



# Una Morris

YEAR OF CALL: 2012



Una Morris is a leading civil liberties, human rights and public law practitioner with a diverse practice including civil claims for damages, inquests and inquiries and judicial review. Una co-convenes the Civil Liberties Team. She is Public Access qualified.

Una's significant expertise extends across a range of different areas, including claims against the police and public authorities, inquests, inquiries, public law, abuse claims, data and privacy, protest rights, youth justice and child rights, prisoners' rights and discrimination.

"Exceptional"

LEGAL 500, 2021

"Combines sharp tactical analysis with a down-to-earth, hands-on approach."

“Her cross-examination of witnesses is excellent.”

LEGAL 500, 2021

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“She is great in negotiations, fearless both on paper and on her feet.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2021

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“Brave and prepared to take on difficult cases. Punches above her weight.”

LEGAL 500, 2020

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

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## CLAIMS AGAINST THE POLICE AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

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Una has wide-ranging experience in advising and representing claimants in civil claims for damages. She has expertise across the full spectrum of torts, claims under the Human Rights Act 1998 and breaches of other statutory duties. Una has a substantial paperwork practice, regularly negotiates or advises on settlements on behalf of claimants and she has appeared for claimants in cases tried by judge alone, in civil jury trials and in a number of appeals. Her experience in this area includes claims against the police, claims against other detaining authorities, including prisons and immigration authorities, claims involving probation, claims against local authorities, claims involving healthcare and other state bodies. For example, Una was instructed for the claimant in *Crook v Chief Constable of Essex Police* [2015] EWHC 988 (QB), in which the claimant succeeded in establishing breach of confidence, breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 and breach of Article 8 ECHR and was awarded damages of over £67,000 in connection with a ‘most wanted’ press release. In *Gerber v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2018] EWHC 3549 (QB), Una represented the claimant at

trial and on appeal in a false imprisonment and assault and battery claim which involved the deployment of firearms officers, reasonable grounds to suspect and racial bias. In [\*TPKN v Ministry of Defence\* \[2019\] EWHC 1488 \(QB\)](#), Una represented the claimant in successfully appealing a decision to grant summary judgment and strike out to the defendant. The appeal concerned the application of principles of vicarious liability to the claimant's case that she was raped by a soldier on a base in Gibraltar and consideration of whether the conduct as alleged could constitute misfeasance in public office, as well as assault and battery.

## INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

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Una has considerable experience of acting for bereaved families at all stages of inquest proceedings, including in concurrent and post-inquest civil claims and related judicial reviews. Una has represented bereaved families in inquests involving police restraint and other uses of force, including police shootings, deaths following or during police contact and deaths in prison custody, in immigration detention and involving psychiatric detention. Una has also been instructed for families in inquests involving deaths where a person should have been protected and cared for in the community. She has represented families in a number of homicide cases in which a person convicted was on licence and subject to the supervision of probation at the time of the killing. Una has been involved in inquests involving highly complex medical and scientific evidence, as well as those involving deaths abroad. Una has been instructed in a number of high profile inquests, typically where Article 2 ECHR is engaged, including [Arsema Dawit, a girl who was killed by a man who had assaulted her, harassed her and threatened to kill her](#); [Rubel Ahmed, who died in immigration detention](#); [Dean Joseph, who was shot and killed by a firearms officer of the Metropolitan Police Service](#); [Terry Smith, who died following excessive restraint by Surrey Police officers](#); the first inquest into the death of [Dexter Bristol, a Windrush Migrant who died whilst experiencing the impact of the Hostile Environment](#); and [Nuno Cardoso, a student, who died following uses of force by Thames Valley Police](#).

Una also acts for core participants and others involved in public inquiries concerning a range of issues. Una is currently instructed for a number of core participants in the Undercover Policing Inquiry and for a number of core participants in the Brook House Inquiry.

## PUBLIC LAW

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Una is an experienced public law practitioner, whose judicial reviews typically involve complex civil liberties and human rights issues. Una is often instructed to advise in public law cases from the pre-action stage

onwards. Una's cases in this area have included a range of issues such as police complaints, criminal investigation and prosecutorial decisions, decisions of coroners and decisions involving prisons and probation. For example, Una appeared in *R (Birks) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2014] EWHC 3041 (Admin); [2014] ICR 204 and in *R (Hewson) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2018] EWHC 471 (Admin), [2018] 4 WLR 69. [Una was instructed for Sentina D'Artanyan-Bristol, the mother of Dexter Bristol, a Windrush migrant who died whilst experiencing the impact of the Hostile Environment, in successfully seeking to have the conclusion of the first inquest into his death quashed.](#)

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## ABUSE CLAIMS

Una has significant experience in acting for claimants, primarily in claims against public authorities, in cases involving abuse. Her work includes advising and representing claimants in cases involving rape and other sexual assaults, sexual exploitation and grooming, harassment and stalking, domestic abuse and coercive control. Una is also experienced in cases involving failures to protect, investigate or prosecute in such matters, utilising Articles 3 and/or 8 ECHR. Una's work in this area extends to both private law and public law claims. For example, Una represented the family of [Arsema Dawit, a girl who was killed by a man who had assaulted her, harassed her and threatened to kill her,](#) in civil claims against the police arising from her death. In *TPKN v Ministry of Defence* [2019] EWHC 1488 (QB), Una represented the claimant in successfully appealing a decision to grant summary judgment and strike out to the defendant. The appeal concerned the application of principles of vicarious liability to the claimant's case that she was raped by a soldier on a base in Gibraltar and consideration of whether the conduct as alleged could constitute misfeasance in public office, as well as assault and battery.

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## DATA, PRIVACY AND TECHNOLOGY

Una regularly acts for claimants in cases involving breaches of data protection legislation, Article 8 ECHR, misuse of private information and breach of confidence. She is also experienced in claims under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and involving the tort of intentionally causing harm. Una's work in this area includes both private law and public law matters and includes issues of publication, disclosure, storage, security and retention of data and information. Her cases have involved press releases and traditional media, social media, photographs and video footage, sexual and other intimate images, criminal convictions, intelligence and information, healthcare and other sensitive records and biometric data. Una's cases in this

area include *Crook v Chief Constable of Essex Police* [2015] EWHC 988 (QB), in which the claimant succeeded in establishing breach of confidence, breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 and breach of Article 8 ECHR and was awarded damages of over £67,000 in connection with a ‘most wanted’ press release and *R (Hewson) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2018] EWHC 471 (Admin), [2018] 4 WLR 69, a judicial review concerning Articles 8 and 10 ECHR.

## **PROTEST RIGHTS**

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Una advises and represents claimants in a number of cases involving freedom of expression, including protests and other campaigning. For example, Una advised and represented a claimant in a claim involving photojournalism and Article 10 ECHR, advised in a claim involving music and Article 10 ECHR and has advised in relation to a number of claims against the police arising out of arrests and uses of force at protests. Una is currently instructed for a number of core participants in the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

## **YOUTH JUSTICE & CHILD RIGHTS**

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Una is regularly instructed to advise and represent children in the areas in which she has expertise. For example, Una has represented children and young people in various claims against the police and other public authorities, including post-inquest civil claims following the death of a parent or other family member. Una is experienced in advising in relation to and appearing at infant approval hearings following settlement on behalf of a child. She has also represented families in inquests involving the death of a minor.

## **PRISONERS' RIGHTS**

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Una is experienced in acting for prisoners and former prisoners, in a range of different cases engaging their rights. Una advises and represents claimants in relation to issues such as assault and battery, abuse, failures to protect, data and privacy, strip searches, the use of segregation and prison conditions. Una also has significant expertise in representing the families of prisoners who have died in custody.

## **DISCRIMINATION**

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Una is regularly instructed in cases involving issues of discrimination, in its various forms and against various

protected characteristics, and has experience of pursuing claims under the Equality Act 2010, for breach of Article 14 ECHR and other cases in which discrimination and inequality is a feature, whether civil claims, inquests, inquiries or judicial review.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

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"Exceptional". "Combines sharp tactical analysis with a down-to-earth, hands-on approach. Una has a wealth of experience litigating against the police, which makes her a welcome and reassuring presence on any such case." Legal 500, 2021 (Civil Liberties & Human Rights)

"My top junior in this area, particularly in relation to restraint-related inquests and any claims against the police. Her cross-examination of witnesses is excellent." Legal 500, 2021 (Inquests & Inquiries)

"She's extremely bright, approachable and completely engages with her cases." "She is great in negotiations, fearless both on paper and on her feet. Her work is very detailed and she always has the goal in sight." Chambers UK, 2021 (Civil Liberties & Human Rights)

"She's a tenacious advocate who's also good on paper." "She's got good knowledge of litigation procedure and clients always feel impressed and assured by her." Chambers UK, 2021 (Police Law: Mainly Claimant)

"Brave and prepared to take on difficult cases. Punches above her weight." Legal 500, 2020 (Civil Liberties & Human Rights)

"Her judgement is very good and way beyond her level of experience. She's also a very good cross-examiner and knows when, and when not, to push a point." Chambers UK, 2020 (Civil Liberties & Human Rights)

"Families really like her and she works really well with them. She is very personable, and an excellent advocate who gets to the grips with issues very quickly and gets very good results for her clients." Chambers UK, 2020 (Police Law: Mainly Claimant)

"Very approachable, excellent in negotiations and innovative in tackling challenges." "She holds her own in cases where you would normally instruct a more senior barrister." Chambers UK, 2019 (Police Law: Mainly Claimant)

"She is super-thorough and proactive, and has good attention to detail...She is an outstanding junior: thorough, immensely talented and fearless." Chambers UK, 2018 (Police Law: Mainly Claimant)

"A no-holds-barred cross-examiner, who is fearless...She has excellent attention to detail and great technical

knowledge...She is tenacious and a real fighter." Chambers UK, 2017 (Police Law: Mainly Claimant)

## **BACKGROUND**

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Una brings to her practice knowledge, experience and expertise gained in her previous career in the voluntary and community sector.

For several years, Una worked at Stop Hate UK, a national charity that provides support to people affected by hate crime and discrimination. She spoke at many conferences and events across the country, appearing in print and on local and national radio and television on behalf of the organisation.

Una also worked with a group of women in Leeds to establish the rape crisis service, Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds, a charity set up to support women and girls in Leeds who have been affected by rape and sexual violence at any time in their lives.

Una completed pupillage at Garden Court Chambers under the supervision of Leslie Thomas QC and Ali Bajwa QC. During pupillage, Una worked on the Mark Duggan Inquest and related proceedings, responding to the judicial review by E7 arising out of the finding of unlawful killing in the Azelle Rodney Inquiry and as a researcher for teams representing families in the Hillsborough Inquests. Una became a tenant in 2014.

## **AWARDS**

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CPE/GDL Award, Gray's Inn

Bedingfield Scholarship, Gray's Inn

Ann Felicity Goddard Scholarship, Gray's Inns

Legal Aid Newcomer of the Year, LALY Awards 2019

## **EDUCATION**

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- **BA (Hons) Criminal Justice and Criminology, University of Leeds**
- **GDL, BPP Leeds**
- **BPTC, BPP Leeds**

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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- **Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)**
- **INQUEST Lawyers Group (ILG)**
- **Police Action Lawyers Group (PALG)**

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