David Sandiford

Call 1995

Clerks

Nick Buckley
0161 817 2757

Ian Spencer
0113 203 1971

Neil Wright
0151 242 8814

Appointments

Attorney General's "A" Panel of Regional Counsel

Memberships

APIL
AVMA
Friends of Headway
Spinal Injuries Association

Education

- Educated at Bolton School and Oxford University (St. Edmund Hall) PGCE Cambridge University (Homerton)
- Called 1995 (Grays Inn), Karmel Scholar and Junior Award Winner

Inquests and Inquiries

David has enormous experience in the field of inquests and inquiries representing public and private sector clients.

Described as a "longstanding expert" by Chambers UK, David is ranked as a Band 1 leading junior by The Legal 500 for being "instructed on significant, high-profile cases across his career".

David has earned a strong reputation for representing bereaved families, corporate and commercial organisations and government departments, such as the MoJ and the Probation Service.

He has huge experience in medical inquests, deaths in custody, deaths after police contact and deaths whilst the perpetrator was under the supervision of the probation service.

David's inquest practice is complemented by his extensive experience in high value personal injury claims. He is able to provide continuity of representation by acting in any post-inquest civil claim for damages, placing him in high demand.

An assured advocate, David is praised by The Legal 500 for "explaining the law and relevant factors in a way that the client can understand and appreciate."

David's experience includes:

The North Wales Child Abuse inquiry

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-35502574

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2012/nov/06/wales-child-abuse-scandal-questions

The Hillsborough inquests

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hillsborough-disaster-investigations-six-people-charged-ipcc-operation-resolve-david-duckenfield-a7813441.html

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-62333157

The Damien Bendall quadruple murder inquests

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-67141360

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12662213/Sleepover-killer-Damien-Bendall-able-murder-pregnant-girlfriend-children-FIFTY-ONE-separate-failures-Probation-Service-coroner-concludes.html

The Jacob Billington murder inquest

https://news.sky.com/story/jacob-billington-mother-whose-son-was-fatally-stabbed-by-paranoid-schizophrenic-reacts-to-inquest-verdict-13089778

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-68406049

The John Gogarty murder inquest

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-48068582

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/john-gogarty-death-barnsley-man-arrested-on-suspicion-of-murder-a1506.html

The Michaela Hall inquest

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-68625061

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/mar/24/father-michaela-hall-murder-victim-probation-service

The Kay Melhuish inquest

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/oct/26/kay-melhuish-family-uk-justice-system-reform-prison-suicide

https://www.thejusticegap.com/jury-finds-neglect-led-to-self-inflicted-death-of-an-autistic-woman/

Inquests and Inquiries

A flavour of practice:

Re X (2025)– fatal road traffic accident , issues around DVLA monitoring and medical certification of fitness to drive

Re Y (2025) – medical treatment and monitoring – suicide – issues around referral to CMHT and follow up by primary care

The inquest into the death of Michaela Hall:
BBC News
The Guardian

The North Wales Child Abuse Inquiry:
BBC News
The Guardian

The Reopened Hillsborough Inquests:
The Independent
BBC News

Damien Bendall quadruple murder inquests:
BBC News
Daily Mail

Jacob Billington murder inquest:
Sky News
BBC News

John Gogarty murder inquest:
BBC News
The Independent

The Kay Melhuish inquest:

The Guardian
The Justice Gap

Re JB *– for the Probation Service – death following stabbing*

Re DA *– on behalf of MOJ – prison death – fatal fall following protest*

Re X *– for MOJ – prison death by hanging*

Re Y *– for Probation Service – murder whilst on licence*

Re DH – *for Probation Service – death whilst under supervision*

Re W – *for MOJ – death in custody*

Re W – *for DOH – death arising from infected blood*

***Re F** – for MOJ – death in custody by hanging*

***Re PJ** – for MOJ – death in custody*

Re S – for the family – CO poisoning in tent – PFD report to Scout Association

Re R – for the prison – death in custody – issues around risk assessment

Re A – for the employer – lorry versus pedestrian – lack of care, DOLS

Re H – for the insurer – deceased struck by vehicle – suicide

Re M – for the police- deceased leaving A&E issues, around mental health and interagency duties

Re X – for the prison – spice related death – issues around drug reduction strategy

Re Y – for the prison – hanging – issues around observation and risk assessment

Re M – for the IOPC – advice on investigation and disclosure in the coronial context

Recommendations

"David is a very good practitioner. He's very reasonable and deals with complex cases very sensitively."

"Sandiford is a very pleasant advocate and opponent. His low-key demeanour works very well in inquest settings."
Chambers and Partners 2025

"David is very thorough. He explains the law and relevant factors in a way that the client can understand and appreciate."
The Legal 500 2025

Ranked tier 2 for Personal Injury

Ranked tier 2 for Administrative and Public Law (including Civil Liberties and Human Rights)

Ranked tier 2 for Inquests and Inquiries
The Legal 500 2024

'David is always thoroughly prepared and gets to the detail of each case. His calm and measured approach helps to achieve some excellent results and makes him extremely popular with clients. He is an excellent advocate, approachable and responsive.'
The Legal 500 2023

"David handles bereaved families with great respect and compassion. He is impressive on his feet and families are immensely reassured by his presence in conference and in the hearing." **The Legal 500 2022**

"David has undertaken a number of Joint Settlement Meetings for high value military claims, has produced sound advices and produced good results. David is a good advocate."
The Legal 500 2022

"David is cool, calm and collected. He is very approachable and always willing to help." **The Legal 500 2022**

"Extremely effective at explaining complicated matters in straightforward terms for clients, articulate and personable at all times. Cuts through medical terminology in a straightforward manner when dealing with medical experts. Gives concise direct advice on paper with a thorough grasp of all the issues."
The Legal 500 2021

"Well-prepared with great attention to detail."
The Legal 500 2021

"Particularly strong in inquests involving the criminal justice system. He represented the National Probation Service at an inquest into the death of a man who was killed by an individual that was on license for another murder at the time of the attack".
The Legal 500 2020

"Well versed in handling high-profile inquests involving police forces and deaths in custody"
The Legal 500 2019

"Noted for his expertise in inquests involving the police"
The Legal 500 2017

Beyond the Bar

A lover of sport, culture and the arts. Oxford cricket Blue 1991 (HS 83 v Yorkshire) and playing member of the MCC for over 25 (MCC 'A' Tour to Fiji and Hong Kong 1997). Keen skier. Supporter of girls' and boys' sport. Away from sports he has an appreciation of art, collecting the work of local 20th century artists and new emerging talent. He has a love of landscape and, as a proud Lancastrian, the industrial architecture and heritage of the North West of England.