



# Zarah Dickinson

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**Year of call: 2002**

## **Areas of Practice**

Crime, Local Authorities & Public Law, Direct Public Access Barristers, Immigration

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## EDUCATION

University of Durham LLB

Scholarships: Jardine Studentship, Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship, Pegasus Scholar

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## PRACTICE PROFILE

Zarah prosecutes and defends and has a broad range of cases including offences against the person, harassment, public order offences, offences relating to weapons and firearms, benefit fraud, burglary, robbery, theft and deception, intent to supply Class A, sexual offences, breaches of anti-social behaviour orders, perverting the course of justice, witness intimidation, assisting unlawful entry of immigrants, dangerous driving, death by careless driving, contested confiscation proceedings and child cruelty.

Zarah also prosecutes on behalf of the National Probation Service. Zarah is a Level 3 CPS panel advocate. Zarah has a developing practice in immigration law.

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## NOTABLE CASES

*R v Smith & Others* (2008) – Zarah was the prosecution junior counsel in a Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm trial involving nine youth defendants at Blackfriars Crown Court.

*R v GG* (House of Lords) (2007-2008) Operation Holbein– Zarah was involved in the preparation of the defence for one of the individual defendants in a £2 billion pharmaceutical fraud – the largest fraud to date in SFO history. The House of Lords ruled in March 2008 that participating in a secret cartel was not unlawful in common law: such conduct had only been made a criminal offence by section 188 of the Enterprise Act 2002. In July 2008, Mr Justice Pitchford ruled that the action against the five drug companies should be halted as at the time of bringing the action price-fixing alone was not an offence. Pitchford J refused permission to alter the indictment and held, therefore that the case had to be abandoned. The SFO appealed this ruling. In December, the Court of Appeal refused leave to appeal.

*R v Ton Leo & Others* (2007) – Zarah was the junior counsel for one of the fourteen defendants in a £4million car ringing conspiracy. Judge Forster described the scale of the conspiracy as ‘unprecedented’ and ‘only the tip of the iceberg’.

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Zarah was Crown Counsel with the Attorney General's Chambers in the Cayman Islands in 2008.

In 2006 Zarah was a Pegasus Scholar in Washington DC. She worked with Steptoe and Johnson in a seven week bribery and fraud trial (USA v Jemal). Zarah also gained experience at the District Attorneys Office and assisted the prosecution in a murder trial at the Circuit Court.

Zarah is qualified to accept instructions under the Bar Council [Direct Public Access to Barristers](#) Scheme.

## MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

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South Eastern Circuit

Criminal Bar Association

Young Fraud Lawyers Association

North London Bar Mess

## WHAT CLIENTS SAY:

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*"I have to say that I thought she was very good indeed. She had read everything carefully beforehand and was very pleasant to deal with and totally on the ball. Perhaps most importantly she did an excellent plea in mitigation which encapsulated all the relevant points very succinctly. She had a very good approach with the bench and I was extremely grateful that she was there! If it's not inappropriate for me to say so, I would thoroughly recommend her - and indeed I told her directly what an excellent job I thought she had done."* Lay Client

*"Zarah, just wanted to thank you for all you have done in relation to the case of Fardaush. I was extremely impressed with your handling of the appeal. Thank you very much. William"* William Martyn, Crown Prosecution Service



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