



**5 ESSEX
CHAMBERS**

Inquests, Inquiries & Investigations



70th
Anniversary

Celebrating 70 years in law

Inquests

Outstanding expertise and support for inquests



“We view them as the leading set for inquests”

Chambers UK

Comprehensive service

Recognised as the leading set for inquests having appeared in the most high-profile inquests of recent years, we offer a comprehensive service covering every aspect of these challenging, stressful and often highly complicated processes.

Inquests expertise

- Representing corporate and public bodies, individual witnesses or interested persons, families and acting for the coroner as Counsel to the Inquest.
- Inquests following homicides and terrorist attacks.
- Deaths in custody.
- Deaths concerning medical and mental health treatment.
- Military deaths.
- Deaths in social care and care homes.
- Public Law challenges to coroners' decisions.
- Disclosure and compliance with duties of co-operation and candour.
- Advising on Regulation 28 / 'Prevention of Future Deaths' reports.
- Advising on related civil litigation, disciplinary and criminal proceedings.

Depth and breadth of experience

With specialists at all levels to handle whatever complexities arise, we employ effective strategies and forensic preparation from the start. The team comprises a large number of inquest and coronial law specialists (including a Senior Coroner and a number of Assistant Coroners) with unparalleled expertise.

Sector experience

We have extensive inquest experience in a range of sectors, including the police, emergency services, healthcare providers, government departments, local authorities, prison services, security firms, the military, and both publicly listed and private companies.

Members of the inquest team have appeared as both counsel to Interested Persons and Counsel to the Inquest on high profile inquests including:

- Fishmongers Hall Inquests
- Westminster Bridge Inquests
- Plymouth Shootings Inquest
- The London Bridge Attack Inquests
- Guildford Pub Bombings Inquest
- Thomas Orchard Inquest
- East London Inquests (four men murdered by the “grindr killer” Stephen Port)
- Gaia Pope Inquest
- Yassar Yacub Inquest
- The Deepcut Inquests
- Hillsborough Inquests
- Mark Duggan Inquest

Contact our clerking team for immediate support on
clerks@5essex.co.uk

Public Inquiries

Exceptional public inquiry expertise



Leaders in the field

A top-tier team for inquiries, our barristers have appeared in most, if not all, of the significant public inquiries of the last two decades. Recognised as an 'enviable team' and firm leaders in this field, we have a truly impressive depth of experience.

We understand that the best results come from a foundation of clear strategy and forensic preparation. We have specialists at all levels to handle whatever complications may arise. Our barristers are instructed as Counsel to the Inquiry and for organisational and individual Core Participants, prospective Core Participants and witnesses.

We've been instructed on significant, complex and high-profile cases including:

- The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry
- The Afghanistan Inquiry
- The Dawn Sturgess Inquiry
- The Omagh Bombing Inquiry
- The UK Covid-19 Inquiry
- The Thirlwall Inquiry
- The British Virgin Island Commission of Inquiry
- The Infected Blood Inquiry
- The Manchester Arena Inquiry
- The Grenfell Tower Inquiry
- The Undercover Policing Inquiry
- The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse
- The Azelle Rodney Inquiry
- The Leveson Inquiry
- The Al Sweady Inquiry
- The Baha Mousa Inquiry
- The Marchioness Inquiries
- The Bichard Inquiry
- The Hutton Inquiry

Sector experience

Our public inquiries team represent a broad range of clients including government departments, public authorities, police forces and commercial organisations.

Expert advice at all stages

The high profile nature of public inquiries throws up unique challenges, and we know how to effectively handle the issues and reputational risks facing clients under the spotlight. At the inquiry conclusion, we can advise on challenges to inquiry decisions, the implementation of recommendations and organisational learning.

Public Inquiries expertise

- Counsel to the Inquiry and representation of corporate and public bodies at statutory and non-statutory inquiries.
- Advising on applications for Core Participant status.
- Advice and assistance in responding to Rule 9 requests for documents or evidence.
- Witness support.
- Maxwellisation.
- Advice and assistance in responding to recommendations.
- Advising on reputation management.
- Applications including anonymity, privileged information and restriction orders.
- Sensitive material and closed hearing.
- Advice on resourcing and management of inquiry response teams.

Contact our experienced and highly supportive clerking team on
020 7410 2000

Investigations

Conducting fair and thorough investigations



Exceptional expertise

Our team of leading barristers is trusted to advise and represent parties in all manner of investigations. Many matters in which we are instructed are precursors to high value litigation, inquests and public inquiries, even if that is not apparent when the investigation is initiated.

We are acutely aware of the variety of situations in which an investigation might be required and the sensitivities involved. Our broad experience places us in the perfect position to assist, whether that involves large-scale, document-heavy matters or comparably discrete issues.

Fair and thorough management

Members of Chambers are frequently being instructed by coroners, inquiry chairs and senior judges as Counsel to the Inquiry and Counsel to the Inquest, carrying out investigations on their behalf and advising the office holders on their powers and responsibilities. Accordingly, we are particularly well placed to carry out independent investigations that can be trusted to be fair, thorough and discharged with expertise. Throughout our practices, we are used to working within tight timescales and in highly confidential environments.

“5 Essex Chambers are ‘leaders in the field’ have ‘fearsome intellects’ and are ‘formidable opponents’, yet very approachable and easy to work with.”

The Legal 500

Sector experience

Our barristers have deep experience across a range of sectors, including the police, emergency services, healthcare providers, government departments, local authorities, prison services, security firms, the military, and both publicly listed and private companies.

Investigations expertise

- Representing individuals, corporates and public bodies in investigations.
- Trusted to be fair and thorough.
- A significant proportion of members of Chambers hold security clearance.
- Experienced at working within tight timescales and in highly confidential environments.

Contact our clerking team to find out more on
clerks@5essex.co.uk

Working with us



Exceptional Expertise | Outstanding Client Care

We're here to help with our exceptional expertise and a collaborative approach. For the last 70 years our dedicated and experienced barristers have navigated challenging situations and secured successful outcomes in the most complex, high-profile cases, all whilst providing outstanding client care.

"We have worked with specialist practitioners from 5 Essex on a variety of inquests and inquiries. The Counsel team have been engaged, responsive and effective. Sensitive and attuned to our clients' needs (often at very difficult times in their lives), Counsels' work (at all levels) has delivered excellent advocacy, careful client advice and best outcomes."

Amanda Gray, Partner, Mishcon de Reya LLP

"5 Essex are second to none for their work in Inquests and Inquiries as evidenced by the huge body of cases that they have worked on. This is testament to the way they handle all cases – with sensitivity, ingenuity, nimbleness, expertise and genuine care. In simple terms, you want these barristers on your team rather than your opponent's and are undoubtedly my first port of call."

Sinéad Lester, Partner, BDB Pitmans LLP

"Weightmans and 5 Essex Chambers have worked together for our police clients for the last 20 years. It's a great partnership. I really value the trust and friendships we've developed over the years with many of the incredibly experienced barristers and of course the great clerking chambers provide. The teamworking ethos is a real plus."

Hannah Walsh, Partner, Weightmans LLP

"An outstanding set for all public inquiries work – 5 Essex Chambers demonstrate exceptional judgment, superb legal advice and brilliant advocacy on the most high-profile inquiries. Technically brilliant and friendly with an in-depth understanding of public law issues, 5 Essex Chambers are a pleasure to work with."

Public Inquiries and Public Law Team, TLT LLP



5 Essex Chambers
Inquests and Public Inquiries Set of the Year

Call to speak to one of our clerking team and find out how we can help on
0207 410 2000



5 ESSEX CHAMBERS

To find out more about how our experts can help you,
please contact Mark Waller, Senior Clerk.

020 7410 2000
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