



Sarah Barlow



Call 1993



Clerks

 Ian Spencer
 0113 203 1971

 Kate Heald
 0113 203 1983

 Zoe Tinnion
 0113 518 2599

Memberships

- Member of the Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Former Junior of the North Eastern Circuit

Inquests

Sarah has over 30 years of experience in representing all manner of interested persons in inquests including deaths in police custody, deaths in the workplace, deaths following medical intervention, and deaths in care.

She has represented family members, NHS Foundation trusts, corporate entities, healthcare professionals and individuals dealing with those in state custody.

Some of the inquests that Sarah has been instructed in have taken place after extremely thorough and complex criminal investigations. She has also represented those who may face criminal charges following the inquest.

Sarah has undertaken many Article 2 inquests and is fully familiar with associated case law and issues arising.

Sarah has a wealth of experience in dealing with complex and demanding cases involving expert evidence of all kinds, including the evidence of pathologists, scientists and accident investigators. Her strong regulatory and criminal practice ideally positions her to provide expert advice and continuing representation to clients where there are contemplated criminal, disciplinary and civil proceedings.

Inquests Cases

Inquest into the death of Kelly Hartigan-Burns – Article 2 inquest.

Inquest into the death of Nigel Abbott – Article 2 inquest. Acting on behalf of the Abbott family. A case that was not only factually complex, but also involved delicate questions regarding the behaviour of certain IPs/ witnesses. The coroner ultimately found arguable breaches of both the general and operational duty of the state, and identified numerous failings on behalf of the local Health Authority and City Council.

Inquest into the death of Majid Akhtar – Article 2 inquest. Acting on behalf of a Care Assistant. Complex issues involving the interested party given the potential for gross negligence manslaughter prosecution. IP was ultimately not charged with gross negligence manslaughter.

Inquest into the death of John James Bell – Article 2 inquest. Complex case involving an electrocution on the Gates Head metro. Newcastle Upon Tyne. Acted for the project manager and designer of the metro overhead lines system. One of the issues being whether a design fault had contributed to the death. The Coroner found it did not.

Recommendations

“Forthright and knowledgeable, Sarah understands police misconduct and has a great approach to interactions with clients. She is a go-to advocate when it comes to police misconduct work.”
Chambers and Partners 2025

“A tactically astute, razor-sharp cross-examiner.”
The Legal 500 2025

“Very good reputation as an advocate.”

“Immediately grasps the key issues of a case and is always a pleasure to work with.”

“Her knowledge of law and procedure is superb.”
Chambers and Partners 2024

“Sarah Barlow must now be regarded as one of the slickest and competent juniors in the country. Her tactical awareness is astonishing. Her advocacy now oozes class and she does not take a single bad point. Outstanding.”

“Sarah’s advocacy is very effective – she commands the attention and respect of the court and never takes bad points. She exudes confidence, and is excellent with clients and can get on their wavelength.”

The Legal 500 2024

“Sarah is very good, particularly in her ability to command a room.”
Chambers and Partners 2023

“Sarah is a silk in the making, who is highly adept at making sure no stone is left unturned in a case.” “A brilliant cross-examiner, who is very tactical and knows which questions to ask and which not to. Great at calming clients down and a real pleasure to work with.”

The Legal 500 2022

“A brilliant cross-examiner, who is very tactical and knows which questions to ask and which not to. Great at calming clients down and a real pleasure to work with.”

“She is one of the best juniors.” “An approachable and fearless advocate who provides clear and concise advice.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“Fantastic ability to communicate with all clients on their level. Nothing is ever too much for her and she is readily available to provide advice whenever it is needed. She is incredibly knowledgeable on all aspects of police misconduct and brings her wealth of knowledge from her GMC work into this arena with great success.”

The Legal 500 2021