



Ifeanyi Odogwu

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:
Civil Liberties and Human Rights
Employment Law
Public Law
Police, Inquests, Prison
Sports law

Called to the Bar 2011

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Notable Cases

Inquests and Inquiries

Grenfell Tower Inquiry (2021): Currently representing more than 300 of the bereaved and surviving residents in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Ife is being led by Danny Friedman QC and instructed by Bhatt Murphy, Bindmans, Hickman & Rose and Hodge Jones & Allen.

Kevin Clarke Inquest (2020): Police restraint death of a black man, saying "I can't breathe". The case received nationwide press, due to the devastating jury verdict achieved for the family, and the global Black Lives Matter movements in 2020. It was the focus of a 30-minute BBC Panorama documentary "I can't breathe: Black and dead in custody", highlighting the issue of disproportionate black deaths in police custody.

The Brooke House Public Inquiry (2020): The public inquiry into mistreatment of detainees at an immigration centre near Gatwick airport uncovered by a Panorama investigation.

R (Chidlow) v Senior Coroner for Blackpool and Flyde 92019) EWHC 581 (Admin): Successful judicial review challenge on behalf of a bereaved family in a police restraint related death. Now a leading authority on causation, statistics, and expert evidence in the article 2 ECHR context.

Michael Forster Inquest (2018): Neglect conclusion in a self-inflicted death at HMP Leicester.

Carl Bibby Inquest (2018): Death in police custody following restraint. Failures identified by the jury against the police and ambulance service. Reported by The BBC.

John Ahmed Inquest (2017): Jury find unlawful force in prison restraint death, involving extensive expert evidence. Two prison officers referred to CPS following significant inconsistencies in their evidence following cross-examination. Reported nationally, including The Guardian, ITV News and The Independent.

Callum Smith Inquest (2017): Damning narrative conclusion in death of father-to-be found hanged in his cell at HMP Bristol. Reported in the media including the BBC. Significant settlement and apology secured as part of the civil claim.

Shelane Blackwood Inquest (2016): Jury found neglect caused black prisoner's death. The case was reported by the BBC.

Lee Rushton Inquest (2016): Inquest jury finds neglect contributed to vulnerable prisoner's death along with a catalogue of failings. Substantial damages obtained for the family in the civil claim.

R (Hamilton-Jackson) v Assistant Coroner for Mid Kent and Medway (2016) EWHC 1796 (Admin): Successful judicial review challenge of coroner's jury directions, quashing inquest conclusion. A leading authority concerning self-inflicted deaths and the coroner's duties in summing up. This significant judgment ensures that juries are fairly and properly directed in controversial deaths. The case was reported by The Telegraph.

Les Douthwaite Inquest (2016): Jury find police failures during restraint causes death.

Claims Against the Police and Public Authorities

MD & Ors Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police (2021): Obtained £450,000 settlement acting for bereaved claimants following a death in custody by police restraint. The claim involved contentious expert evidence on loss of earnings and life expectancy.

N v Chief Constable of Merseyside Police (2021): Successfully represented the Claimant in a five-day trial, obtaining £25,000 in damages for grossly disproportionate force under section 329 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

S & Others v Wirral Borough Council (2021): Obtained high six-figure settlement for the Claimants in a Fatal Accidents Act 1976 claim, following a successful Health & Safety Executive (HSE) prosecution against the Defendant.

R & Others v The Ministry of justice & MerseyCare (2018): Significant damages of £275,000 achieved following settlement in a civil claim arising from the inquest. A complex claim involving expert evidence of loss of earnings.

Smith & Others v The Ministry of Justice & Others (2018): High six-figure settlement and an apology from the MOJ achieved following in a civil claim arising from the inquest. A complex dependency claim involving cohabitantes.

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Shannon v Chief Constable of Merseyside Police (2014): A jury found that officers had used excessive and unnecessary force against the claimant by use of a taser.

Administrative and Public Law

R (Chidlow) v Senior Coroner for Blackpool and Flyde (2019) EWHC 581 (Admin): Successful judicial review challenge on behalf of a bereaved family in a police restraint related death. Now a leading authority on causation, statistics, and expert evidence in the article 2 ECHR context.

R (Hamilton-Jackson) v Assistant Coroner for Mid Kent and Medway (2016) EWHC 1796 (Admin): Successful judicial review challenge of coroner's jury directions, quashing inquest conclusion. A leading authority concerning self-inflicted deaths and the coroner's duties in summing up. This significant judgment ensures that juries are fairly and properly directed in controversial deaths. The case was reported by The Telegraph.

Employment and Discrimination Law

C v Barts Health NHS Trust (2013): Successful claim in unfair dismissal, sex discrimination and flexible working against the NHS. Significant damages and re-engagement recovered for the Claimant.