



# Anna Morris

YEAR OF CALL: 2006



Anna specialises in civil liberties, human rights and private and public law claims involving public authorities. Her practice includes inquests, civil actions against the police, judicial review and international public law. Anna acts for bereaved families and claimants in private and public law proceedings. Anna has a particular expertise in the law relating to policing protests, public order and deaths in custody.

"She's very methodical and explains things really simply and clearly. Clients feel their expectations are really clearly managed. She is strategic, has in-depth knowledge of her subject, is personable with clients and is respected by coroners and other parties alike."

CHAMBERS UK, 2020

"Fantastic in multi-agency inquests and always calm, clear and strong"

LEGAL 500, 2020

"Her warm, friendly and sympathetic demeanour complements her fierce and no-nonsense approach to advocacy."

CHAMBERS UK, 2019

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Anna "has a good court presence...she is reliable and up for a challenge...she is very knowledgeable and is always on the end of the phone".

CHAMBERS UK, 2018

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"One of the few people who can combine huge intellectual prowess with very practical skills."

CHAMBERS UK, 2017

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If you would like to get in touch with Anna please contact the clerking team:

[civilibertiesclerks@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:civilibertiesclerks@gclaw.co.uk) | [+44 \(0\)20 7993 7600](tel:+442079937600)

You can also contact Anna directly:

[annam@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:annam@gclaw.co.uk)

## INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

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Anna is widely recognised for her significant inquest and inquiries practice. Anna represented 14 families who lost loved ones in the Hillsborough Stadium disaster and was heavily involved in the section of the Inquest that examined the actions of South Yorkshire Police in the aftermath of the disaster.

Anna's practice specialises in complex inquests that engage Article 2 ECHR. She is a natural jury advocate with extensive experience developed within the criminal and civil courts. Anna frequently represents families in prison and police related deaths and deaths involving restraint. She has particular expertise in inquests that involve those suffering complex mental health issues, both in state detention, detention under the Mental Health Act 1983 and in the community.

Anna has a particular interest in post-homicide Article 2 inquests. She currently represents a number of

families of the victims of murder and has successfully argued in those cases that inquests should be resumed following a criminal prosecution where the perpetrator was known to state agencies in order that the inquest can investigate any failings of those agencies that contributed to the death.

Anna also provides specialist advice to families before and after the inquest process in respect of civil claims in damages. She is also experienced in Judicial Review proceedings arising from the inquest process.

## **NOTABLE CASES**

**Public Inquiry into the Manchester MEN Arena Bombing** - Anna is currently instructed on behalf of a number of families who lost loved ones in the fatal bombing. Reported by [the BBC](#).

**Guildford Pub Bombings 1974 Inquests** - Anna is currently instructed alongside Brenda Campbell QC on behalf of those who lost loved ones as a result of the 1974 bombings. Reported by [the BBC](#).

**Hillsborough Inquest** - Represented 14 families whose loved ones died at Hillsborough Stadium on 15th April 1989. Instructed by Birnberg Pierce and Partners alongside Brenda Campbell QC to lead the questioning on behalf of the HFSG families during the section on the inquest focusing on the policing of the fans outside the stadium. Anna was also junior counsel to Michael Mansfield QC and Peter Wilcock QC as part of the team of counsel leading the questioning in respect of the actions of South Yorkshire Police officers in the 'cover up' of the role their officers played in the disaster.

**Inquest touching on the death of Elsie Frost** – Following a campaign by Elsie’s family and an investigation by the Radio 4 “PM” programme, West Yorkshire Police agreed to re-investigate the 1965 murder of a 13 year old girl in Wakefield. Anna represented the family in obtaining the Attorney General’s Fiat and the Order of the High Court for a fresh inquest into her death. *Frost v Her Majesty’s Coroner for West Yorkshire* [2019] EWHC 1100 (Admin). Reported in [the Guardian](#).

**Inquest Touching on the death of Michael Hoolikin** – Article 2 inquest following Michael’s murder by a prolific and persistent violent offender who was on licence following a serious attack on another young male. His risk of serious harm was known to be linked to Class A drug use. The inquest found that despite knowledge of this risk factor, probation staff monitoring him failed to realise that he had tested positive for cocaine 9 times and found that had it been known, he would have been recalled before Michael’s murder. [Reported in the BBC](#).

**Inquest Touching on the death of Cherylee Shennan** - Article 2 inquest following Cherylee’s murder by her partner, who had been convicted of the murder of his previous partner and was being managed on life

license in the community by probation. The Inquest concluded that the failure to recall the offender when his violent behavior towards Cherylee became known to probation and police contributed to her death. Reported in [the Independent](#).

**Inquest Touching on the death of John Gogarty** - Article 2 inquest following the murder of a man by an offender released on license whilst serving a life sentence for murder. The inquest concluded that probation service failings led to a missed opportunity to recall the offender before John Gogarty's murder. Reported in [the BBC](#).

**Inquest Touching on the Death of Vikki Thompson** - Article 2 Inquest/ Death in custody HMP Armley. Death of a transgender woman as a result of self-harm in a male prison. Investigation into adequacy of NOMS and HMP policy on treatment of Transgender Prisoners and assessment and management of risk of self-harm & suicide. Jury returned critical narrative conclusion. Reported in [the BBC](#).

**Inquest Touching on the Death of Darren Lyons** - Article 2 Inquest/death in police custody. Inquest into the death of a man with mental health and substance misuse issues who was taken into the police station whilst acutely unwell and died in a police cell without receiving any medical attention. Jury returned critical narrative conclusion. Reported in [the BBC](#).

**Inquest Touching on the death of Matthew Jones** - Article 2 inquest into the death of a young man who died following restraint by the police during a period of disturbed behaviour. There are issues of complex medical interaction between cocaine toxicity, behavioural disturbance, hyperthermia and bowel ischaemia.

## CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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Anna specialises advising and representing Claimants in both civil claims for damages and public law remedies. Anna has a particular interest in claims against public authorities on behalf of children and vulnerable adults, including those with mental health issues. Anna works with a number of groups who are survivors of child sexual exploitation and is developing expertise in litigation in this area.

Anna advises in claims under the Human Rights Act against police forces for their failure to investigate allegations of serious offences or handle sensitive data appropriately in breach of Article 2, 3 and 8 ECHR.

Anna also specialises in claims against the police and public authorities arising from political demonstrations and incursions on the right to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, violations of Articles 8, 10 and 11 ECHR. Anna has advised and litigated successful claims for individuals who are members of the Occupy

Democracy, Critical Mass and Anti-Fracking movements.

## **NOTABLE CASES**

***SL, BW & HW v Chief Constable of South Wales Police*** - Civil Claim in damages for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution and violations of Article 8, 10 and 11 ECHR arising from the arrest of the Claimants who were protesting outside an Arms Trade Fair in Cardiff. The Defendant settled the claim by agreeing to pay damages and costs.

***AW v Ministry of Justice*** - Civil claim in damages for negligence and violation of Article 3 ECHR for a failure to protect the Claimant prisoner from being taken hostage by a fellow inmate, who had threatened to take him hostage in the hearing of officers. The Defendant settled the claim by agreeing to pay damages and costs.

***DB v Chief Constable of Hampshire Police*** - Civil Claim in damages for misfeasance in public officer, and violation of Article 8 ECHR arising from an officer on duty "sexting" a complainant who reported to be the victim of crime. The Defendant settled the claim by agreeing to pay damages and costs.

***LM v (1) Pennine Acute Hospital Trust (2) Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust*** - Civil Claim in damages for violation of Article 2 ECHR following the death of LM's son who presented at A&E with cut wrists but was allowed to leave before being seen and was not reported as a high risk missing person. The Defendant settled the claim by agreeing to pay damages and costs.

## **CLAIMS AGAINST THE POLICE AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES**

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Anna is recognised as one of the leading claimant barristers in the area of police law. She has particular expertise in claims arising out of protests and demonstrations, and in claims that involve police contact with vulnerable adults and children. Her parallel expertise in inquests that arise following deaths in police or state custody means that she also frequently advises on civil claims under Article 2 ECHR, the right to life.

Anna has a particular interest in claims against public authorities on behalf of children and vulnerable adults, including those with mental health issues. Anna works with a number of groups who are survivors of child sexual exploitation and is developing expertise in litigation in this area.

Anna also advises legal and campaigning organisations on topics such as mental health and policing and the

accountability of police for investigating allegations of child sexual abuse.

## **NOTABLE CASES**

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***JP & Ors v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis*** - Civil Claim in damages for false imprisonment, assault and violations of Articles 8, 10 and 11 ECHR arising from the arrest of the Claimants who were taking part in the "Critical Mass" Cycle Ride on the day of the London Olympics Opening Ceremony in 2012. The Defendant settled the claim by agreeing to pay damages and costs.

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***LM v (1) Pennine Acute Hospital Trust (2) Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust***, 2018 - Civil Claim in damages for violation of Article 2 ECHR following the death of LM's son who presented at A&E with cut wrists but was allowed to leave before being seen and was not reported as a high risk missing person. The Defendant settled the claim by agreeing to pay damages and costs.

## **CRIMINAL APPEALS**

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Anna is an experienced appellate advocate and is currently instructed on behalf of the family of Susan May who died in 2013 after serving a life sentence for the murder of her aunt, in respect of her pending application before the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Anna is a member of the legal Advisory Group for the Centre for Criminal Appeals.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

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Anna holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law and Human Rights from the University of Nottingham. Anna has advised and delivered training on behalf of a number of International organisations including the OSCE and Amnesty International.

### NOTABLE CASES

Anna was appointed by Reprieve to represent a pregnant British national who was facing the death penalty in Laos for drug offences. After visiting the young woman in Laos and meeting with the relevant authorities, Anna was able to secure the swift release and her repatriation back to the UK. Anna was then 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 EWHC 28 (Admin)***.

## CRIMINAL DEFENCE

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Anna began her career at the bar as a criminal defence practitioner and is an experienced Crown Court advocate who has represented defendants accused of terrorism, serious drugs importation, multi-million-pound fraud and other serious offences. Anna brings her breadth of knowledge across the civil and public law fields to legal arguments around disclosure, abuse of process and admissibility of evidence.

Anna has a strong reputation for successfully defending protestors accused of committing offences during demonstrations. With her expertise in protest law across the criminal and civil fields, Anna has been involved in a number of significant areas of litigation around political protest and is the co- author of "The Protest Handbook" (Bloomsbury Professional), which has been commissioned for a 2nd edition.

### NOTABLE CASES

***R v I & Ors, 2018*** - 6 Defendants indicted with kidnap, false imprisonment and ABH.

***R v H, B & Ors, 2018*** - Defendants accused of brothel-keeping. Abuse of process argument that centres on local police policy which permitted the operation of the premises over a 15-year period without arrest.

***R v Basto & Ors*** - Defendants acquitted of public nuisance after they climbed to the top of Tower Bridge and

abseiled down, unfurling a large banner highlighting the threats of Climate Change.

**R v Finch** - Successful defence to brothel-keeping charges on the basis that s.33A Sexual Offences Act, which prevents sex-worker from working collectively is unsafe.

## BACKGROUND

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Anna holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law and Human Rights from the University of Nottingham. In 2012/2013 Anna was an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London and convened the Criminal Justice Process module on the BSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Anna was research assistant to Sir Keir Starmer QC when he was in practice at Doughty Street Chambers.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Anna co-authored The Protest Handbook, Bloomsbury Professional. Described by Shami Chakrabati of Liberty as a text that, "compendiously sets out the law relevant to protest. It will no doubt become a standard resource for campaigners and their advisers."(Read reviews for [The Protest Handbook](#)) Or follow on Twitter: [@ProtestHandbook](#).

## TRAINING AND SEMINARS

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Anna regularly provides training on Coronial law and litigation under the HRA 1998.

Anna has advised and delivered training on behalf of a number of International organisations including the OSCE and Amnesty International.

## EDUCATION

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- LLB Human Rights, University of Nottingham



## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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- **INQUEST Lawyers Group**
- **Police Action Lawyers Group**
- **Criminal Bar Association**
- **Human Rights Lawyers Association**
- **Bar Human Rights Committee**

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**[civilibertiesclerks@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:civilibertiesclerks@gclaw.co.uk) | **+44 (0)20 7993 7600****

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**[annam@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:annam@gclaw.co.uk)**



57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LJ

Email: [info@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:info@gclaw.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7993 7600

DX: 34 Chancery Lane