

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)

Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law

Sunyana Sharma has developed a strong practice in professional disciplinary regulation following secondments as a case presenter at the Nursing and Midwifery Council ('NMC') and in house lawyer at the General Chiropractic Council ('GCC'). She appears regularly in various healthcare tribunals which includes the NMC, GCC, Health and Care Professions Council ('HCPC'), Medical Practitioner's Tribunal Service ('MPTS'), General Optical Council ('GOC'), British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy ('BACP') and General Dental Council 'GDC' for substantive misconduct and health hearings, interim order applications and substantive order reviews. In addition, she is regularly instructed by nursing, care homes and GP Surgery's appealing CQC decisions before the First Tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber).

Having developed an in depth and robust understanding of the 'fitness to practise' regime, she takes instruction in all professional disciplinary cases.

Sunyana was seconded to the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') from 2019 to 2020 to assist in two high profile dual tracked investigations into systemic failures by two major global banks.

Recent Cases

HCPC v. x (2023): Instructed to represent practical psychologist for plagiarism allegations in a PhD thesis.

NMC v. x (2023): Represented a nurse in an interim order hearing for being charged with gross manslaughter and misconduct allegations in which responsible nurse failed to attach monitoring equipment of a child with co-morbidities and sleep apnoea, which caused and/or contributed to patient's death.

GPhC v. PP (2022): Advised a pharmacy group for potential allegations in relation to staff at the pharmacy being unqualified and large volumes of Phenergan and Codeine Linctus going missing during COVID-19 lockdown. Pharmacy unable to account for missing medication.

BACP v. SE (2022): Representing a counsellor for misconduct allegations for conducting a joint counselling sessions for a couple with instance of domestic violence. Expert instructed to show the changing clinical approach to counselling sessions in domestic violence cases where joint sessions were permissible in certain circumstances.

GDC v. MB (2022): Instructed to represent a Harley Street dentist in 14-day misconduct case in respect of inadequate care given to five patients and inappropriate offensive communication with a sixth patient. Complexities in the case included the instruction of an expert due to the technical nature of the implants provided.

GDC v. x (2021): representing CDT for multiple allegations relating to working out of scope, breach of an interim order and various dishonesty allegations.

BACP v. x (2021): Representing a counsellor for misconduct allegations in relation to joint counselling sessions for a couple with a history of domestic violence.

GMC v. x (2020): Instructed to represent a consultant anaesthetist for incorrect and dangerous intubation pre-surgery of two patients leading to near deaths.

GDC v. SK (2020): Successfully represented a dentist in an IO hearing who faced allegations of sexual abuse.

CQC v. YSL (2020): Successfully represented care home in an appeal to cancel its registration before the First Tier Tribunal (Care Standards).

Human Givens Institute v. LM (2019): Advised an integrative therapist specialising in mental and emotional health on an appeal of the decision of the Human Givens Institute for practising out of scope.

NMC v. RP (2018): Represented a nurse for a number of failings in which he was blamed for the death of a patient. Following the week's substantive hearing none of the allegations were found proved.

GMC v. x (2017): Represented a Doctor for carrying out medical practise whilst not holding a licence to practise.

HCPC v. KC (2017): Represented a social worker for receiving a caution for disclosing sexual photographs of his ex partner.

GOC v. AP (2016): Represented an optician for over 50 misconduct allegations relating to the adequacy of sight testing, the fitting of contact lenses, record keeping and dishonesty for a patient with keratoconus.

NMC v. JN (2015): Instructed to advise a registrant on an appeal to the High Court relating to a Substantive Order determination on dishonesty.

NMC v. PN (2015): Represented the NMC at a misconduct substantive hearing in which the registrant was undertaking shift work when signed off sick and working excessive hours, including a continuous 37 hour shift.

GDC v. IK (2014): Instructed to represent a dental technician for acting outside his scope of practice.

NMC v. KA-A (2014): Successfully represented the NMC for a 9 day substantive misconduct hearing against two nurses for restraining a vulnerable dementia patient to a hospital bed with a bedsheet and cable ties.

NMC v. AA (2014): Represented the NMC for dishonesty allegations against the Registrant who had produced and provided false references to an NHS Trust to obtain a Band 5 Nursing post. The five day substantive hearing resulted in the Nurse being struck off.

GCC v. X (2014): Represented the GCC for a substantive order review hearing of a Chiropractor who had been convicted of acts of voyeurism.

GCC v. EJ (2013): Successfully represented EJ in a four day substantive hearing for allegations of unacceptable professional conduct relating to a sexual relationship with a patient, confidentiality breaches and dishonesty.

GOC v. AP (2012): Appeared on behalf of a student optician for dishonesty allegations.

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