

Maria Liddiard

Call: 2021

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/marialiddiard>

Specialist in:

- Criminal Law
- Housing & Community Care
- Prison Law
- Civil Law
- Inquests & Public Inquiries Team
- Civil Actions Against Public Authorities
- Modern Slavery & Trafficking Team



Experience

Maria joined Chambers after completing pupillage in October 2022. She has since developed a thriving practice at the intersection of criminal defence and human rights.

Maria's practice stands out as being at the forefront of the rapidly-developing area of protest law. Her experience in high-profile, multi-week Crown Court trials has led her to become a highly confident and effective advocate. She is ranked as Up and Coming in Chambers & Partners.

Maria accepts instructions in actions against the police, inquests, housing, public and prison law. Her practice is dedicated to acting for individuals against the state and other powerful entities.

Criminal Defence

Maria has experience representing those charged with serious violence, terrorism, drug-related crime, offences against property and general crime.

She has particular experience in cases involving legal complexity, including those indicted as

conspiracies, and cases involving defences under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Protest Law

Maria regularly represents individuals from groups including Palestine Action, Just Stop Oil, Extinction Rebellion, Insulate Britain, and Animal Rebellion, as well as individuals protesting for police accountability.

Maria is available to instruct in protest matters of any level, including those charged under terrorism legislation.

Human Rights and International Experience

Maria's criminal work involves grappling with complex issues arising from European and International Human Rights Law on a daily basis. She has a keen understanding of the application of the ECHR in criminal cases as well as other fields.

Maria grew up in France before completing her Law degree in Spain. She has experience and understanding of both common and civil law jurisdictions, as well as international law.

Maria also has hands-on experience in the human rights field. She previously ran a social enterprise focussing on empowerment through economic independence for women and marginalised groups in Maharashtra, and has worked in Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights in rural Zambia. In 2019 she secured EU funding for a Human Rights Summer School, coordinating with partner organisations from across Europe. Prior to coming to the Bar, Maria ran a non-formal education organisation, working primarily with 16-to-18 year-olds across Europe, aiming to develop critical thinking skills and incite personal action through the topics of identity, diversity and social responsibility.

Housing & Civil

Maria has experience in a variety of areas including the prosecution of landlords under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, homelessness and allocations, possession proceedings, cases involving anti-social behaviour, and issues under the Equality Act 2010. Maria has worked a variety of areas including the prosecution of landlords under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, homelessness and allocations, possession claims and cases involving anti-social behaviour. Many of these cases have also involved issues under the Equality Act 2010.



What the directories say

“Maria is bright and fearless.”

Chambers and Partners (2026)

“Maria is sensitive to clients’ vulnerabilities and is a persuasive and relatable advocate.”

Chambers and Partners (2026)

“Maria is not afraid of an ‘out there’ argument. She is super smart.”

Chambers and Partners (2026)

Education

LLM, University of Law (Distinction), 2020

LLB International Comparative Law, IE University Madrid (First Class), 2020

LLB English and Civil Law, University of Law (First Class), 2019

Languages

English & French (fluent)

Spanish (advanced)

Awards

Jules Thorn BPTC Scholarship, Middle Temple (2019-2020)

Prize for highest mark in BPTC Immigration & Asylum Module (2020)

Cuatrecasas-Gonçalves-Perreira ‘Innovative Lawyer’ Scholarship (2016-2020)

‘Sobresaliente y Matrícula de Honor’ awarded for obtaining highest mark in 9 LLB modules (2016-2020)

University of Law LLB Scholarship for tuition costs (2016-2019)



Cases

Today, Maria Liddiard appears in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Today, Maria Liddiard appears in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, led by Benjamin Newton KC and alongside co-counsel Laura Stockdale. They are instructed by Raj Chada of Hodge Jones & Allen Solicitors.

The case of R v McCafferty & Others arises out of a jury trial at Worcester Crown Court, in which Maria and Laura were instructed in April 2025. The trial involved public nuisance charges arising from a direct-action protest.

Further information and details: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2025-0165>

Not guilty verdicts secured in Palestine Action case

On what would have been day 1 of trial, the Prosecution offered no evidence at Southwark Crown Court.

Maria Liddiard, Sarah-Jane Ewart and Meghan Curran were instructed for trial on behalf of the defendants who were accused of committing criminal damage and locking on as part of a protest with Palestine Action, prior to the group's proscription in June 2025.

After service of skeleton arguments, two of the Crown's witnesses withdrew their support for the prosecution. In the circumstances, and citing the defendants' reliance on defences under section 5 Criminal Damage act 1971, the Crown considered there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction.

Not Guilty verdicts were entered in respect of the Criminal Damage counts, and associated Locking On charges were discontinued.

Maria was instructed by Simon Natas at ITN Solicitors.

SJ was instructed by Isabelle Standen at Kelly's Solicitors.

Meghan was instructed by Peter Baker, also at ITN Solicitors.

For more information, or to instruct Maria, SJ or Meghan, please contact our clerks at clerks@onepumpcourt.co.uk.



R v GB and EK [2024] Crown Court at Norwich

Maria Liddiard and Margo Munro Kerr were instructed by Jane Cleasby of Kellys Solicitors.

The Defendants had been charged with intimidating police officers investigating a criminal matter. The intimidation was said to be through googling them, filming them, and referring to the police in general as “fascist pigs” in their presence. At trial one defendant gave evidence that to call a police officer a pig was offensive to pigs. Both were acquitted.

