



"She has the right balance in making sure that her clients' interests are protected, but also facilitating the rights of families to the truth." (*Inquests and Inquiries*) **Chambers UK 2017**

"Extremely experienced and very knowledgeable about coronial law. She handles difficult briefs with tenacity without being too aggressive." (*Inquests and Inquiries*) **Chambers UK 2017**

"She is excellent in her attention to detail, and also has a great relationship with clients." (*Inquests & Public Inquiries*) **Chambers UK 2015**

"She's probably one of the best barristers I've ever seen in a coroner's court, as she's excellent on her feet, in her strategy and in her line of questioning." (*Inquests & Public Inquiries*) **Chambers UK 2015**

Alison Hewitt "has a quiet authority and an absolute command of the facts. Her questioning is remarkably effective because it is so controlled, detailed and forensic rather than simply aggressive."

"She has a very effective and consensual approach. She is well known and well-liked by coroners." (*Inquests*) **Chambers and Partners UK 2014**



ALISON HEWITT

Practice Areas

INQUESTS

PUBLIC / ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

POLICE LAW

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

EMPLOYMENT LAW

OTHER SPECIALISMS

Clerks

T. 020 7410 2000

Email: clerks@5essexcourt.co.uk

Summary

Alison studied Law at University College, London and the ICSSL. In 1986 she became a tenant at Temple Garden Chambers from where she practised until joining 5 Essex Court in May 2012.

For many years Alison had a broad based common law practice, specialising in personal injury and employment law and acting regularly for the Treasury Solicitor.

In 2002 she represented two Coroners at the Shipman Inquiry and since then she has developed a particular expertise in coronial law. She has acted as "Counsel to the Inquest" in a number of lengthy and complex

cases, including the inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson who died following contact with the police at the G20 riots, and she represents a wide range of clients at inquests and in related judicial review proceedings. Additionally, Alison is an experienced Assistant Coroner, sitting in two coroner areas, Manchester (West) and Surrey.

Since moving to 5 Essex Court in 2012 Alison has also developed her Police law practice. She regularly represents and advises Constabularies in relation to civil claims, judicial review proceedings and disciplinary matters. She has recently provided training at the College of Policing in relation to Authorising Officers, CHIS, Surveillance and RIPA.

Alison also acts as a Legal Adviser to a number of professional regulatory bodies including the General Dental Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Inquests and Coronial Law

In 2002 Alison represented two Coroners at the Shipman Inquiry and her particular interest and expertise in coronial law grew from there. She regularly advises clients, including Coroners, on all aspects of inquest law and procedure, including the meaning and effect of Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

She has very extensive inquest experience and has represented a wide range of clients including Police Constabularies, the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence, private prisons, doctors and NHS Trusts, construction companies and other employers, care homes, child care agencies and families. Alison has also acted as "Counsel to the Inquest" in a number of lengthy and complex cases.

Additionally, as an experienced Assistant Coroner, Alison has conducted a number of Article 2 compliant inquests, including cases involving deaths in custody, deaths whilst detained under the Mental Health Act and deaths resulting from poor clinical care and treatment.

As a result of all her work, Alison's particular areas of expertise are inquests in which Article 2 may be engaged, deaths in custody, deaths involving the Police or following restraint, deaths resulting from domestic violence and deaths raising issues as to the clinical care provided for physical or mental illness.

Public / Administrative Law

Alison regularly advises and appears in the Administrative Court in relation to claims for judicial review, usually acting on behalf of Coroners, Local Authorities or Police Constabularies.

Currently Alison is representing a number of Constabularies in challenges to the imposition of cautions, the disclosure of cautions and other confidential information, and the refusal to relieve an offender of notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Personal Injury Law

Alison acts for both claimants and defendants and has extensive experience of injuries sustained at work or in road traffic incidents. She has conducted many cases which are clinically complex and, over more recent years, a number of high value claims involving significant brain injuries. Alison is also regularly instructed in relation to dependency claims arising after inquest proceedings.

Employment Law

Alison's employment law experience has centered on claims for unfair dismissal and all forms of discrimination. Most of her work has been for respondents and she has acted for Government Departments, the Armed Services, NHS Trusts and private employers. She has defended a number of lengthy and complex discrimination claims and she co-wrote a book of guidance on the Age Discrimination Regulations when they were introduced.

Professional Regulatory Law

Alison currently sits as a legal advisor to the General Dental Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council. She has previously carried out a similar role for the Ministry of Defence Police.

Appointments

Assistant Coroner for Manchester (West)

Assistant Coroner for Surrey

Significant work and cases

Inquests

Maria Stubbings [2014] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Senior Coroner for Essex for the preparatory stages of the investigation into the death of a woman who was killed by her partner, Marc Chivers, who had previously been imprisoned for murder in Germany.

Lloyd Butler [2014] - Representing the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police in a case in which the deceased died in police custody after being arrested for being drunk and incapable (in Birmingham Coroner's Court).

Elsa Carneau [2014] - Representing the City of London Corporation. The deceased drowned in a Virgin Active swimming pool and an issue was raised about the CoLC's role under the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (in West London Coroner's Court).

Jake Hardy [2014] - Conducted the inquest into the death of a vulnerable 17 year old who killed himself whilst in custody in a Young Offender Institute (sitting in Bolton Coroner's Court).

Irene Sharples [2013] - Representing the Estates Manager and Surveyor who advised the Care Home in which the deceased was resident when she suffered injury as a result of construction works on the premises (in Manchester Coroner's Court).

Maureen Leaver [2013] - Representing the Family of an elderly woman who died after being detained under the Mental Health Act and suffering hypothermia as a result of medication (in West Sussex Coroner's Court).

Robert Storey [2013] - Representing the Chief Constable of Humberside Police. The deceased was found to have killed himself after being reported to the Police as missing (in Hull Coroner's Court).

Rachel Slack, Auden Slack and Andrew Cairns [2013] - Representing the Chief Constable of Derbyshire Police in a case in which a mother and her young son were killed by her former partner. The case raised issues about the care given by mental health services and the protection provided by the police (in Derby Coroner's Court).

Jimmy Mubenga [2013] - Representing three Detention Custody Officers who had custody of the deceased when he died as a result of restraint on an aircraft during his deportation (in West London Coroner's Court).

Sergei Kerov [2012] - Representing the Chief Constable of Derbyshire Police. The deceased was found to have killed himself after being reported to the Police as missing (in Derby Coroner's Court).

Various Deaths [2012] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Warwickshire. This inquest related to the deaths of the pilots and passengers in two aircraft which collided in mid-air.

Nunes and Markland [2011] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Hampshire. The two deceased men were shot by the police whilst carrying out an armed robbery.

Ian Tomlinson [2011] - Counsel to the Inquest for Judge Peter Thornton QC (now Chief Coroner) sitting as ADC for the City of London. The deceased was a passer-by who died during the G20 protests in London after having been pushed by a police officer.

Naomi Bryant [2011] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Hampshire. This case concerned a woman who was murdered by a life-sentenced prisoner who had been released on licence.

Rhiya Malin [2010] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Essex. The deceased was a 2 year old girl who died on play equipment whilst in the care of a day nursery.

Joker Idris [2010] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Essex. In this case the deceased was a minor who was seeking asylum, was known to the social services and who killed himself whilst in custody.

Jonny Riley [2010] - Representing a private prison in a case involving a death in custody (in Norfolk Coroner's Court).

Colette Lynch [2009] - Counsel to the Inquest for Sir Christopher Pitchers sitting as ADC for Warwickshire. This case concerned a young woman who was killed by her mentally unwell partner and it raised issues about the protection given to her by the police, social services and mental health services.

Steven Morris [2006] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Bridgend. The deceased was a vulnerable adult who died in a care home.

Various Deaths [2005] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Neath Port Talbot. This inquest related to the deaths of a number of employees resulting from a blast furnace explosion.

Robbie Powell [2004] - Counsel to the Inquest for HM Coroner for Pembrokeshire. The deceased was a young boy whose death raised numerous issues about the clinical care he had received.

Public / Administrative Law

Brown v HM Coroner for Norfolk and the Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary [2014] EWHC 187 (Admin). An application for a fresh inquest under section 13 of the Coroners Act 1988, as amended. The judgment provides guidance from the Chief Coroner concerning pre-inquest review hearings.

Wilkinson v HM Coroner for Manchester (South) [2012] EWHC 2755 (Admin). This case concerned the use of the "unlawful killing" conclusion in cases where the death has resulted from careless driving and concluded that driving offences causing death could not justify that verdict.

Ahmed v HM Coroner for South and East Cumbria [2009] EWHC 1653 (Admin). Issues included disclosure of documents when a criminal investigation is ongoing, sufficiency of inquiry and bias.

HM Coroner for London (East) v Secretary for State for Justice and Sutovic [2009] EWHC 1974 (Admin). The Court considered issues relating to exhumation of a body arising under the Coroners Act 1988 and the Burial Act 1857.

Aineto v HM Coroner for Brighton and Hove [2003] EWHC 1896 (Admin). The issue related to the requirement to summon a jury in certain road traffic cases.

Hurst v HM Coroner for London (North) [2003] EWHC 1721 (Admin). A case which considered when it was necessary for a Coroner to resume an inquest in order to fulfill the investigative duty under Article 2 of the ECHR.

Hay v HM Coroner for Lincolnshire (1999) 163 JP 666, [2000] Inquest LR 1. A case which addressed a wide range of issues included advance disclosure by a coroner, admissibility of evidence, privilege against self-incrimination and verdicts.