



Laura Nash

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Year of Call: 2009

Laura Nash is a well-regarded barrister and assistant coroner with a broad practice in inquest law. She has notable strength in police and prison matters and health and safety issues. She represents the bereaved and various individuals whose actions are under scrutiny.

Strengths: "She is able to adapt her advocacy style depending on the situation." "She is a really good advocate, a great communicator and leaves no stone unturned." **Chambers UK Bar 2022**

"Laura's knowledge of coronial law is exceptional and her role as an assistant coroner provides a helpful insight into the tactics and strategies to be adopted when robustly defending the client's position." **Legal 500 2022 (Inquests and Inquiries)**

"Recommended expert" **Legal 500 2022 (Crime)**

Laura was called to the Bar in 2009 and completed pupillage under the supervision of the now HHJ 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.

Appointments

- Deputy District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)

- Fee-Paid First-Tier Tribunal Judge (Health, Education and Social Care) (Mental Health)
- Assistant Coroner – The Black Country Coroners Court, Oldbury
- Assistant Coroner – Lancashire
- Specialist Regulatory Advocate in Health and Safety and Environmental Law – List C
- Trained Reviewer for the Bar Pro Bono Charity Advocate

Memberships

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

Legal Directory recommendations

Strengths: “She sits part-time as a coroner, so she has really good knowledge of the inquest process. She’s very methodical and excellent at putting forward submissions to coroners, and her advocacy is really impressive.” “She is technically excellent, quickly establishes the trust of clients, and presents arguments in a clear and coherent manner. She will go to great lengths to consider a case from every angle.” **Chambers UK Bar 2021 (Inquests and Public Inquiries)**

‘Laura is an absolute expert in the arena of inquests and enquiries. She quickly identifies the key issues in any case and instantly knows the best approach to take to address the issue. She has a pleasant but direct manner with clients and counsel alike and is firm but fair when addressing the judiciary and her instructing solicitors on what she believes to be the correct course of action.’ **Legal 500 2021 (Inquests and Inquiries)**

‘A clever and articulate advocate who never backs down from a fight.’ **Legal 500 2021 (Crime)**

‘A clever and articulate advocate who never backs down from a fight.’ **Legal 500 2020 (Crime and Inquests)**

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

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

Solicitor recommendations

“I have recently instructed Ms Nash in two particularly sensitive cases with press interest. Ms Nash is an excellent communicator, she routinely responds quickly to queries and commits to finding clarity in even the most novel of cases. Her written submissions are clear, concise and persuasive and she is extremely professional and fluent in both conference and at Court. I would not hesitate to recommend

Ms Nash in Inquest and Health & Safety cases.” – Instructing Solicitor

“Laura is a conscientious, professional and knowledgeable barrister in both regulatory and coronial law. She is well-liked by all clients for her clear advice and sensible approach. For those instructing her, Laura is a consistently reliable Counsel and someone you know will have a positive impact throughout the case, to get the best outcome for clients.” – Instructing Solicitor

“A rare combination of diligence and fighting spirit, Laura is consistently well prepared on cases and has an exceptional presence of mind which ensures she is continually at the front line of litigation. Determined and dedicated counsel on whom one can rely and trust to excel in a case.” – Instructing Solicitor

“Laura is particularly skilled in the arena of inquests and Coronial law. Sitting as an Assistant Coroner herself, Laura takes personal pride in the accuracy of proceedings and the fairness of representation making her an invaluable asset to any legal team attending an inquest.” – Instructing Solicitor

EXPERTISE

Inquests

Laura has extensive experience dealing with inquests, acting for both properly interested persons and for the family. Her recent cases involve deaths in state detention, deaths abroad and Health and Safety-related deaths. Laura is often instructed in high profile cases.

Laura was also invited to contribute to the INQUEST Handbook regarding Work-related Deaths.

In the matter of AJ

Asked to advise a senior coroner on the process of judicial review following disclosure of new material relevant to the investigation into the death of the deceased.

In the Matter of CM (Northallerton Coroner’s Court)

Acted for the housemaster of a Catholic boarding school which had suspended a student following his arrest for serious criminal offences. CM killed himself the day after his release from custody. Case received extensive press coverage, including in *The Telegraph* and *The Times*.

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 AN (Manchester Coroner’s Court)

Acted for the brother of the deceased who was an interested party, having admitted that he had supplied his brother drugs shortly before his death, when he fell from the roof of a central Manchester hotel where he worked. Press coverage can be found here.

HSE and Deaths at Work

In the Matter of RW (Wakefield Coroner's Court)

Acting for a lifeguard following the drowning of a three-year-old boy in a pool at a national health club. The case was covered by the Daily Mail, ITV and the BBC as well as extensive local news coverage.

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 RQ (Cumbria Coroner's Court)

Acting for a driver following the detachment of a trailer from a work van, involving extensive engineering expert evidence. No criticisms were found of the driver at the conclusion of the seven-day inquest.

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

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

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 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.

Care Home and Medical Deaths

Laura has a wealth of experience dealing with care home and medical deaths due to her strong regulatory practice which sees her advising care homes and medical practitioners in relation to Care Quality Commission proceedings.

Laura was recently invited to give a lecture to the Royal College of Nursing in respect of care home deaths.

In the Matter of LS (Manchester Coroner's Court)

Acting on behalf of a nurse accused of failing to action a delivery of antibiotics into the nursing home.

In the Matter of HC (Milton Keynes Coroner's Court)

Acting on behalf of the care home following the death of a resident who was found to have choked on a piece of material. Despite extensive investigation by the police, the origin of the material could not be ascertained. No criticisms of the home were found by the Senior Coroner, even though the resident had been bed-bound at the time of his death.

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 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.

Deaths in Custody

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.

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 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.

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.

PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE – Police

Greater Manchester Police v TAW & Others

Representing one of six police officers accused of failing to respond to a detainee who required urgent medical attention and who subsequently died in the rear of a police detention van.

R v BL (Crown Court at Bradford)

Defending a serving police officer accused of rape.

In the matter of EG (Sheffield Coroners Court)

Acting for a detective who was the officer in the case for an allegation of sexual assault and anal rape on a schoolgirl which was discontinued due to inconsistencies in her account. In the months after the decision the girl took her own life and cited the attitude of the police as one of the reasons.

Metropolitan Police Service v PH

Representing a serving Police Sergeant convicted of assaulting an on-duty police officer. Despite having a conviction for violence on another officer submissions against dismissal without notice were successful and the officer received a Final Written Warning.

R v SL (Crown Court at Liverpool)

Defending a serving detective against one count of misconduct in public office where the officer had groomed four vulnerable women who were complainants or witnesses in cases, with the officer engaging in consensual sexual activity with one complainant. Following a guilty plea, the judge was convinced to take the unusual step of suspending the sentence. The case had extensive coverage in the media, including BBC News, ITV News, and The Guardian.

Lincolnshire Police v MC

Representing a serving police officer subject to a Final Warning in respect of misconduct proceedings where he was alleged to have used antisemitic and transphobic language.

West Yorkshire Police v DW

Representing a serving police officer in respect of six allegations of violence against his ex-partner who was a serving police sergeant.

South Yorkshire Police v CS

Representing a serving police sergeant accused of removing electronic devices from the property store and then following his suspension dishonestly entering the police station.

Inquest into the Death of DM (Bolton Coroner's Court)

Acting for one of three police officers accused of contributing to the death of a detainee in the back of a police van shortly after arrest. Complex case involving positional asphyxia.

R v AS (Crown Court at Liverpool)

Representing a police officer accused of dangerous driving. Prosecution accepted a plea to the lesser count following submissions to the Circuit Judge regarding deficiencies in the investigation.

R v IR (Doncaster Magistrates Court)

Representing a police officer accused of harassment towards his ex-partner, involving sending hundreds of messages, attending her home and her place of work. The Crown accepted a restraining order and acquittal against the weight of evidence.

R v RO (Liverpool Magistrates Court)

Representing a serving police officer accused of domestic violence, found not guilty following a successful application at half time for the case to be dismissed and a defence costs order granted.

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.

PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE – Medical

NMC v RC & RT

Representing one of two midwives who were accused of failing to identify a serious deterioration in a new mother's health following a home birth, delaying her transfer to hospital and resulting in her admission to the ITU. The registrant had admitted one minor charge of 12 alleged. Laura successfully applied to have two charges dismissed at half time, with only two of the remaining nine charges being proved. Following further submissions there was no impairment found.

GMC v Dr AK

Representing a general practitioner accused of dishonesty when completing paperwork to be sent to NHS England.

In the matter of JW (Chesterfield Coroners Court)

Acting for a GP who advised care home staff to contact paramedics rather than attending at the home to conduct her own assessment.

In the matter of SC (Stockport Coroners Court)

Acting for a GP who conducted a review of the deceased in the days before he died. Issue at the inquest was whether the GP should have arranged for the deceased's admission to hospital following a deterioration in his health. The coroner found that the assessment was appropriate and no admission was necessary.

TEC v NHS England

Advising an optician on reinstatement to the NHS England's Performers List and repercussions of practising whilst removed from the list from a contractual perspective.

Dr B v NHS England

Advising a practising dentist as to an appeal against the imposition of conditions on his continued inclusion on the Performers List for Dentists with NHS England.

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.

BCC v CQC

Advising a General Practitioner in an appeal against an urgent application to cancel his registration to perform cosmetic surgery at his own clinic. Case involves complex medical evidence in relation to

administering of sedative drugs and their monitoring as well as qualifications to perform cosmetic surgery in the UK.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

HSE v Melba Products Ltd (Manchester Magistrates Court)

Acting for the company in a HSE prosecution following the loss of a finger by an employee who placed his hand into operational machinery. Despite a history of poor compliance with the regulator the company received a reduced fine to reflect the changes that had been implemented following the incident.

HSE v IH (Crown Court at Manchester Minshull St)

Prosecuted a builder who was guilty of the Work at Height Regulations as well as the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 as the person who was in control of a building site and who had been issued two Prohibition Notices for failing to take suitable and sufficient measures to prevent falls from height during roof work.

HSE v DAL Ltd (Manchester City Magistrates' Court)

Acting for a metal fabrication company in a prosecution under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 following an employee losing a finger while operating unguarded machinery and wearing gloves.

HSE v R&B

Advising an engineering company following receipt of Prohibition Notice.

In the Matter of RW (Wakefield Coroner's Court)

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

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HSE v Arrow Flexible Packaging (Trafford Magistrates' Court)

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

TRADING STANDARDS AND FOOD SAFETY

London Borough of Waltham Forest v OTSH Ltd

Representing a school accused of contravening food hygiene standards resulting in a rat infestation.

Barnsley MBC v Timeless Inns Ltd

Advising in respect of breaches of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 and whether unsafe food had been introduced into the market by the pub chain.

Trading Standards v S

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

LBTH v Lemongrass Foods Limited

Advising a food production company on a criminal prosecution under the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 following investigators discovering mice at the premises on three separate occasions.

FIRE SAFETY

In the matter of RA (Sheffield Coroners Court)

Acting for a housing charity following the death of a resident in a fire who had recently been released from prison. Case involved possible causes of the fire as well as the charity's obligations in respect of fire safety.

South Wales Fire & Rescue Service v Farrington Care Homes Ltd (Cardiff Magistrates Court)

Defending a care home against ten charges of fire safety breaches, including risks of death and serious injury.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service v Lumley (Crown Court at York)

Defending a retired builder in a case following a fatality of an employee living in a “granny annex”.

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

BCC v CQC

Advising a General Practitioner in an appeal against an urgent application to cancel his registration to perform cosmetic surgery at his own clinic. Case involves complex medical evidence in relation to administering of sedative drugs and their monitoring as well as qualifications to perform cosmetic surgery in the UK.

CQC v PCH (Liverpool Magistrates’ Court)

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

GCH v CQC

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

TSG & MM v CQC

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.

OFSTED

GR v Ofsted

Advising an after-school club on a 6-week suspension following an allegation of sexual assault by two children whilst at the club.

AT v Ofsted

Advising a childminder who was subject to a suspension following allegations of domestic violence occurring within the setting.

LC v Ofsted

Advising a childminder who was subject to a second suspension notice following allegations of neglect of her own foster daughter.

LICENSING

Re: Crown and Anchor (Stafford Borough Council)

Acting for a public house whose licence was reviewed following alleged breaches of social distancing measures during its second weekend of re-opening following the national lockdown for the COVID-19 global pandemic.

JM v Chesterfield Borough Council

Advising a newsagent and off licence in respect of a 3-month suspension of their premises licence following underage sales of alcohol over an 18-month period.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.