



## Laura Nash

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Year of Call: 2009

Laura was called to the Bar in 2009 and completed pupillage under the supervision of Guy Mathieson. Prior to coming to the Bar, Laura worked as a legal advisor for Staffordshire Trading Standards following a successful internship at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where she was involved in the review and enforcement of money laundering and financing of terrorism provisions.

Away from work Laura is a keen runner and trains with Salford Harriers AC.

“Very experienced in cross examination of vulnerable witnesses.” **Legal 500 2019 (Crime)**

“Perceptive and accomplished on her feet.” **Legal 500 2019 (Inquests and Inquiries)**

## Appointments

- Assistant Coroner – The Black Country Coroners Court, Oldbury

## Memberships

- INQUEST
- Northern Circuit
- South Eastern Circuit
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association.

# EXPERTISE

## Inquests

Laura has extensive experience dealing with inquests, acting for both properly interested persons and for the family.

Laura specialises in deaths in custody and with a strong criminal and prison law practice is extremely well placed to deal with deaths in both prisons and secure hospitals, and is confident dealing with paper-heavy cases.

## Deaths in Custody – Cases

### **In the Matter of AM (Manchester Coroner’s Court)**

Acted for Manchester Airport Group following the death of a passenger on an Emirates flight. MAG’s first responder firefighters’ response was described by the coroner as “textbook” and there was no criticism of the Airport. The case received coverage in the [Manchester Evening News](#).

### **In the Matter of NP (Bolton Coroner’s Court)**

Acted for the family of Neal Price, 26, from Oldham, who was found dead in his cell at HMP Forest Bank in Salford. The case received coverage in the [Manchester Evening News](#) and on the [Inquest](#) website. Read the press release from [INQUEST](#) here.

### **In the Matter of GD (Ruthin Coroner’s Court)**

Acting on behalf of the family following the death of a man who stabbed himself in the stomach while in custody. The case was reported on the [BBC website](#) and in the [Daily Post](#). Read more information about the case [here](#).

### **In the Matter of GS (Rhuthin Coroner’s Court)**

Acting on behalf of the family following a death in custody of a charged with attempted murder and who caused several self-inflicted wounds using swords and knives. There was extensive evidence addressing whether BS had been sent too soon following surgery for his injuries. Read the coverage on the [BBC News website](#) [here](#).

### **In the Matter of BS (Trafford Coroner’s Court)**

Lengthy death in custody inquest concerning the death of an epileptic detainee in the cells of a local court centre. Acting on behalf of the family. A number of recommendations were made by the coroner following the conclusion of the inquest which received [national press coverage](#).

## Other Cases

In addition to deaths in custody, Laura has experience in dealing with deaths in state detention, deaths abroad and Health and Safety-related deaths. Laura was also invited to contribute to the INQUEST Handbook regarding Work-related Deaths.

#### **In the Matter of DW (Manchester Coroner's Court)**

Represented the family of a man who died after the bin he was sleeping in was emptied into a waste collection lorry. The case was covered by the [Manchester Evening News](#), [Daily Mirror](#), [Daily Mail](#), [The Sun](#) and [Daily Star](#).

#### **In the Matter of LW (Middlesbrough Coroner's Court)**

Acting on behalf of the care home following the death of a resident of sepsis, having developed a pressure sore. The jury returned a conclusion of natural causes following careful questioning of several medical experts on the issue of causation.

#### **In the Matter of AC (Heywood Coroner's Court)**

Acting on behalf of the family following a road traffic collision in Sierra Leone during the course of employment.

#### **In the Matter of KB (Liverpool Coroner's Court)**

Acting on behalf of the family following the suicide of an out-patient of community mental health service.

#### **In the Matter of TL (Blackburn Coroner's Court)**

Acting on behalf of the family in a self-inflicted death case where there were findings that the treating clinicians had failed to safeguard TL following several attempts to take her own life. Coroner was highly critical of treating staff and recommended a referral to the GMC regarding their conduct.

#### **In the Matter of JF (Peterborough Coroner's Court)**

Acting for the family where JF had slipped on liquid in Asda on Black Friday.

## **Regulatory**

Laura has experience in a wide variety of regulatory prosecution including those by the Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency and Greater Manchester Fire Agency.

Prior to coming to the Bar Laura was employed by Staffordshire Trading Standards, advising members of the public as to their consumer rights.

## **REGULATORY – CASES**

### **Trading Standards v S**

Advising a national ticketing retailer in respect of possible infractions of online retail and unfair pricing

practices.

### **TMBC v England (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)**

Advised prospective appellant in respect of a conviction under section 444 of the Education Act 1996 in light of the Isle of Wight school absences case, *IW v Platt*.

### **Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service v Mannan (Manchester Magistrates' Court)**

Defending the owner of a local fast food restaurant, prosecuted for breaching GMFRS guidelines.

### **Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service v Amilico (Stockport Magistrates' Court)**

Prosecuting breaches of fire safety legislation at a warehouse in Stockport.

### **Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service v B&M Quilting (Stockport Magistrates' Court)**

Prosecuting breaches of fire safety legislation at a business premises in Stockport.

## **CARE QUALITY COMMISSION – CASES**

Laura has utilised her coronial experience of care home deaths and has advised on all matters related to CQC interventions, from drafting advices on and grounds of appeal, to appearing at tribunal hearings.

### **CQC v PCH (Liverpool Magistrates' Court)**

Representing the care home in a prosecution by the CQC following the death of a resident.

### **CQC v GCH**

Advising the care home and registered manager in an appeal against a decision to cancel the home's registration as a service provider.

### **CQC v TSG & MM**

Advising the care home and registered manager in an appeal against a decision to cancel the home's registration as a service provider. Opposition to the appeal was withdrawn by the CQC following submission of the Grounds of Appeal.

## **LICENSING – CASES**

### **Denali v Manchester City Council (Crown Court at Manchester Crown Square)**

Acting on behalf of the council in an appeal against the revocation of a private hire licence, the appeal was dismissed with the Court making a finding of fact that the appellant acted as alleged by the Council.

### **SIA v Showtime Security Guards Limited (Crown Court at Shrewsbury)**

Defending in a licensing prosecution for fielding security operatives without an SIA license. Despite multiple breaches over a lengthy period of time the company was sentenced to a fine while the director received a conditional discharge.

**Surrey Heath Borough Council v Gavin Watson (Guildford Magistrates' Court)**

Defending in taxi licensing prosecution in which the prosecution agreed to withdraw all charges against the owner of the company following legal argument.

**Control Recycling Group Limited v Environment Agency**

Acting for the applicant in an appeal against a revocation notice.

**Shah v SIA (Manchester Magistrates Court)**

Acting for the Security Industry Agency in an appeal against the revocation of his license following the revocation of the appellant's leave to remain in the UK. The appeal was dismissed and costs awarded against the appellant.

**Robertson v SIA (Crewe Magistrates Court)**

Acting for the Security Industry Agency in an appeal against the revocation of his licence following conviction for assault. The appeal was dismissed and costs awarded against the appellant.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY – CASES

**HSE v R&B**

Advising an engineering company following receipt of Prohibition Notice.

**In the Matter of JPB (Liverpool Coroner's Court)**

Representing the security and cleaning services at a shopping centre following the death of a homeless man who had fallen asleep in a skip used by the centre.

**In the Matter of JL (Stafford Coroner's Court)**

HSE inquest acting on behalf of the family, following a cattle-related death of an employee on a dairy farm.

**In the Matter of CCT (Preston Coroner's Court)**

Seven-day inquest into the death of a customer at liveried stables and riding school, which involved complex legal argument relating to privilege against self-incrimination. Instructed on behalf of the Local Authority.

**HSE v Arrow Flexible Packaging (Trafford Magistrates' Court)**

Defending the owners of a factory where worker lost a finger whilst operating machinery.

## PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION – CASES

### **GMC v Dr AP (MPTS, Manchester)**

Representing a doctor at the Interim Orders Tribunal following complaints of drug taking and domestic violence.

### **HCPC v Turner (HCPC Tribunal)**

Representing a CAF/CASS officer in respect of an allegation of submitting a misleading reference to an employment agency on behalf of her husband, also a qualified social worker.

### **R v JW (Runcorn Magistrates Court)**

Three-day trial representing a serving police officer against stalking, harassment and malicious communications offences, as well as breach of RIPA. Despite several aggravating features an immediate custodial sentence was avoided.

### **R v HY (Crown Court at Preston)**

Representing a serving police officer accused of dangerous driving following a collision that occurred during an emergency response. Acquitted following a three-day trial involving extensive expert evidence.

### **R v SG & JG (Manchester Magistrates' Court)**

Representing a nurse and teacher couple who were accused of assaulting their adopted daughter. Both defendants were acquitted and defence costs recovered.

## Crime

Laura has a busy Crown Court practice dealing with a variety of cases, with particular experience of cross-examination of very young children and other vulnerable witnesses, as well as dealing with defendants with learning difficulties or mental health issues.

## Fraud and Financial Crime – Cases

### **R v C G Engineering Ltd & Christopher Wright (Manchester City Magistrates Court)**

Representing a director and his company in a prosecution under the Value Added Tax Act 1994. Following successful submissions that a prosecution must cease once a company had entered administration, the prosecution continued against the director. Despite the CPS initially contending for a fine per illegal transaction and a compensation order of c.£50,000, the sentence imposed was £500 and no order as to costs.

### **R v Pearson (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)**

Prosecuted a tax and NI fraud committed by non-payment of PAYE deducted from company employees

of a 'meet and greet' parking service at Manchester Airport. The fraud totalled almost half a million pounds and was committed over a seven year period and resulting in the defendant receiving a sentence in excess of three years imprisonment. This case received coverage in the [Manchester Evening News](#).

#### **R v Ainscough (Crown Court at Bolton)**

Successfully prosecuted a self assessment tax fraud committed via tax return amendments, totalling almost £20,000 loss to HMRC.

#### **R v Nasir Khalil (et al) (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)**

Prosecuted in the case of four men who were found guilty of committing fraud by arranging sham marriages. The men, based in Rochdale, were sentenced to a total of six years and three months' imprisonment.

#### **R v Swales and others (Crown Court at Carlisle)**

Defending one of 37 defendants accused of a "Cash for Crash" fraud where defendant received a suspended sentence following conviction of conspiracy to defraud.

## **Sexual Offences – Cases**

#### **R v A (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)**

Successfully defended one of two defendants accused of raping a girl following a night out. The case was dismissed at half time following a successful joint defence application.

#### **R v H (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)**

Successful defence against an accusation of anal rape and assault by penetration by a male on his partner. The defendant was acquitted in less than 30 minutes following a three day trial.

#### **R v K (Crown Court at Derby)**

Defending sexual assault involving neighbours.

#### **R v T (Crown Court at Carlisle)**

Historic familial sex offences dating back to 1999

#### **R v R (Liverpool Youth Court)**

Successfully defended 16-year-old boy requiring an intermediary for ADHD. Trial involved cross-examination of the defendant's six-year-old niece.

## **Robbery, Assault and Public Order – Cases**

#### **R v Kirlew, Kirlew, Holding, Stagg (Crown Court at Shrewsbury)**

Prosecuted at the sentencing of five men who were jailed following an attack which saw two people stabbed outside a nightclub in Shrewsbury.

**R v Lee Wilding, Kelly Grayson and Dylan Jones (Crown Court at Manchester Crown Square)**

Prosecuted three gang members who attempted armed robberies at a Conservative Club and a Premier Inn hotel.

**R v Lawton (Crown Court at Stafford)**

Prosecuting a vulnerable defendant with mental health concerns accused of assaulting a resident in supported accommodation. Two prosecution witnesses required intermediaries and special measures.

**R v Redfern (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)**

Successful prosecution of a male accused of blackmailing a complaining alleged to have owed a drugs debt.

**R v Brazier (Crown Court at Stoke-on-Trent)**

Defending a 22-year-old male of good character concerning an allegation of section 20 grievous bodily harm. Defendant had a diagnosis of Aspergers syndrome and utilised an intermediary.

**R v Lynch (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull Street)**

Defending a male of good character of an allegation of blackmail where charge was reduced to a public order offence.

**R v A (Bury Youth Court)**

Defended 16-year-old with four 11-year-old witnesses. Application to dismiss the case at the conclusion of the Crown's case was successful, as well as obtaining a defence costs order and wasted costs order from the Crown in respect of trial delays.

## Dishonesty – Cases

**R v Smith (Crown Court at Shrewsbury)**

Successful prosecution for burglary using DNA evidence following successful defence of a submission of no case to answer using recent case law on DNA analysis of partial positive matches.

**R v Haberlin (Crown Court at Preston)**

Successful acquittal of a defendant accused of stealing c.£17,000 from his employer of a period of several months.

**Royal Mail v Duckett, Edwards and Edwards (Crown Court at Swansea)**

Successful defence of a young petrol station employee implicated in a fuel card fraud, prosecution offered no evidence on the first day of the two-week listed trial.



## **Burnley MBC v Davis (Crown Court at Burnley)**

Successful prosecution of a defendant who had failed to notify the council of a beneficial interest in the rented property for which he claimed benefit. The case involved a detailed analysis of the legislation and case law in relation to the definition of a beneficial interest for the purposes of the Social Security (Administration) Act 1992.