

## Alexandra Tampakopoulos

"She is exceptionally thorough and astute in her assessment of cases."  
Legal 500 UK 2024



Year of Call: 2007

020 7353 5324

Alexandra is a leading criminal regulatory and inquest & public inquiry barrister. Her practice has built upon her years of experience defending and prosecuting serious crime.

Alexandra has developed her expertise in inquests & public inquiries through her involvement in numerous 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 leading 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 2023 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 also speaks fluent Russian and is 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:

"Alex meets the needs of the client and always impresses." "She is good with detailed, technical cases and also understands the 'human' side to these cases." and "She thinks strategically and

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always looks ahead.” – Chambers UK 2024 (Health & Safety)

“She is exceptionally thorough and astute in her assessment of cases.” – Legal 500 UK 2024 (Inquests & Public Inquiries)

“Alexandra is my go-to counsel for inquests and inquiries due to her excellent communication skills, rapport with clients, reliability, and ability to handle matters sensitively yet robustly.” “She argues points persuasively.” and “Alexandra has a mastery of the case and is very good with clients.” – Chambers UK 2023 (Inquests & Public Inquiries)

“She is very knowledgeable in this field and extremely helpful to instructing solicitors.” – Legal 500 UK 2023 (Health & Safety)

“She is a wonderfully intelligent advocate who fights her clients’ corner tirelessly. Excellent with clients and a first-choice counsel.” – Legal 500 UK 2023 (Inquests & Public Inquiries)

“Has good attention to detail.” “She is personable, collaborative and very good at getting results.” – Chambers UK 2022

“She is a very impressive junior.” – Chambers UK 2022

“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

“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

“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

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“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

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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.

## Criminal Regulatory

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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 Crown Court and 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 2023.

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# Notable & Recent Cases:

## **Police Investigation and Inquests touching the deaths of Rebecca Ikumelo and Gaby Hutchinson**

Acting on behalf of the operators of the Brixton Academy in relation to the deaths of Rebecca Ikumelo and Gaby Hutchinson at a concert on 22 December 2022.

## **Office for Product Safety and Standards v Sunseeker International Limited**

Acting in relation to the prosecution of Sunseeker International Limited for breaches of the Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013 concerning teak products incorporated into yachts worth approximately £97M.

## **London Borough of Waltham Forest v SBL**

Acting on behalf of a prestigious, independent brewery and bar in relation to a prosecution for breaches of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013.

## **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.

## **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**

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Advising in respect of the ongoing joint Thames Valley police and HSE investigation into the premature collapse at Didcot A Power Station 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

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Alexandra is 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, care homes, care providers and NHS Trusts.

Alexandra is ranked as a Leading Individual for Inquests and Public Inquiries and Health & Safety in the 2022 Chambers & Partners UK legal directory. She was nominated as Public Law Junior of the Year by The Legal 500 in 2018.

## Notable & Recent Cases:

### **Thirlwall Public Inquiry**

Acting as Junior Counsel in the public inquiry into the events at the Countess of Chester Hospital concerning a series of murders and attempted murders of babies by Lucy Letby between June 2015 and June 2016.

### **Inquest touching the death of Ruth Perry**

Acting as Junior Counsel on behalf of Ofsted in the inquest concerning the death of Ruth Perry in January 2023, the headteacher at Caversham Primary School in Reading.

### **Inquest touching the death of Marta Vento**

Acting on behalf of Travelodge in the inquest concerning the death of Marta Vento, a hotel receptionist, who died after being attacked by Stephen Cole in December 2020.

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### **Inquest touching the death of Jack Zarrop**

Acting on behalf of the Ministry of Justice in relation to the death of Jack Zarrop in March 2021, a prisoner at HMP Wormwood Scrubs.

### **Inquest touching the death of Leighane Redomond and Melsadie Parris**

Acting on behalf of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust who conducted a mental health assessment of Ms Redmond some 6 weeks prior to her jumping in front of a train at Taplow Station with her three year old daughter Melsadie.

### **Inquest touching the death of Paul Kavanagh**

Acting on behalf of the family of Paul Kavanagh, who died whilst at the helm of the Pomeroy Swan racing yacht sailing on The Solent during a gybe manoeuvre.

### **Inquest touching the death of Ella Parker**

Acted on behalf of the CNWL NHS Foundation Trust in the inquest into the death of Ella Parker who was 5 months pregnant when she was stabbed to death by Ryan Blacknell, a voluntary patient at the Campbell Centre from which he had absconded.

### **Inquest touching the death of Emiliano Sala**

Acting on behalf of FC Nantes in the inquest into the death of 28 year old footballer, Emiliano Sala, who died when the Piper Malibu aircraft he was travelling in crashed into the English Channel, north of Guernsey, in January 2019.

### **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 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.

### **Inquest into the death of Baby C**

Acting on behalf of Doncaster & Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust in relation to the death of Baby C, a neonate who died in hospital from Necrotising Enterocolitis.

### **Inquests touching the deaths of Benjamin Haddon-Cave and Patrick Bolster**

Acting on behalf of Network Rail in relation to the deaths of Benjamin Haddon Cave and Patrick Bolster who had accessed train track and climbed on top of a freight train in the early hours of the morning of 21 March 2019 and come into contact with the overhead, high voltage power line.

### **Inquest touching the death of Kishorkumar Patel**

Acting on behalf of RATP Dev, one of London's largest providers of bus services. Mr Patel was a London bus driver for RATP Dev. He contracted Covid 19 in April 2020 and died at a Nightingale hospital some 4 weeks later. One of the issues explored by the inquest was the adequacy of protective measures implemented by RATP Dev in relation to Mr Patel in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and by extension the many hundreds of its bus drivers who, as key workers, continued to work throughout the duration of the pandemic.

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## **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 touching the death of Roy Morris**

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 touching the death of Charnelle Williams**

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

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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

# Notable & Recent Cases:

## **Licensing Proceedings in relation to the O2 Brixton Academy**

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Junior counsel acting on behalf of AMG following a fatal crushing incident at the O2 Academy Brixton in December 2022 in the application to vary conditions of the licence and to oppose the application to revoke the licence made by the Metropolitan Police.

## Professional Discipline

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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.

## Notable & Recent Cases:

- Representing a leading Consultant Obstetrician accused of sexual assault during an intimate examination.
- Representing a GP accused of a historical sexual assault in the course of a procedure to insert an IUD.
- Representing a Senior A&E consultant accused of serious misconduct and probity issue involving allegations of bullying, malicious communications and behavior causing alarm/distress.
- Representing a junior doctor accused of rape by engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse without consent.

## Accreditations

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## Appointments & Memberships

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

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