

## Nicholas Walker

Call 1998



### Clerks' Details

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### Appointments

• Legally Qualified Chair of Police Misconduct Hearings

### Memberships

• Lincoln's Inn  
• Criminal Bar Association  
• Vice President and Executive Member of the National Association Of Legally Qualified Chairs

### Police Law CV

#### Overview

“Nick is a standout junior when it comes to representing police officers” (Chambers and Partners 2023)

Nicholas is hugely experienced in defending police officers and appears in misconduct proceedings, Police Appeals Tribunals, Judicial Review and Inquests. Able quickly to get to the heart of cases and gain the confidence of his lay client, he enjoys a reputation for persuasive advocacy in police forces across the country.

In 2022, Nicholas, led by Paul Greaney KC, successfully defended PC Jackson following a Crown Court trial and directed IOPC misconduct hearing during which it was alleged that the officer had used his Police Dog as a weapon in order gratuitously to injure and torture up to eight detainees. He was acquitted after the criminal trial in 2019 and all misconduct allegations were dismissed after a five-week hearing which concluded this year.

Along with Sam Green KC, Nicholas recently represented ‘V39’, the police firearms officer who shot Yassar Yaqub, at the long-running inquest into his death which arose out of a covert police operation. The jury ruled that he was lawfully killed, the Coroner having withdrawn unlawful killing from the jury after written and oral submissions.

In 2021 he successfully defended Sgt Dawson, a Custody Serjeant in North Wales who was alleged to have assaulted numerous detainees with incapacitant spray. Following one of the longest and most complicated cases in North Wales Police history, Sgt Dawson was cleared of gross misconduct.

Nicholas sits as an Assistant Coroner, is a Legally Qualified Chair of [Police Misconduct Hearings](#) and is Vice President of the National Association of Legally Qualified Chairs.

*“The case in which Nick represented our member was gargantuan. One of the longest, if not the longest, misconduct hearing in North Wales Police history. The sheer volume of documentation and CCTV footage to work through was immense yet Nick was able to grasp the complexities of the case from the start and sort the wheat from the chaff.*

*“In the lead up and preparation for the hearing, Nick was able to work in a way which instilled the full confidence of our member in him, knowing that all aspects had been considered and a clear plan in place to put forward our members case.*

*“During the hearing, Nick adopted a style of presenting calmness and collectiveness; taking the panel, figuratively, in to the shoes of our member to give them the opportunity to understand the full circumstances of the working environment of a custody Sergeant.*

*“In Nick’s closing submissions, the finest I have ever heard, I was incredibly impressed at his ability to pull together the many strands and dimensions to this case, in a way which made a compelling argument in our members favour. Clearly, this was successful as testament to the outcome of the hearing.*

*“I have no hesitation, whatsoever, in recommending Nick as a highly skilled, talented and able counsel who I would gladly work with again knowing he puts our members best interests at the forefront of his work.”*

**Mark Jones - North Wales Police Federation Secretary and Treasurer**

*“Nick Walker is a capable and confident advocate who combines intelligence and insight with approachability. He works extremely hard and is always available to discuss cases and offer advice. Nick’s advocacy is engaging to both Judge and jury; a closing speech of his was one of the best I’ve heard. I have worked with Nick on a number of occasions and it has always been a pleasure.”*

*“I have now instructed Nick Walker in a number of police cases involving criminal prosecutions and misconduct proceedings. These have been challenging and complex cases. Mr Walker impresses with his attention to detail, good judgment and advocacy skills. The clients warm to him and are he is able to earn and command their trust and respect. They know they are in safe hands. He is always contactable and responds quickly to enquiries and is therefore a pleasure to work with professionally.”*

**Nick Holroyd - Slater & Gordon**

## Cases

### **PC X (Lancashire)**

Successful defence of a police officer who admitted misconduct during the course of a

live final written warning. Both the old and new allegations were of a similar nature. The Panel agreed that there were exceptional circumstances that allowed them to extend the final written warning.

### **PC X (Merseyside)**

After a long hearing, Nick successfully argued that the officer had not committed gross misconduct in his interactions with 7 females he had met during the course of his duties.

### **R v Paul Jackson (Preston)**

Led by Paul Greeney QC, Nicholas successfully defended a police officer charged with multiple counts of wounding with intent. During the six-week trial, PC Jackson was alleged to have used his police dog gratuitously to injure detained suspects.

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-officer-cleared-using-dogs-16433165> & <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/06/14/police-officer-cleared-using-dog-weapon-vent-contempt-criminals/>

### **Cleveland v PC S-C**

The officer kept his job after a highly sensitive material relating to sex offenders had been thrown out with the rubbish found by a member of the public and handed to The Sun newspaper

<https://nypost.com/2019/11/27/cops-mother-in-law-accidentally-threw-out-top-secret-sex-offender-documents/>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7732209/Police-sergeant-keeps-job-despite-losing-sex-offenders-dossier.html>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-officer-paedophile-dossier-skip-middlesborough-cleveland-hartlepool-a9220716.html>

### **Leicestershire v Special Constable D**

Successfully argued that a special constable committed misconduct only when he lied to Leicestershire Police about his whereabouts when he claimed he was sick. The special constable received management advice.

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/special-constable-lied-called-sick-3500172>

### **Humberside v PC N**

Successfully represented PC N on multiple allegation arising out an incident involving use of force during an alleged unlawful arrest which took place over five years earlier. There were challenges to the disclosure regimes adopted by the IPOC and PSD.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-46651983>

## Recommendations

*“Provides a high-quality level of service consistently. He is thorough, prepared, professional and pleasant at all times.”*

*“A charming presentational style.”*

**Chambers and Partners 2024**

*Ranked Tier 1 in Professional Disciplinary Law*

**The Legal 500 2024**

*“Nick is a standout junior when it comes to representing police officers. His grasp of the issues in a case is masterful. He is also a joy to work with, having a calming influence which permeates any hearing he’s involved in.”*

**Chambers and Partners 2023**

*‘Nicholas is well-prepared and takes a sensible approach to his cases. He does not argue every single point regardless of the merits, but instead focuses on the key and important ones, arguing them well. He is easy to work with, even as an opponent in a tricky case.’*

**The Legal 500 2023**

*“Nicholas is measured, fair and very pleasant to deal with. He is the best type of opponent to have in a difficult case: he puts his case effectively and does an excellent job for his client.”*

**The Legal 500 2022**

*“Nick has an excellent client manner and is meticulous in his preparation and presentation of cases. He maintains good communication from initial instruction to the final hearing and gains the trust and respect of clients and solicitors instantly with his calm and controlled manner.”*

**The Legal 500 2021**

*“That brings me onto your choice in barrister, Nick Walker. A person who again I think was the perfect person to represent me.*

*I genuinely felt that Nick had my best interests at heart. He presented himself very calm and collected, much like how I was in my career as an officer. You don’t need to scream and shout to be heard.*

*I was beyond impressed in my appeal hearing, I was in tears for most of it. I couldn’t help but admire how passionate he came across talking about my life and my case, he toed a brilliant line between respecting the courts, not belittling the original sentencing judge but really emphasising points which he felt were ‘misunderstood’ at the time and really got the judges to understand where I was mentally.*

*Nick made me feel that if my appeal failed I knew there was nothing more he could have done for me which I think says a lot."*

**Former Police Officer**