



With a solid background in both domestic and international human rights law, Anna has extensive experience of successfully representing clients whose cases challenge public policy and seek to achieve social justice. Anna has expertise across the criminal justice system including criminal defence, extradition, inquests into deaths in custody and civil actions against the police.

## Practice

### Criminal Defence

Anna has a busy Crown Court practice and represents defendants charged with offences involving serious violence, drugs and fraud. She has also been led in cases of significant complexity.

In April 2010 Anna represented Claire Finch, who was unanimously acquitted by a jury at Luton Crown Court of brothel keeping despite her acceptance that she worked collectively from her own home providing sexual services. The case challenged the criminalisation of prostitutes working collectively for safety and Anna successfully argued that Ms. Finch was entitled to rely on the defence of necessity. Ms. Finch gave evidence that she believed that it would be too dangerous for her to work alone. Disclosure from the Crown demonstrated that there had been numerous serious violent attacks on solitary street sex workers in Bedfordshire in recent years. Her acquittal has prompted calls for a review of brothel keeping legislation See: The Guardian

Anna is frequently instructed to represent political protestors in cases that litigate the boundaries of the state's incursion into civil liberties. In 2008, she represented one of the "EDO 5" who were all acquitted by a jury of charges arising from a peaceful protest at the premises of EDO/MBM. Anna has also been involved in litigation surrounding "FIT Watch" protestors and their challenge to the filming of those attending protests by police officers. She has also represented those taking part in demonstrations at the sites of Sequani, Carmel Axxgrexco, Raytheon and Erynix as well as those who attended the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth. As a result, Anna is experienced in the cross-examination of professional witnesses, particularly police officers.

Anna also has significant experience in representing vulnerable individuals and clients with mental health problems in the criminal justice system.

### Recent Significant Cases:

**R-v- Ferreira**(2011) - s.18GBH, proceedings stayed as an abuse of process as a result of a defective investigation.

**R-v- Finch** (2010)- Brothel Keeping, acquittal following successful defence of necessity/duress of circumstances.

**R-v-Walker** (2010 ) Led by Marguerite Russell, the integrity of the disclosure regime operated in the case was challenged. The CPS discontinued the case before the Judge could rule on the application to stay proceedings as an abuse of process.

**R-v-Swain & Ors** (2010) - Defendant associated with "FIT-WATCH" - case concerned whether the taking and retaining of photographs of demonstrators by police officers was a violation of Article 8 ECHR

**Year of Call**  
2006

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**Education**  
LLM Human Rights,  
University of Nottingham

**Practice Areas:**  
Anna Morris is a member of the following Practice Areas:  
- Claims Against The Police & Public Authorities  
- Crime  
- Extradition Law  
- Inquests  
- International Advice and Litigation  
- Mental Health  
- Public & Administrative Law

**Garden Court Chambers**  
57 - 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London WC2A 3LJ  
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**R-v- Hamilton & Ors.** (2010) - Led junior in last trial to take place in "Operation Greengage"; one of largest SOCA investigations in NW England into a complex conspiracy to import Class A Drugs and Firearms from Holland.

### Court of Appeal

**R-v Eccleston** [2008] EWCA Crim 110 - Guidance on sentencing young defendants for armed robbery.

**R -v Baker** [2008] EWCA Crim 832 - Guidance on imposition of consecutive IPP sentences.

### Inquests

Anna's inquest practice includes controversial deaths in state custody. In 2007 Anna was led by John Cooper QC appearing for the family at the inquest into the death of **Pte James Collinson**, one of the soldiers who died in questionable circumstances at the Deepcut army barracks in Surrey.

More recently, Anna has done a number of Article 2 ECHR inquests into the deaths of women at HMP Styal, including representing the family of **Lisa Marley** (2010) and **Sally Ann Palmer** (2011) both involving complicated issues of medical and disciplinary care.

### Civil Actions Against the Police

Anna is currently instructed in a number of claims against the police authorities in damages for assault, false imprisonment and misfeasance in public office. Her protest work often leads to referrals for claims for false imprisonment and assault.

### Extradition

Before coming to the Bar, Anna was a caseworker for a number of years with a niche immigration firm of solicitors specialising in human rights, representing unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and torture victims.

Against this background, Anna is now increasingly instructed in Extradition proceedings due to her experience of both criminal justice procedure and issues that may affect an individual's return and therefore prove a bar to their extradition. In 2009, Anna was led by Owen Davies QC in the proceedings initiated by Portugal against Dr. Joao Azevedo, the former President of Benfica Football Club.

### Background

In 2004 Anna worked as legal research assistant to the current Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC and worked on a number of high profile cases including the High Court litigation in **Austin and Saxby v Chief Commissioner for Metropolitan Police** [2005] EWHC 480 (QB) (Now in the European Court of Human Rights) and the Privy Council case of **R v Rowe and Davis** [2006] UK PC 10 (Constitutionality of the Death Penalty in the Bahamas).

Since 2005 Anna has worked for **Reprieve**, the death penalty organisation founded by Clive Stafford Smith as their sole investigator in the Philippines and has been continually involved in the representation and re-patriation of Paco



## Barrister profile

# Anna Morris



Larranga from death row in Manila to Spain in 2009 (see case history)

In 2009 she was appointed by Reprieve to represent **Samantha Orobator** who was facing the death penalty in Laos for drug offences. Anna was able to secure the swift release and repatriation of Samantha back to the UK as a result of strategic lobbying of both the Foreign Office and the Laos Government for due process and adherence to fair trial standards. Back in the UK, Anna was involved in the habeas corpus and judicial review proceedings that brought to light the failings of the Laos legal system and tested the UK's ability to detain an individual following a foreign trial that may have breached Article 6 ECHR; **Orobator v HMP Holloway & Anor** [2010]EWHC 28 (Admin).

## Publications

Anna has contributed chapters on criminal justice and police disciplinary procedures to *Blackstone's Guide to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008* edited by Maya Sikand, Oxford University Press (Published January 2009) and was a contributor to Colin Wells', *Abuse of Process*, Legal Action Group (2006). She also writes regularly for *Socialist Lawyer*. Anna also regularly writes for *Socialist Lawyer*, *Counsel* and other publications.

## Campaigning Work

Anna is an active member of a number of campaigning organisations. She is the Vice Chair of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers as well as a member of the: Inquest Lawyers Group, Police Action Lawyers Group, Young Legal Aid Lawyers and Legal Action Group. Anna has recently been asked to be on the Board of Directors of the Newham Monitoring Project.

Profile updated June 2011