

Alexandra Tampakopoulos

"Alexandra is extremely able at communicating complex legal information in a form which clients can immediately grasp, she is very capable of clearly articulating a position in defence of a client's interests in a way which is sensitive to very emotive and difficult subject matter. She also has an exceptional grasp of the commercial and tactical context in which her advice takes place."

Legal 500 UK 2022



Year of Call: 2007

020 7353 5324

Alexandra is recognised as a leading criminal regulatory and inquest and public inquiry barrister. Her practice has developed from her years of experience defending and prosecuting serious crime.

Alexandra has developed her expertise in inquests and public inquiries through her involvement in complex and high profile cases including in relation to the death of Alexander Litvinenko, the Hillsborough stadium disaster, the 'SAS Inquest' involving the death of three army reservists from heat illness in the Brecon Beacons and most recently the public inquiries into the Grenfell Tower fire and the Manchester Arena bombings.

Alexandra has a parallel expertise in Health & Safety, Fire Safety and Food Safety and is a recognised defence specialist. She has significant experience advising and acting for individuals and major corporate clients across a wide range of industries including Energy, Utilities, Construction, Manufacturing, Agriculture and Food.

Alexandra is ranked as a Leading Individual for Inquests and Public Inquiries and Health & Safety in the 2021 Chambers & Partners UK legal directory. She was also nominated as Health and Safety Junior of the Year in the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2018 and Public Law Junior of the Year by The Legal 500 in 2018.

Alexandra speaks fluent Russian and is often instructed in matters requiring her Russian language skills and specialist knowledge of Russia and the CIS region.

Before coming to the Bar Alexandra lived in Russia for several years where she interned for Human Rights Watch and then worked at BP.

Alexandra accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

What others say:

"She has a good grasp of detail and is very sharp and feisty in court." "She is very thorough and provides sound and client-friendly advice. She is also great on her feet." – Chambers UK 2021

Location

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“She is an excellent advocate and has the perfect manner for inquests, particularly where juries are involved. She deals with matters sensitively and diligently and always has a great rapport with clients.” – Chambers UK 2021

“Great with clients and detail-heavy matters, she makes sure her clients’ interests are fully protected at all times and strives to achieve the best result for them.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“A brilliant next generation barrister, she combines a calm manner with a precise eye for detail. Alex is deceptively tough, yet really good with making clients and witnesses trust her. She is very knowledgeable and addresses the issues with great authority.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“She’s knowledgeable, calm, tactically aware and very good with the client.” – Chambers UK 2020

“She thinks two or three steps ahead and is very quick at decision making.” “Alexandra is enormously experienced in inquests, and is an excellent advocate who has good forensic ability and builds a good rapport with clients.” – Chambers UK 2020

“An excellent advocate who builds good rapport with clients.” – Legal 500 2020

“She’s superb with clients and is able to master huge amounts of detail. She is completely client-focused and a pleasure to work with.” – Chambers UK 2019

“She has experience beyond her years of call and is extremely hard-working.” – Chambers UK 2019

“Incredibly bright, technically very good and great at complex cases.” – Chambers UK 2019

“Fantastically good with clients and super helpful. Her advocacy is great.” – Chambers UK 2018

“An extremely capable advocate, and a go-to junior.” – Legal 500 2017

“Very good client-relationship skills. She is also very intelligent, sympathetic and compassionate.” – Chambers UK 2017

“A good and steady advocate and excellent to work with.” – Chambers UK 2017

“She is very good with clients and explains concepts clearly and sensitively.” – Chambers UK 2016

“She is just the person you want at an inquest.” – Chambers UK 2016

Criminal Defence

Alexandra’s criminal practice encompasses exclusively defence work. She acts in cases involving serious violence, drugs supply and serious, sexual offences. She has also acted in a number of terrorism related matters and was instructed as junior counsel in the trial of Erol Incedal and Mounir Rarmoul-Bohadjar accused of serious terrorist offences. Following an unprecedented Court of Appeal decision the core of the trial was held in secret on the grounds of national security.

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Criminal Regulatory

Alexandra has developed a recognised expertise in criminal regulatory matters relating to breaches of Health & Safety, Food Safety and Fire Safety legislation.

In the Health and Safety field, her practice covers the full range of offences from corporate to gross negligence manslaughter to prosecutions under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974 arising from fatal and non-fatal accidents. She also advises and acts in relation to appeals against Enforcement and Prohibition Notices as well as substantives appeals against conviction and sentence in the Court of Appeal.

Alexandra has acted for clients, both individuals and corporate entities, across a wide range of industries including Energy, Utilities, Construction, Manufacturing, Agriculture and Food. She is regularly instructed in inquests which often precede prosecutions for H&S offences by the HSE.

Alexandra has extensive experience advising in matters related to Food Safety, Hygiene and Labelling and has defended a number of prominent restaurants, food and coffee chains as well as food manufacturers.

In addition, Alexandra has also advised in matters related to breaches of Fire Safety legislation including appeals against Enforcement Notices under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

She is a specialist defence advocate and is ranked as a leading individual in the Health & Safety section in Chambers UK 2021.

Notable & Recent Cases

Court of Appeal – R v Places For People Homes ([2021] EWCA Crim 410)

Acted in appeal against sentence for an offence contrary to section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA) in relation to the use of vibrating tools by employees. It was argued on behalf of the Appellant that in applying Step 4 of the Sentencing Guidelines the Appellant should have been treated in the same way as a charity and therefore entitled to a substantial reduction in fine, in excess of the £350,000 figure the sentencing judge had allowed. The Court of Appeal held that a Community Benefit Society is equivalent to a charity and it should be entitled to a substantial reduction of fine as indicated at Step 4 of the Sentencing Guidelines. Accordingly, the fine was reduced by £200,000 resulting in an overall reduction on the basis of Step 4 considerations of £550,000.

HSE v PFPH

Defended in prosecution of charitable body for breaches of Health & Safety legislation relating to the use of vibrating tools and appeared in appeal above.

HSE v NG

Defended in prosecution of power company for breaches of Health & Safety legislation in relation to gas safety in HRMOBs.

Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry

Acting in relation to the Public Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire which resulted in the deaths of 71 people on 14th June 2017.

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Westminster City Council (Environmental Health) v SH

Defended a renowned private members club in respect of a Food Safety and Hygiene prosecution.

Westminster City Council (Environmental Health) v CN

Defended a well-known coffee chain in respect of a Food Safety and Hygiene prosecution.

Didcot A Power Station

Advising in respect of the Didcot A Power Station collapse which resulted in the deaths of four men on 23rd February 2016.

Westminster City Council (Environmental Health) v RT

Defended a renowned and long standing Soho food establishment and its director in respect of a Food Safety and Hygiene prosecution.

Inquest re SH

Representing the Site Manager at Inquest and in criminal proceedings following the death of an employee and serious injuries caused to another employee at a recycling plant. Both workers had been working within a trommel designed to sift waste when the machine was inadvertently activated.

Inquest re DM

Representing a lifeguard at an inquest concerning the drowning of a young man with epilepsy at a swimming pool.

Inquest re SS

Representing a water utility company in relation to an inquest involving the death of a young man who suffered fatal injuries when he crashed his car on a flooded road known for flooding.

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Alexandra is recognised as a leading inquest and public inquiry barrister. She advises and acts in complex and high profile cases on behalf of a wide range of interested persons and core participants including bereaved families, companies, company directors, schools and other educational establishments, medical professionals, NHS trusts and Care Homes and Care Providers.

Alexandra is ranked as a Leading Individual for Inquests and Public Inquiries and Health & Safety in the 2021 Chambers & Partners UK legal directory. She was nominated as Public Law Junior of the Year by The Legal 500 in 2018.

Notable & Recent Cases

British Virgin Islands Commission of Inquiry

Acting as Junior Counsel to the Commission of Inquiry which was established in January 2021 by the Governor of the British Virgin Islands. The Right Honourable, Sir Gary Hickinbottom, a member of the Court of Appeal, has

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been appointed as the sole Commissioner of the Inquiry.

The purpose of the Commission is to examine the Territory's governance and to make recommendations for improvements. The inquiry is expected to report within six months.

Manchester Arena Bombing Public Inquiry

Acted on behalf of Showsec in relation to the public inquiry into the Manchester Arena bombing on 22 May 2017 which resulted in the deaths of 22 people.

Inquest re RM

Acted on behalf of Oxford NHS Foundation trust in the inquest into the death of a psychiatric patient following his treatment and discharge from hospital.

Inquest re CW

Representing a station Supervisor in the inquest into the death of a young woman who fell on the tracks (a fall visible from several CCTV cameras) and died from multiple injuries sustained by a passing train several minutes after her fall.

Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry

Acted on behalf of Harley Facades in relation to the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire which resulted in the deaths of 71 people on 14th June 2017.

Inquest touching the deaths of Corporal Matthew Hatfield and Corporal Darren Neilson, Royal Tank Regiment

Acting alone on behalf of the family of Corporal Darren Nielson who died following an explosion of a Challenger 2 battle tank during live firing training on 14th June 2017.

Inquest touching the deaths of Corporal James Dunsby, Trooper Edward Maker and Lance Corporal Craig Roberts

Acting alone for the family of Lance Corporal Craig Roberts, one of the three soldiers who died of heat exhaustion following an SAS selection exercise in the Brecon Beacons in July 2013.

The Litvinenko Inquiry

Instructed as second junior counsel to the public inquiry into the death of Alexander Litvinenko, the former Russian FSB agent allegedly poisoned by Polonium 210 in London in 2006.

Licensing

Alexandra appears before licensing sub-committees and Magistrates' Courts (on appeal) all over the country as well as advising in a wide range of licensing matters. She has particular experience in the following areas:

- Licensed entertainment under the Licensing Act 2003
- Special treatment premises
- Street trading

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Professional Discipline

Alexandra has substantial experience in presenting and defending cases before a range of professional conduct panels and committees. She regularly appears in matters before the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the General Dental Council (GDC) and the General Medical Council (GMC). She also appears in the High Court on statutory appeals and judicial reviews of regulatory decisions.

Accreditations



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Appointments & Memberships

- Attorney General's Civil Panel C
- Criminal Bar Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers Association
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

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