



## Cathryn McGahey KC

Call 1990 | Silk 2016

✉ [clerks@tgchambers.com](mailto:clerks@tgchambers.com)

☎ +44 (0)20 7583 1315

I am a public lawyer specialising in immigration, national security, prison law, public inquiries and inquests. I became a special advocate in 2008 and was appointed in 2012 to the Attorney General's A Panel. In 2013 I became a member of the Welsh Government's A Panel. I was appointed King's Counsel in 2016.

I have a particular interest in, and wide experience of, judicial review challenges to government policy. I have also developed an expertise in animal law, and have been instructed in most of the recent leading cases concerning the interpretation of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

## Expertise

### Public Law

---

My recent work has focused on national security. I have been instructed in several TPIM cases against leading members of the proscribed organisation Al-Muhajiroun. I have appeared frequently before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission and in the Court of Appeal in national security cases.

I have extensive immigration experience, and am currently instructed in litigation arising from sanctions imposed on Russian nationals. I am also instructed in appeals against deprivation of citizenship and deportation decisions made in respect of individuals convicted of child sexual exploitation offences in Rochdale.

I have been instructed in numerous judicial reviews by owners and campaigners opposing destruction of their animals (including Geronimo the alpaca and Sky, the pitbull terrier who was the subject of the leading case of *Webb v Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset* [2017] EWHC 3311). I am currently instructed in injunction proceedings by individuals protesting at Camp Beagle.

### Inquiries

---

I have been instructed in public inquiries for over twenty years, starting as junior counsel to the Bloody

Sunday Inquiry. I was counsel to the Jersey Independent Care Inquiry, and have been instructed by Core Participants in almost all of the recent major inquiries, including the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, the Manchester Arena Inquiry, the Undercover Policing Inquiry, the inquiries arising from the murder of Sarah Everard and the Inquiry into the death of Dawn Sturgess (caused by the Salisbury Novichok poisoning).

## Inquests

---

Many public inquiries, particularly those involving national security, begin as inquests, and I have been instructed in a number of such cases (including the inquests into the deaths of the Manchester Arena bombing victims). I have a particular interest in, and experience of, inquests arising from deaths in prison custody, immigration detention or involving the police. I have appeared in inquests involving prisoners murdered by other prisoners, and also those in which a former prisoner committed murder soon after being released from custody. I am currently counsel to the inquest into the death of Sabina Rizvi, who was murdered by gang members after leaving a police station.

I have also frequently been instructed in judicial reviews arising out of inquest decisions, and in the private law claims for damages that may follow an inquest determination.

## Education

- Queens' College, University of Cambridge
- Howell's School, Llandaff

## Recommendations

- "An extremely gifted and very diligent lawyer." "She works with extreme ingenuity, flexibility and care on her clients' behalf." **Chambers & Partners 2022, Public Law**
- "A calm, sensible counsel with a very good court style. She is extremely popular with government departments." "She's very approachable, flexible in how she deals with cases, and clients really like her." **Chambers & Partners 2022, Inquests & Inquiries**
- "Her knowledge, abilities and expertise are real assets to cases." **Legal 500 2022, Inquests & Inquiries**
- "She has an extraordinary capacity to get on top of the details in a short amount of time." "She is a very impressive advocate and also a very decent person." "She is effective and extremely hard-working." "Routinely instructed as counsel to large public inquiries, she also demonstrates great aptitude when appearing on behalf of participants. She is a skilled representative of state agents in inquests, and has a particular focus on proceedings involving deaths in custody." **Chambers & Partners 2018**
- "She is exceptionally bright and an excellent advocate." "A really nice manner when conducting proceedings, which is ideal for harrowing inquiries." "She is a master at acting for an inquiry and managing a large case." "Extremely deft witness-handling, she is very astute, strategically minded and calm in court." **Chambers & Partners 2017**



- “Highly regarded.” “Noted for both public inquiries and inquests.” **Legal 500 2017**