



"She has a great client manner, and is good at dealing with bereaved families." (Police Law) **Chambers UK, 2017**

"She facilitated discussion and put the chief constables at their ease with a very relaxed manner." (Police Law) **Chambers UK, 2017**

"She is level-headed, fantastic with clients and an expert on police shootings." (Police Law) **Chambers UK, 2017**

"She has the ability to remain impartial and to manage process effectively in the most sensitive cases, which is a very great skill." (Inquests and Inquiries) **Chambers UK, 2017**



Practice Areas

POLICE LAW

INQUESTS

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

PUBLIC / ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Clerks

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"Incredibly charming, which is important with judges. She's also very tough: if she were representing you, you would be over the moon." (Inquests and Inquiries) **Chambers UK, 2017**

"She combines pitch-perfect advocacy with excellent empathy and client skills." – Inquests, **The Legal 500 UK 2015**

"She is extremely approachable and has a great client manner." Inquests & Public Inquiries, **Chambers and Partners 2015**

"In some problematic cases, her sensitive manner has allowed her to break down reluctant witnesses in the nicest possible way." Inquests & Public Inquiries, **Chambers and Partners 2015**

"She is highly personable, approachable and accommodating." Police Law **Chambers and Partners 2015**

"She is very knowledgeable in what is a difficult area to understand." Police Law, **Chambers and Partners 2015**

She is very effective. She is very good at identifying what her client's objectives are, and at fighting for them." Inquests & Public Inquiries, **Chambers and Partners 2014**

"An extremely calm and collected advocate who is able to control a potentially explosive case." Inquests & Public Inquiries, **Chambers and Partners 2014**

"She has the ability to set a client's mind at rest in difficult circumstances." Police Law, **Chambers and Partners 2014**

"An excellent practitioner who is very charming." Police Law, **Chambers and Partners 2014**

"Steeped in police law," Samantha Leek QC is "a charming silk who has a thorough understanding of the police service and the needs of the client." "Impressive in conference," she has the "ability to set clients' minds at rest in difficult circumstances." Well known for her work in police shootings, Leek represented one officer in the public inquiry into the death of Azelle Rodney - Police Law, **Chambers and Partners 2014**

"Remains a top choice for a range of police law cases, but is perhaps best known for her exceptional expertise in handling inquests relating to police shootings" Police Law, *Chambers and Partners 2014*

"A fantastically safe pair of hands", *Chambers and Partners 2011*

"Possibly without equal" in terms of her specialisation in firearms'. *Chambers and Partners 2010*

Background:

Samantha's first degree was in French and German at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, from 1987 to 1991. She completed a CPE at Central London Polytechnic from 1991 to 1992, took the Bar Vocational Course at ICSSL in 1993 and was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in October 1993.

She accepted tenancy at 5 Essex Court in 1995, was appointed to the Attorney-General's "C" Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown in 1999, to the "B" Panel in 2004 and to the "A" Panel of Treasury Counsel in 2010. She is Developed Vetted.

Samantha took silk in 2012.

Inquests/Public Inquiries:

Samantha regularly appears in high profile inquests / public inquiries on behalf of Police Forces, the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence and other government departments. She frequently gives informative lectures to police, coroners and solicitors on the conduct of inquests.

Police Law:

Samantha represents the police in most areas of civil law. These include judicial review, inquests, and claims for assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and misfeasance in public office. She advises on all aspects of police powers including policy and operational issues.

Public / Administrative Law:

Appearing in the Administrative Court on behalf of Police Forces and government departments, Samantha undertakes all areas of public law work, including prison law, judicial review and human rights.

Personal Injury:

Samantha has been instructed on behalf of private companies, police forces, government departments (including Home Office, MOD, and Department for Transport, Ministry of Justice, and FCO) and privately run prisons in all aspects of personal injury law. These include claims for damages for psychiatric injury, claims by prisoners for negligence / assault, employer's liability, claims arising out of deaths in custody and police shootings, road traffic accidents, occupier's liability, Highways Act claims and fatal accidents.

Lectures:

Samantha provides up to date CPD lectures to solicitors and police officers on all aspects of her practice. She has lectured widely on topics including human rights, inquests and the 'adjectival obligation to investigate' pursuant to Article 2, the role of the police in major disasters, the seizure, detention and forfeiture of terrorist cash, the Police Reform Act 2002, deaths in custody, the legal implications of the police use of firearms, post incident management in firearms incidents, police disciplinary procedures and enhanced criminal record certificates.

Interests:

In her spare time (!), Samantha enjoys the theatre, opera, scuba diving and skiing.

Significant work and cases

Inquests

Inquest into the death of Dr Abbas Khan

Abbas Khan was found hanged in prison in Syria. His family and others are of the view that he was murdered by the Syrians. They were told by the Syrian authorities that he had hanged himself. The Chief Coroner is conducting the inquest into his death. Samantha is counsel to the inquest, together with Jonathan Dixey.

Inquests into the death of the 96 victims of the Hillsborough Disaster

Samantha is currently representing Operation Resolve, the Home Office investigation team led by Assistant Commissioner Jon Stoddart. The team has been appointed to re-investigate from scratch the Hillsborough Disaster, to identify if any criminal offences have been committed.

Inquest into the death of Mark Duggan

Mark Duggan was shot by officers from the MPS in August 2012. His death sparked riots in London and elsewhere. In the inquest into his death (and the subsequent judicial review) Samantha represented the Serious Organised Crime Agency which had provided to the MPS the intelligence on which their surveillance operation was based.

Public Inquiry into the shooting of Azelle Rodney

Azelle Rodney was in a car with two others en route to commit a robbery. Specialist Firearms Officers from the MPS intercepted the vehicle. During the course of the stop, E7, one of the officers, shot and killed Azelle Rodney. Samantha represented E7 at the Public Inquiry into Azelle Rodney's death and, together with Georgina Wolfe, at the subsequent judicial review

Inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson

Samantha, together with Cicely Hayward, represented the Metropolitan Police Service in the inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson, who died shortly after being pushed over by an MPS officer, during the G20 riots. She also acted for the MPS in the civil claim.

Inquest into the death of John Charles de Menezes

Samantha acted as Counsel for 16 members of CO19, the Metropolitan Police Service Firearms Unit, at the inquest into the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes.

Inquest into the death of Terry Nicholas

In this inquest, Samantha acted as Counsel for the three Metropolitan Police Service Specialist Firearms Officers, who discharged firearms and fatally wounded Terry Nicholas.

Inquest into the death of Simon Murden

Instructed as Counsel for the Chief Constable of Humberside in the seven-week inquest into the shooting of Simon Murden.

Inquest into the death of Louise Giles.

Samantha acted on behalf of the Home Office in a four-week inquest into the death of Louise Giles, who killed herself whilst serving a term of life imprisonment for murder in Durham Prison.

Inquest into the death of Stephen Brown

Acted on behalf of Serco Home Affairs in the four-week inquest into the death of Stephen Brown who died of septicaemia while in Doncaster Prison.

Inquests into the deaths of David Christie / Paul Macaulay

Samantha was instructed by the Ministry of Defence in the inquests into the deaths of members of the Royal Navy, who died whilst training to be Navy divers.

Samantha was also junior counsel to the Thames Safety Inquiry, the Marchioness Inquiry, and counsel to the Public Inquiry into the Provision of Library Services on the Wirral.

Police

Inquests - as set out above.

Julia Tomlinson & others v Commissioner of Police of Metropolis - Represented the Commissioner in the civil claim arising out of the death of Ian Tomlinson, who died after being pushed over by PC Simon Harwood.

Allen v Chief Constable of Hampshire [2013] EWCA Civ 967 – Samantha acted on behalf of the Chief Constable in responding to an appeal against a strike out of Ms. Allen’s claims. These were that the Chief Constable was liable for (i) harassment, assault and trespass perpetrated against her by a police officer and (ii) breaching her Article 3 ECHR rights by failing to investigate the allegations, offer sufficient protective measures, or take reasonable steps to prosecute or discipline the officer.

The Court of Appeal found that Article 3 gave rise to an obligation on the part of the State to conduct an effective investigation into allegations that treatment amounted to violation of a person’s rights. It also held that the scope of the obligations would differ greatly depending on whether the violation was inflicted by agents of the State or, at the other end of the scale, private individuals, as in the instant case.

Desmond v Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire [2009] EWHC 2362 (QB) – Samantha represented the Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire in resisting Mr. Desmond’s appeal against the order of the County Court striking out his claim in negligence.

R (Gunn) v MAPPA [2009] EWHC 1812 - See public law section.

Charles v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis 2008 Central London County Court – Samantha acted in a civil jury action where the Claimant claimed damages for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Singh v Chief Constable of West Midlands [2006] EWCA (Civ) 1118 - See public law section.

Alder v Police Complaints Authority & others – Samantha acted for the PCA in long running claim for discrimination and misfeasance in public office.

R (Mulholland) v HM Coroner for Inner North London [2003] EWHC 2612(Admin) - Counsel for the Commissioner in Judicial Review against the decision of the Coroner.

R (Stanley) v HM Coroner for Inner North London [2003] EWHC 1180 (Admin) – Samantha acted for the Commissioner in a Judicial Review against decisions of the Coroner.

Public/Administrative Law

Goode v Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire [2013] EWHC 1726 (Admin) – A case concerning the validity of a search warrant and the jurisdiction of the Crown Court to examine the circumstances of the issue of a warrant by a magistrates' court.

R (Sreedharan) v HM Coroner for Greater Manchester [2013] EWCA Civ 181 – Samantha acted in an appeal to the Court of Appeal concerning scope and ambit of coroners' inquests.

R (De Menezes) v HM Assistant Deputy Coroner for Inner South London [2008] EWHC 3356 – An urgent application for permission by the family of Jean Charles De Menezes, challenging the Coroner's ruling which restricted the verdicts and questions to be left for the jury to consider.

R (Pounder) v (1) HM Coroner for North & South Districts of Durham & Darlington (Defendant) (2) Youth Justice Board (3) Serco Home Affairs Ltd (4) Lancashire County Council (Interested Parties) [2009] EWHC 76 (Admin) (Administrative Court) – Samantha represented Serco Home Affairs Ltd, who operated Hassockfield Secure Training Centre. Adam Rickwood had hanged himself in his cell there, aged 14. The Claimant Adam's mother, applied for judicial review of a decision of the defendant coroner not to make any ruling as to the legality of a restraint used on Adam six hours before his death, while he was detained at Hassockfield.

R (Gunn) v MAPPA [2009] EWHC 1812 – Samantha advised MAPPA in a Judicial Review in which the Claimant claimed that MAPPA had wrongly categorised him as Category 3, Level 3 according to the MAPPA Guidelines and accordingly imposed too stringent licence conditions.

JN (Cameroon) v SSHD [2009] EWCA Civ 307 – Samantha represented the SSHD in an appeal against a decision of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to uphold the SSHD's deportation order.

MF (Jamaica) v SSHD [2007] EWCA (Civ) 1153 - Represented the SSHD in an appeal against the decision of the AIT as to whether there was a subsisting marriage.

Singh v Chief Constable of West Midlands [2006] EWCA (Civ) 1118 – Samantha represented the Chief Constable in a challenge to the lawfulness of a direction to disperse protesters which had been issued on 16.12.04 pursuant to section 30(4) of the Anti - Social Behaviour Act 2003 ('ASBA').