

# Sian Reeves \*

Call: 2006

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Sian Reeves practices in public law, and specialises in human rights law, immigration, inquests and inquiries, judicial review, national security cases and prison law.

In September 2018, Sian was appointed to the Attorney General's Civil Panel of Counsel, B Panel (London), having previously been appointed to the C Panel from March 2015 to September 2018.

Alongside her public law practice, Sian maintains a civil law practice, with a particular focus on costs and personal injury law. Sian has considerable experience of civil claims with a public law element, including private law damages claim arising from criminal prosecutions, prisons, immigration detention, and deaths in custody.

In December 2018, Sian was admitted to the State Bar of California, and is licensed to practice law in California as an attorney.

## Expertise

### Public & Administrative Law

Sian has a diverse public law practice which encompasses a broad range of public law issues and cases. Sian acts for a wide range of Government departments and executive agencies.

Sian represented the Secretary of State for the Home Department in the lead claims for judicial review challenging removal of asylum seekers to Rwanda under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership. Sian was instructed from the pre-action stage, and appeared at multiple hearings, including various hearings of applications for interim relief in relation to the first flight on 14 June 2022, in the Court of Appeal, case management hearings and at the 5-day rolled-up hearing in September 2022. Judgment is awaited.

Sian is frequently instructed in cases involving human rights law. This includes claims for judicial review, and also damages claims brought under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Sian regularly advises on and acts in domestic cases involving the interpretation of international law, including the Council of Europe Convention

on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Sian specialises in cases involving human trafficking, and has acted and advised in a wide range of judicial review and private law damages claims within this area.

Since her appointment to the Attorney General's Civil Panel of Counsel in March 2015, Sian has developed a busy and diverse immigration practice. Sian regularly appears in the High Court and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in both oral permission hearings and substantive judicial review hearings. Sian has increasing experience of appeals before the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber). Sian has also appeared in the Court of Appeal.

Sian has represented both claimants and defendants in a wide range of cases involving data protection and privacy issues, including misuse of private information, data protection and breach of confidence claims, and applications for anonymity.

Sian acts in a range of national security cases. She has been involved in case before the High Court, the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC), and the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT). Sian has Developed Vetting Clearance.

## Inquests & Inquiries

Sian has significant experience of representing a wide range of interested persons at Pre-Inquest Reviews and Inquests (both with and without a jury), including those where Article 2 ECHR is engaged. Sian's inquest experience includes deaths in prison custody, military deaths, deaths on the London Underground, and deaths arising out of road traffic accidents and at work.

Sian was instructed as junior counsel (led by Keith Morton QC and Fiona Canby) on behalf of Transport for London in the Inquest into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005.

Sian has experience of acting for core participants in public inquiries. During 2019 and 2020 Sian represented two core participants before the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). Sian represented the Home Office in IICSA's investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks. Sian also represented the Cabinet Office in IICSA's investigation into institutional responses to allegations of child sexual abuse involving the late Lord Janner of Braunstone QC.

Sian is currently instructed by the Department of Health and Social Care in the UK Covid- 19 Inquiry.

## Costs Litigation & Funding

Sian's costs practice covers a wide range of both public and private law cases.

She has experience of acting for both paying and receiving parties at first instance and on appeal in the High Court, the SCCO, the County Court, the First Tier-Tribunal (Tax Chamber), the Upper Tribunal (IAC) and the Court of Appeal. Sian also regularly acts in an advisory capacity across a broad spectrum of areas of costs law. Sian's clients range from individuals on a direct access basis to Government Departments and executive agencies.

Sian's recent experience includes: detailed assessments (including those involving E-Bills); challenges to provisional assessments; misconduct issues; assessments of solicitor and client costs under the Solicitors Act 1974; assessments of costs payable by legally aided parties; recoverability of costs in cases involving allegations of professional misconduct by lawyers; costs budgets and costs case management hearings; wasted costs orders; and non-party costs orders against directors.

## Personal Injury

Sian has practised in personal injury since her pupillage. Her personal injury practice now predominantly focuses on multi-track claims. Sian has particular experience in cases involving assaults and sexual abuse. Sian acts for both claimants and defendants.

## Appointments

- Equality & Human Rights Commission's panel of counsel: England & Wales B list (2019)
- Admitted to the State Bar of California (2018) and licensed to practice law in California as an attorney
- Attorney General's Civil Panel of Counsel, B Panel (London) (2018 – )
- Attorney General's Civil Panel of Counsel, C Panel (London) (2015 – 2018)
- Assistant Coroner for South London

## Awards

- Pegasus Scholarship to New Zealand (2012)
- Wilfred Watson BVC Scholarship, Gray's Inn (2005 – 2006)
- Postgraduate Award Holder, Arts and Humanities Research Board (2004 – 2005)
- Senior Seton Scholar, Downing College (2004)
- Rebecca Flower Squire Scholarship, University of Cambridge Law Faculty (2002)
- Lovells Law Prize, Downing College (2002)

## Education

- BVC (Very Competent), BPP Law School (2006)
- BCL, Brasenose College, University of Oxford (2005)
- MA (Hons) Law (First Class), Downing College, University of Cambridge (2004)

## Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Personal Injuries Bar Association (PIBA)