced Marriage	10/11 18:30
Decriminalising Drugs	13/11 18:30
Multi-jurisdictional CJS	17/11 18:30



# TODAY

QM CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIETY PRESENTS:

## UK PRISON SYSTEMS

**ANDREW MORRIS**

FORMER IPP PRISONER, RETURNING CITIZEN,  
CONSULTANT, CHARITY TRUSTEE, & CIVIL SERVANT

**PROF. SEAN MCCONVILLE**

QMUL PROFESSOR & 16 YEARS AS  
MAGISTRATE AT THAMES AND CAMBRIDGE

**DEBBIE HOGG**

FORMER PRISON SERVICE EMPLOYEE

## LIVE VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION

*"Does imprisonment  
reinforce justice?"*

October 20, 2020

| 6:30pm BST |

via Zoom


MEMBERS ONLY | NON-MEMBERS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
VIA WEBSITE

**SIGN  
UP  
NOW**





AA [prostitutescollective.net](https://prostitutescollective.net)

 **ENGLISH COLLECTIVE OF PROSTITUTES**

**BULLETINS**

Our regular bulletins on raids, arrests and prosecutions of sex workers have become an important source of data for the media in particular on what is happening with the policing of prostitution in the UK.

9TH JUNE 2020

**QM Criminal Justice Society Invites You To Attend:**

**DECRIMINALISING PROSTITUTION**

**A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**CHARLOTTE & CARRIE**

**ENGLISH COLLECTIVE OF PROSTITUTES**

October 26, 2020 | 6:30pm BST | Via Zoom  
MEMBERS ONLY | NON-MEMBER TICKETS FOR PURCHASE VIA OUR WEBSITE

**SEX WORK**

**SIGN  
UP  
NOW**



# Interview with Sarah Langford

Sarah Langford is a practising barrister in Criminal and Family law at 3 Paper Buildings and a best-selling author of the book, *In Your Defence: Stories of Life and Law*.



## CAREER AND EDUCATION

### What advice would you have for a female student considering a career at the bar?

I know a criminal QC who asked her husband on their second date whether he'd be willing to be a stay-at-home father, as she wanted children but also wanted to continue a career at the bar (he said he would, which is possibly why she's one of the few women silks on Circuit).

There's no two ways about it: whilst the primary care of children is still unequally shared, the **criminal bar is going to be a difficult place to be a mother** because of its particular demands and unpredictability. However, there are plenty of women who manage to make it work. **My advice to female students who are worried about combining motherhood and a career at the bar is to be strategic. Take on some regulatory work, disclosure work or other desk based work alongside your court work.** This means that when your children are young you can step back from the chaos of court, but still keep your toe in and earn some money. Plus one of the advantages of self-employment is that we are able to take a career break and then return to the profession. After all, the intense years of caring for young children are a small part of a very long working life.

Sarah Langford initiated her higher education with a degree in English Literature, followed by a law conversion course. She was then awarded a scholarship from Gray's Inn of Court to complete the Bar Vocational Course.

### Knowing that you have lots of pro-bono work experiences, why would you encourage other students to also take part?

Pro-Bono work can give you a wholly different perspective and can teach you how to put a case together from scratch. It can open you up to new areas of law and practice.

### What are the particular skills or knowledge a barrister should possess to work effectively with their clients?

**Clarity and calm.** A working knowledge of the 'system' also goes a long way – of course your client wants to know what his sentence is likely to be, but he will also want to know how to go about getting a visiting order for his mum to come and see him.

### What challenges and barriers have you met while moving on a career ladder and how did you cope with them?

Sometimes it can feel challenging to be a young woman in courtroom full of middle aged men (especially when this includes the other barristers, the judge, the dock officers, the probation officer and your own client). It may seem like you will not be taken seriously or that if you fight too hard this will be interpreted as aggressive. I always found I caught more flies with honey than vinegar, but **you have to work out your own style.** I know many woman at the bar who have remained true to themselves and in the end it has served them well.



### What was your main motivation behind choosing a career in a criminal law sphere?

I'm tempted to say dressing up, because the criminal court is a stage like no other. But as well as the showing off bit, the fact that **I got to use words and language in an intellectually stimulating way, together with the autonomy and daily variety you got as an advocate was part of it.** And, in truth, I also thought it a good way to use the advantages I'd been given to help those who may not have had those advantages.

### What skills or knowledge gained from your degree in English Literature do you utilise in your work as a criminal barrister?

Words have always been my first love, but until I became a barrister I had not understood that my degree also taught me to unpick and analyse. During my degree this meant looking behind a piece of text and turning it on its head. This is exactly what you do when you prepare a case: look for the holes, the questions, the 'whys', look for what's missing. It turned out to be excellent training for a career at the bar.

### How do you maintain the balance between work and family life?

When you've only got yourself to worry about it's a synch. It is significantly more difficult when your brain space is taken up by many other people's needs. **Get a good diary and lean into the times you have off work when you are able to.**

### What are the main lessons you have learned as a criminal and family barrister? What do you think were your main learning experiences?

I spent many years **learning how to build a professionally objective armour whilst holding on to my humanity. This is a hard skill to master.** Distressing cases – most often ones which involve children – can often come home with you. The most important lesson was **not always to prejudge your clients because they can surprise you if you give them space to do so (just make sure the surprise doesn't come when they're in the witness box).**

### PANDEMIC

#### What in your opinion would be the most significant and long-term consequence of the pandemic on the criminal justice system and what is the best means to suppress its effect?

The pandemic has magnified what were already existing problems: **lack of judges, long delays in getting cases heard and trials listed, prison overcrowding, lack of properly skilled officers on cases, and on and on.** It also pushed forward something some at the bar have resisted for a while, which is conducting critical hearings by video link. Every part of the **CJS was already in a pressure cooker and had been begging for better cohesive leadership and more resources for years** (the latter rarely works without the former). As we enter an inevitable recession I worry that the CJS will once again be pushed to the bottom of the pile, as scant public resources are piled into the NHS and not the CJS. This is a time bomb, and when it goes off it will not be pretty.

## DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

**How do you think your experience as a female barrister has differed from that of your male colleagues?**

I can only speak to my own experience, but I think my male colleagues had a few advantages when we were at the junior end of the bar. As a young female barrister **I worried about lots of things** I'm not sure my male contemporaries did: what to wear (heels or flat, trousers or skirt, tights or no tights, make up or no make-up, jewellery or no jewellery), whether I would be taken seriously, and whether being tough in negotiations or in court would be interpreted as shrewish aggression rather than assertiveness. As you get older you get more comfortable with this balance and I know many successful women barristers who are uncompromisingly themselves.

**How does the professional sphere need to change to be more inclusive to females?**

The major push I see coming from the Bar is the retention of women. **The Western Circuit Women's forum published a report last year which looked at all criminal barristers who had left the profession in the last six years. Three quarters of these were women.** The men who had left had done so predominately because they had gone to the bench or had retired. The women had done so in the middle of their careers because they had had children. Should they return to the bar, those women might go on to work for another thirty or forty years. They might become QCs or judges.

**It is worth the bar understanding that supporting these women through the relatively short time of caring for small children will pay off for the whole justice system in the end.**



## 'IN YOUR DEFENCE'

**What was the inspiration behind 'In Your Defence'?**

I wanted to humanise the people who existed in this world so often reduced to tabloid headlines.

**I was also very concerned that the justice system so often seemed to come towards the bottom of the list when public spending was concerned.**

I thought that the best way to reach the taxpayers who paid for it, and persuade them that what we did was important and that those who moved through the justice system were worth investing resources in, was through the stories of those I met everyday. It was what I did in front of a jury: pull them into someone else's life and get them to walk in their shoes for a bit. I wanted also to explain that life as a barrister doesn't always mean the BBC version: vertiginous heels and red lipstick and hopping in a black cab to the Court of Appeal. **I wanted to give a real, balanced, authentic and human account of what it was like to be in this world,** both from the front of court but also from the back of it.

**In one of your previous interviews, you mentioned you were 'agonised' to publish the book in your name. What were the deciding factors behind publishing in your own name?**

I decided to publish in my own name because I think **accountability is important.** There are huge advantages to publishing anonymously, as the Secret Barrister has discovered, but it would be perverse to write a book which sought to put a human face on the law and then failed to actually do so. Plus, let's be honest, I wanted a really fun launch party.

**If the book was to be read by a law student who is considering a career in criminal and family law, what are the main lessons would you like them to obtain from reading your book?**

**Not to pre-judge your clients,** as tempting as it may be, and **to build relationships with those you work with for they will become,** in one way or another, **your second family** and will help you through the tough days..



# RECENT NEWS STORIES

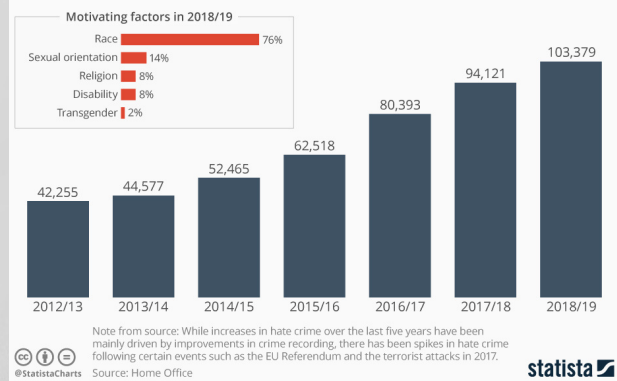
## THE RISE IN HATE CRIME

The number of racially or religiously aggravated offences in England and Wales rose in June and July, most likely linked to Black Lives Matters rallies and far-right counter-protests, the Home Office has said. The same Home Office bulletin shows the number of hate crimes recorded by police rose by 8% in England and Wales in the year to 2020. Race hate crimes accounted for about 72% of offences and had risen by 6% since 2018-19, the figures reveal.

Religious hate crime fell by 5%, representing the first drop in religious hate crime since 2012-13. Sexual orientation hate crime rose by 19% and transgender identity hate crime by 16%, while disability hate crime increased by 9%.

### Hate crimes rising sharply in England and Wales

Number of police recorded hate crimes in England and Wales



## STRICTER SAFEGUARDS PROPOSED FOR PRIVATE PROSECUTIONS

There have been suggestions to put stricter safeguards from the justice select committee. It has warned of the danger where the an “alleged victim in a case is also the investigator and the prosecutor”. MPs say the increase of private prosecutions in England and Wales may be a consequence of the “limited resources of both the Crown Prosecution Service and police”. The committee calls for a central register of all private prosecutions, an enforceable code of standards them, and for the CPS’s oversight role to be enhanced.

## THE LEAKED DOCUMENTS OF FINCEN

Leaked documents involving about \$2tn of transactions have revealed how some of the worlds biggest banks have allowed criminals to move dirty money around the world . The FinCEN files are more than 2500 documents, most of which were files that banks sent to the US authorities between 2000-2017, some of the international banking systems most closely guarded secrets. These files were leaked to Buzzfeed news and various journalists who have uncovered.

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## ALEXANDRA WILSON MISTAKEN FOR DEFENDANT AT COURT THREE TIMES IN A DAY



## PARLIAMENT APPROVED BILL THAT ALLOWS MI5 AND POLICE TO COMMIT CRIMES

A black barrister mistaken for a defendant three times in one day has recieved an apology from court officials. Criminal and family lawyer, Alexandra Wilson, attended the magistrates court where no wigs or gowns were worn. On arrival, after giving her name the security officer searched for it on the list of defendants, before she explained she was in fact a barrister. Later the same day, when trying to enter the courtroom she was told to 'wait outside and sign in with the usher for her case' by another barrister. When she finally approached the prosecutor the clerk very loudly told her 'to get out of the courtroom and wait for her case' She explained how the incident left her 'exhausted' and 'nearly in tears' and how she should not have to 'constantly justify her existence at work' Her majestys court and tribunal service has issued an apology 'for the totally unacceptable behaviour' and the formal complaint is being looked in to as a matter of urgency.

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The government says the legislation will give a "sound legal footing" for those who work to "protect the public". Home Office minister James Brokenshire said the bill would "help keep our country safe". However, there are some concerns about human rights and civil liberties implications. Former Tory minister David Davis has warned the bill could "impinge on innocent people". Another Labour MP Apsana Begum said: "There is a grave, serious and very real danger [the bill] could end up providing informers and agents with a license to kill."

However, the legislation stresses agencies must not breach the Human Rights Act, which requires the government to protect life.A senior judge will report on how the power is used and there will be no role for the Crown Prosecution Service in reviewing the crimes. The bill will return to the Commons for its next stages on 15 October.

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# Our Top Picks This Month

## MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES

ITV

### HONOUR ON ITV

An investigation over police failings  
over killing of Banaz Mahmood



BBC IPlayer

### Can Sex Offenders Change?

an investigation around the lives  
of sex offenders



## SERIES

### People VS OJ Simpson: American Crime Story

Shows twists and turns of  
one murder trial



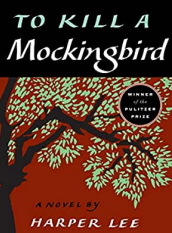
### Defending Jacob

Crime drama about a  
family whose son has been  
accused of a murder



### The Fall

A drama of two  
detectives trying to  
catch a serial killer



Harper Lee

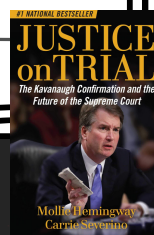
### TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

A novel about a lawyer  
defending black man accused  
of a rape of white woman

## BOOKS

Severino & Hemingway

### JUSTICE ON TRIAL



Christopher Browning

### Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland

