



Barrister

HARRIET SHORT

Call: 2007



Specialist in
Personal Immigration
Business Immigration
Public Law
Civil Law
Civil Actions Against Public Authorities
Inquests & Public Inquiries Team
Modern Slavery & Trafficking Team
Specialist Family & Immigration Team
Direct Access Trained

Experience

Harriet practices predominantly in two areas: immigration and related public law, and inquests and inquiries.

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

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 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. 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.

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-le-gacy/>

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 advise on inquiry process and procedure for victims in the Leveson Inquiry.

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

Ranked: Tier 4

Education

LLB Law (LSE)

LLM International Human Rights law (Essex)

Memberships

ILPA

[Harriet Short's Privacy Policy](#)

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](#).

Area of Law:

[Inquests & Public Inquiries Team](#)

Related Barristers:

[Harriet Short](#)

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

Area of Law:

Public Law, Inquests

Related Barristers:

[Harriet Short](#)

[Meghan Curran](#)

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.

Related Barristers:

[Victoria Laughton](#)

[Harriet Short](#)

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.

Area of Law:

Personal Immigration, Public Law

Related Barristers:

[David Chirico KC](#)

[Harriet Short](#)