



DANNY FRIEDMAN QC

PUBLIC INQUIRIES, INQUESTS & HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS CV

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Crime and Regulatory
Extradition and Mutual
Assistance

Human Rights Law Inquests and Inquiries

International Law
Mediation
Police Law
Prison Law
Public Law

**Called to the Bar 1996
Appointed to Silk 2013**

CONTACT:

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Paul Venables, Senior Practice
Manager
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One of the countries' leading experts on inquests and public inquiries, Danny adopts a cross-disciplinary approach that combines human rights, civil damages, criminal law, public law and public international law with a commitment to reading extensively around the subject matter of any single piece of litigation or investigation.

His work in relation to the public sector includes the operation of the rule of law in a number of foreign states, including the Middle East and Eastern Europe. He is involved in inquiries in England and Northern Ireland concerning governance and accountability of the emergency, intelligence and armed services. He currently acts for more than 300 bereaved and surviving residents in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. His work with corporate clients has particularly come to focus on the internet and the boundaries between free speech, safeguarding against risk, and the evolving jurisdiction of criminal and civil law.

He is a member of the Matrix Integrity team, with experience in assisting companies and state agencies to develop cultures of rule of law and human rights compliance.

Co-author of "Inquests: A Practitioners' Guide" (LAG, 2002, 2008 and 2013): The Third edition (2013).

Contributing editor, "Archbold Criminal Practice and Proceedings" (2003 – present): Chapter 16 dealing with Human Rights.

Danny is a A-Panel member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Panel of Preferred Counsel and an ADR Group Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator.

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

HERE'S WHAT THEY SAY:

Chambers and Partners rank Danny in four areas: Inquests & Public Inquiries, Administrative & Public Law, Civil Liberties & Human Rights and Crime.

"He has an excellent manner with clients and is very, very knowledgeable." "He is a really impressive, meticulous and well-prepared advocate. He is very well read in human rights jurisprudence, both nationally and internationally." "He applies himself completely, does all the preparation and gives the best possible advice. He is formidable at every turn." (C&P 2019).

"Danny is an extremely impressive advocate whom judges enjoy listening to." "He has a forensic awareness like nobody else and can take on the biggest cases. Nothing is too complex for him." (C&P 2018)

Danny is also recommended by Legal 500 who described him as

"Fiercely intelligent and committed to the client's interests." "He is a five star barrister with enormous expertise in inquiries and inquests." (L500 2018)

NOTABLES INQUIRIES AND INQUESTS

Grenfell Tower Inquiry (Ongoing 2019): Acting for more 300 bereaved and surviving residents of Grenfell Tower and its immediate vicinity in a public inquiry, chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, that is investigating the cause and circumstances surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017 that led to the death of 72 persons.

Inquiry into the use of undercover police agents from 1968 to the present (Ongoing 2019): Acting for a number of families and individuals whose political campaigns may have been infiltrated. These include the families of Blair Peach, and Rodger Sylvester, as well as Winston Silcott and the Sharon Grant (widow of Bernie Grant MP). There is an ongoing inquiry chaired by Sir John Mitting.

Glennane Gang Killings (Ongoing 2019): Acts for the families whose relatives were murdered during the 1970s in Northern Ireland by a Loyalist paramilitary gang that included state agents and stolen UK army weapons. There are ongoing JR proceedings in Northern Ireland. In *R (Barnard) v PSNI (July 2017)*, the High Court found that the UK was in breach of its obligations to investigate the killings under Article. In addition as a matter of common law, the PSNI were held to have breached a substantive legitimate expectation that they would produce a thematic report into the killings. Judgment in the Court of Appeal is pending.

Inquest into the death of Mohammad Hassan (2017): Inquest into the death of stowaway child in Oxford who boarded a truck in the UK control zone in Dunkirk having been detained 3 days earlier in the same control zone and handed back to the French authorities without advising him on his potential to claim asylum or conducting any form of risk assessment.

Inquest into the death of Gavin Williams (2016): Inquest into death of private soldier due to the imposition of an unlawful punishment system that operated in 2 Royal Welsh regiment at the time.

R (Chong Keyu) v SSFCO & SSD [2015] 3 WLR 1665: Supreme Court challenge based on ECHR, customary international law and public law to the decision of the Defendants not to order a public investigation into a massacre of 24 villagers in Batang Kali, Malaya, in 1948 by the Scots Guards and the subsequent failures of inquiries that took place in 1949, 1970 and the 1990s. See also the decision of the European Court of Human Rights: *Chong v United Kingdom (2019) EHRR SE2*.

Jean McConville v PSNI (2015): Claim under Article 2 ECHR and the common law to gain access to a report by the PSNI Historical Enquiries Team concerning the disappearance of Jean McConville in 1972. She was the mother of 10 children, who lived in the Divis Flats area of the Belfast. In 1999 the IRA admitted to her kidnapping. Her remains were discovered in 2003. In 2014, senior republican politicians were arrested by the PSNI for her murder including Gerry Adams.

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Campaign for Inquiry into Domestic Violence (2014-15): Advised the organisation REFUGE in its campaign for a public inquiry

Inquest into the Death of Alex Kelly (2014): Inquest into the self-inflicted death of a 15 year old boy in YOI Cookham Wood

R (Ali Zaki Mousa) v SSD (No 2) [2013] EWHC 1412: Group action brought by human rights complainants against UK army conduct in Iraq seeking a single inquiry structure to dispose of the state obligations under Article 2 and 3 ECHR. The Court constructed a bespoke approach to conducting fatality and abuse investigations that has led to a number of separate reports produced by Sir George Newman.

Baha Mousa Public Inquiry (2009-2011): Acted for the victims of torture of Iraqi civilians in Basra, Iraq

Gibson Inquiry (now suspended) (2011): Advising a number of former detainees in Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere who were detained, interrogated and ill-treated with the alleged complicity of the UK security services

Inquest into death of Sabina Akhtar (2011): Bangladeshi woman who was murdered by her husband - acting on behalf of REFUGE as an intervenor

Inquest into the death of Terry Lloyd (2007): ITN Journalist killed in Basra, Iraq at the start of the ground war

Inquest into the death of James Miller (2006): Cameraman unlawfully killed by members of the Israeli Defence Force in Gaza

R (Middleton) v West Yorkshire Coroner [2004] 2 AC 182: House of Lords case concerning available verdict where the authorities have failed to take reasonable action to prevent a suicide in custody

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXPERT ADVICE

Internet Company (2017-2019): Ongoing advice to global platform in terms of its policies, safeguarding and legal exposure with regard to potential distribution of terrorism and hate speech publications.

Child Abduction proceedings (2018): acted as an expert witness in UK family court proceedings that considered the prospect of the father's application under the Hague Convention receiving a fair hearing in Ukraine.

Operation Conifer (2017): Scrutineer Panel member giving feedback to Wiltshire police concerning an investigation into alleged sexual offences committed by Sir Edward Heath.

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IPCC Hillsborough Disaster investigations (2017): Advised the Independent Police Complaints Commission in relation to its decision making with regard to complaints relating to previous members of South Yorkshire police and their alleged misconduct in public office and perversion of the course of justice during the original investigations into the death of 96 people at a football match in 1989.

Review of the Chilcot Inquiry Report (2017): Crowdfunded project on behalf of bereaved families of UK armed services personnel to review and summarize the findings and evidence of the Inquiry and the merits of any consequential civil and criminal proceedings before domestic and international courts.

Agency for the Modernisation of Ukraine (2015): Co-author of a three month field study in Ukraine on the development of the rule of the law of in the country. Study focused on the judiciary, criminal justice, commercial litigation, civil society and the law of war.

Danny accepts instructions under Standard Contractual Terms, details of which can be found on our website under Our Service.