Harriet Short



Position: Head of Civil Group | **Call:** 2007
Specialist in:

- Personal Immigration
- Civil Law
- Modern Slavery & Trafficking Team
- Inquests & Public Inquiries Team
- Civil Actions Against Public Authorities
- Direct Access
- Direct Access Trained

Experience

Harriet's principal practice area is representing families in inquest proceedings. She also provides advice and representation in immigration, asylum, nationality, civil, public and family law.

Harriet combines practice with her appointments as a Deputy District Judge (Civil, Family: Financial Remedies, South Eastern Circuit) and a First-tier Tribunal Judge (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Inquests

Harriet represents families in inquests. She has significant experience in Article 2 and jury inquests including deaths in prisons, psychiatric units, and community mental health settings. Her recent instructions include natural disasters (death of a young person in a rip current at a supervised beach), death following police motor vehicle pursuit, deaths in prison and death of a teenager in the community under the care of CAHMS. Current instructions include death following police restraint, death in a psychiatric unit, and deaths following abusive domestic relationships. She is experienced at advising on media strategy for families of the deceased, and on civil claims following inquests.

Some recent examples of inquests in which Harriet has acted are:

Inquest touching on the death of a person recently released from Cardiff Bay police station https://www.inquest.org.uk/mohamud-hassan-inquest

Inquest touching on the death of an 18-year-old in Exeter Prison (Exeter)
https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/full-inquest-set-death-18-4368408

Inquest touching on the death of a person with schizophrenia in prison
The jury found that failures in communications between drug and alcohol services and healthcare were possibly causative of the self-inflicted death which occurred during a psychotic episode. (Inner London South)

Inquest touching on the death of a long-term NPS user
The jury found that the prison officer's failure to call an emergency code possibly caused or contributed to the death of a long-term NPS user in HMP Parc. (Pontypridd)

Inquest touching on the death of a vulnerable drug user whilst on home curfew
The Coroner found multiple failings in the decision to release to home curfew (Nottingham)
https://www.simpsonmillar.co.uk/media/public-law-human-rights/stacey-macdonald-inquest/

https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/people/familys-grief-following-death-of-woman-following-release-from-peterborough-prison-4208754

She has represented families whose loved ones died while admitted under s.3 MHA. (Black Country)
https://www.judiciary.uk/prevention-of-future-death-reports/lisa-grant/

Inquest touching on the death of a trans-identified young person (instructed by Advocate and Inquest) (Lancashire & Blackburn)
https://www.inquest.org.uk/max-sumner-inquest#:~:text=The%20Coroner%20concluded%20that%20Max,risk%20at%20which%20he%20presented.

Harriet was instructed in an inquest before Bournemouth Coroner's court investigating deaths on Bournemouth Beach in June 2023

https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/23778618.bournemouth-beach-tragedy-mum-joe-abbess-legacy/

Harriet worked for two years as the Legal Officer on the Robert Hamill Inquiry into police collusion in Portadown, Northern Ireland in 1998. She was instructed to advice on inquiry process and procedure for victims in the Leveson Inquiry.

Immigration

In Harriet's immigration practice she provides advice and representation in nationality, immigration, asylum, human rights, trafficking, and related public law. She regularly appears in the First-tier and Upper Tribunal (Asylum and Immigration Chamber), the Administrative Court and the Court of Appeal. She is very experienced in urgent removal cases and is comfortable taking instructions at short notice.

In her immigration practice, Harriet has particular expertise in third country and inadmissibility cases, including Italy and Hungarian returns, and removals to Rwanda. She was instructed for the Claimant NA in the test case MS & Others.

Harriet's asylum practice includes country guidance cases, including guidance on returns to Mogadishu, Somalia (AMM & Others) where the Tribunal found a universal risk of FGM to women in Somalia; and the most recent guidance on returns to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, (BM & Others) where the Tribunal found a risk to members of APARECO. She is a compassionate advocate, and is understanding of the needs of vulnerable clients. Led by Victoria Laughton, Harriet represented the appellant PS in the UT case considering cessation and removal to Zimbabwe.

Harriet advises in unlawful detention claims, both in the administrative and county courts. She is an experienced trafficking practitioner and provides advice and representation in statutory appeals, and challenges to refusals of leave.

Harriet advises on complex and routine nationality issues, including tracing, and decisions to refuse applications for naturalisation on bad character grounds. She represented several clients who received unreasoned bad character refusals on grounds of national security, and resulting appeal before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC).

Harriet is an active member of ILPA, and is appointed as ILPA's representative on the Chief Inspector for Border and Immigration's Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI).

Harriet is public access qualified, and is happy to advise directly where suitable.

What the directories say

Very knowledgeable with an attention to detail above and beyond others in her field.

Legal 500 Immigration 2025

Harriet has the uncanny ability to deal with complex issues in a very short space of time.

Legal 500 Immigration 2024

She is very experienced and focused, and her care about the cases and clients comes through.

Legal 500 Inquests and Inquiries 2025

Education

LLB Law (LSE) 2002
LLM International Human Rights law (Essex) 2005

Memberships

ILPA

Inquest Lawyers Group

Harriet Short's Privacy Policy

Languages

French, Spanish,

Cases

EG inquest conclusion

Harriet Short, instructed by Charlotte Andrews of Simpson Millar Solicitors, represented Evelyn Gibson's family at the inquest into her death. She died in April 2022, six weeks after she was discharged from the Leicester Mental Health Ward.

Area Coroner Jayne Wilkes identified significant failings in Evelyn's mental health treatment, including delays in her diagnosis, inadequate discharge planning and a lack of aftercare in

place, all of which contributed to her death.

Evelyn's family have created Evelyn's butterfly effect, to change the world one random act of kindness at a time, in her memory: https://www.instagram.com/evelynsbutterflyeffect/

"We are so grateful to INQUEST for their support and our amazing legal team Simpson Millar Solicitors and One Pump Court for their incredible dedication over the past 2.5 years, and especially the last few months. 'Above and beyond' doesn't even cut it, and we would not have been able to get the result we did without their unwavering commitment, not to mention the kindness they have shown to us and to Evelyn."

Further details about the case and how her family are collaborating with health bodies to improve the systems and available support are viewable via INQUEST.

And, news coverage here via the BBC and LincolnshireLive.

Inquest touching on the death of Mohamud Hassan

Mohamud Hassan, a 24-year old British-Somali man, died at home, following recent contact with South Wales Police, in Cardiff on 9 January 2021.

Following a three-week inquest, a jury at Cardiff Coroner's Court decided that the cause of Mohamud's death was 'unascertained' and recorded an 'open conclusion' as to how he came about his death, at the direction of HM Senior Coroner for South Wales Central, Graeme Hughes.

https://www.inquest.org.uk/mohamud-hassan-inquest

https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/our-hearts-remain-broken-family-29098562

FAMILY STATEMENT – pdf version for BBC & Wales OnLine ON CONCLUSION TODAY – INQUEST

PS (cessation principles) Zimbabwe [2021] UKUT 283 (IAC)

https://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKUT/IAC/2021/283.html

The UT considers the correct approach to cessation and Article 3 ECHR in the proposed deportation of a mentally unwell refugee from Zimbabwe.

R (MS and others) v SSHD

[2015] EWHC 1095 Admin)

Administrative Court considers the correct approach to claims based on feared mistreatment of asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in Italy.

NB permission has been granted to appeal this judgment on all grounds in the Court of Appeal.