

Sunyana Sharma

Year of Call: 2006

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Overview

Sunyana Sharma is an inquest and professional discipline barrister with specialist knowledge in maritime and fishing law and health and safety law. She also has experience in regulatory compliance.

Sunyana sits as an Assistant Coroner for Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth and as a Deputy District Judge in Civil and Family law. To read more about Sunyana's relevant expertise, please see her specialist inquests profile.

Prior to joining Chambers, Sunyana worked for the Solicitor International Human Right's Group ('SIHRG') with whom she organised the Zimbabwe Fundraising Event called 'Protecting Lawyers in Zimbabwe' in collaboration with the Bar Human Rights Committee. She also worked as part of a team in researching and drafting legal submissions on the rule of law and the importance of an impartial tribunal following the suspension of the Chief Justice of Pakistan in March 2007. In addition, she undertook an internship with the criminal justice department of 'JUSTICE', the all party law reform and human rights organisation. She assisted with the research on policy papers commissioned by JUSTICE, which included changes to the rape in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and responses to the Home Office paper on 'New powers against organised and financial crime'.

Reported Cases

[2010] EWCA Crim 109; [2011] 1 Cr App R (S) 36: The Court considered whether exceptional circumstances exist justifying the court in not imposing the required minimum sentence for the possession of firearms.

Publications

Sunyana has written for a number of publications on topics such as inquests, public law and life at the Bar. These articles include:

- "Ask a Judge" – diversity on Circuit (Counsel Magazine, 2025)
- "Kids, Court and Caffeine...How to survive having a baby at the Bar" (The Barrister, 2023)
- "The influence of Coroners—what impact do prevention of future deaths reports have in practice?" (LexisNexis, 2021)
- "Fisheries Act 2020-snapshot", in collaboration with Dr Tagbo Ilozue (LexisNexis, 2021)
- "Secondments – worth a second thought" (Counsel Magazine, 2020)
- "BarNone: changing the face of justice", in collaboration with Anjali Gohil (Counsel Magazine, 2020)
- "Breaking moulds" (Counsel Magazine, 2020)

Public and Administrative Law

Sunyana Sharma is a busy inquest and professional disciplinary specialist with significant expertise in the health and safety, maritime and fisheries sectors. She also regularly advises and appears in CQC, DBS and OFSTED appeals. She has been previously appointed to the C list of Regulatory Advocates for the Health and Safety Executive, Office of Rail Regulation and the Environment Agency. She has both defended and prosecuted in various regulatory law matters, which have included collisions at sea, fisheries offences, breaches of health and safety regulations, animal welfare and trading standards prosecutions. Furthermore, she regularly appears before various disciplinary tribunals and care and education standards tribunal.

Sunyana is regularly invited to speak on coronial law, professional discipline and regulatory matters to solicitors, colleagues and industry experts.

Secondments

Sunyana has undertaken the following secondments in the field of healthcare and financial regulation and health and safety:

- 10 month secondment with investigations team for the Financial Conduct Authority working on two dual tracked investigations into two major global bank.
- 13 month secondment with National Grid PLC as Specialist Health, Safety and Environment In house Counsel.
- Ad Hoc secondment with the GCC to advise on cases.
- Six month secondment as a case presenter to the NMC dealing with a variety of misconduct and lack of competence cases (NMC).
- Assisted the public and regulatory team on advising the Nursing and Midwifery Council ('NMC') on 'fitness to practise' cases under the NMC 'Code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives', 'Standards for Medicines Management' and Guidance on 'Recordkeeping' for nurses and midwives (Blake Morgan and Fieldfisher Waterhouse).

Articles

Sunyana Sharma considers the Court of Appeal's decision in Disclosure and Barring Service ('DBS') v. RI [2024] EWCA Civ 95, which confirms the Upper Tribunal's entitlement to decide that an appellant's denial of wrongdoing was credible and constituted a mistake of fact.

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Sunyana Sharma considers the High Court's decision in Sudheer Shabir v. General Medical Council [2023] EWHC 1772 (Admin), a useful reminder of the core principles that will be applied in professional disciplinary misconduct hearings and/or at the appeal stage.

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Sunyana Sharma looks at the case of Zuber Bux v. General Medical Council [2021] EWHC 762 (Admin) in which the opportunity is given to revisit the key duties and obligations inherent in good expert witnesses.

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Sunyana Sharma examines the case of Raied Haris v GMC [2021] EWCA Civ 763 in which a doctor is found to have undertaken nonclinical intimate examinations on patients without their informed consent.

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Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care v Health and Care Professions Council, Roberts [2020] EWHC 1906 (Admin)

Specialist regulatory law barrister Sunyana Sharma reviews the case of *Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care v Health and Care Professions Council, Roberts [2020] EWHC 1906 (Admin)*. The case concerned a member of staff that had used racist language.

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Beckwith v. Solicitors Regulation Authority [2020] EWHC 3231 (Admin)

Sunyana Sharma, a regulatory and criminal law barrister reviews the case of *Beckwith v. Solicitors Regulation Authority [2020] EWHC 3231 (Admin)*. In this case, the High Court concludes that Regulator overstepped the mark into Solicitor's private life.

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Sunyana Sharma reviews the impact of the case of Maughan in the Coroner's Court.

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Counsel magazine featured an article from 3PB's specialist crime and regulatory barrister Sunyana Sharma, alongside Anjali Gohil of Guildhall Chambers, about the lack of ethnic diversity on the Western Circuit.

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3PB's specialist crime and regulatory barrister Sunyana Sharma was featured in the September 2020 issue of Counsel magazine describing her own experiences becoming a barrister as part of the Black Lives Matter campaign. In this article Sunyana describes her own experience and struggles in becoming a barrister as a young Asian female.

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Recommendations

Sunyana Sharma of 3PB Barristers is a well-known name across the South and South West regions for her representation of healthcare units, families, police constabularies and the Maritime Coastguard Agency. She has ample experience advising on Article 2 issues, jury inquests, clinical negligence deaths and deaths in the workplace. She has additional expertise in dealing with deaths at sea, a specialist area of law. Sharma sits as an assistant coroner for Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth.

Strengths: "Sunyana Sharma is an excellent advocate, is very good with clients and provides a high-level service."

"Sunyana is an experienced inquest barrister. She's great with clients and instructing solicitors, and adept at dealing with complex and sensitive matters."

"Sunyana is very personable and friendly, with great client care skills. Her advocacy style is very relaxed and positive, which is ideal for inquests."

"Sunyana is able to communicate in layman's terms, so family members can be fully reassured. She really pleasant and thorough. I understand why she's so popular!"

Chambers UK 2025/Inquests and Public Inquiries/The Regions

Sunyana Sharma of 3PB Barristers maintains a strong practice in professional disciplinary regulation following secondments at the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Chiropractic Council. She regularly appears before healthcare tribunals acting for a range of healthcare professionals.

Strengths: "She's really good at getting to grips with the nuances of cases and asking the right questions of the client. She matches her advice and approach to cases to the client."

"Clients often appreciate her caring and empathetic nature. Her written work is to a high standard and she has excellent advocacy skills that often achieve great results."

"Sunyana has excellent communication, attention to detail and client care skills."

Chambers UK 2025/Professional Discipline/London Bar

'Sunyana has an excellent knowledge of professional disciplinary law. Her experience and knowledge mean that she is able to quickly identify the pertinent issues in any case and has a keen eye for the finer detail.'

Legal 500 2025/Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law/Leading Juniors/London Bar

Sunyana Sharma is ranked in the **Legal 500 2025**/Inquests and Inquiries/Leading Juniors/London Bar

Sunyana Sharma is ranked in the **Legal 500 2024**/Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law/Leading Juniors/London Bar

Sunyana Sharma is ranked in the **Legal 500 2024**/Inquests and Inquiries/Leading Juniors/London Bar

[Sunyana Sharma is] 'Able to assimilate large volumes of information quickly and focus on the key issues, with questioning that is succinct but focused – a highly competent barrister.'

Legal 500 2023/Inquests and Inquiries/Leading Juniors/London Bar

'Strengths include a wealth of knowledge, strategic acumen and impeccable client care. In addition to being incredibly talented, Sunyana is also efficient, approachable, and always easy to reach and happy to advise. Instructing solicitors cannot rate the service provided by Sunyana highly enough.'

Legal 500 2022/Inquests and Inquiries/Leading Juniors/London Bar

'She understands both sides of nursing and midwifery cases.'

Legal 500 2016/Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law (including police law)/Leading Juniors

"Sunyana has conducted numerous prosecutions for us as a regulator over several years. Sunyana is a diligent hard-working barrister who provides clear advice with absolute clarity on a consistent basis.

A barrister who always appears to be pro-active, on the front foot and seemingly always one step ahead of the game. Sunyana serves us as a client timely and measured response in all instructions and is keen to work with us the regulator at an early stage in all matters.

In the court room is where you see the real deal with Sunyana, strong and robust advocacy, fast thinking and good on her feet, clearly respected by the bench and peers alike and consistently builds strong working relationships with all parties in every case we have worked on together.

In all Sunyana is hugely knowledgeable, highly effective whilst still being a delightful person to work with."

Head of UK Maritime Investigations Team, Maritime & Coastguard Agency

"I just wanted to say a big thank you for your hard work on our recent case. Considering you only received the papers at very late notice, your knowledge and understanding of the case was outstanding. I was so impressed by your meticulous preparation and would have no hesitation in instructing you again or recommending you to any of my colleagues. Thank you again".

Partner, Law firm

"Hardworking, intelligent, very approachable and a pleasure to work with. She is always available to speak to and bounce ideas off and is very good both at advising clients and managing their expectations".

Senior Associate, Law firm

Academic qualifications

- LLB Law (Hons), London School of Economics
- LLM Public International Law (Merit), London School of Economics
- Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School, London (2006, very competent).
- Jessup International Mooting Competition, (UK rounds) - Finalist, 2004 and Semi-Finalist, 2006

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Assistant Coroner for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton
- DDJ (Civil and Family)
- Steering Committee member of BarNone, Western Circuit

Professional bodies

- Coroners' Society of England and Wales
- ARDL (Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers)
- HSLA (Health and Safety Lawyers Association)
- HRLA (Human Rights Lawyers Association)
- Western Circuit