

## Jim Duffy

Call: 2012



Jim Duffy's practice spans inquests and inquiries, clinical negligence, personal injury, public law, indirect tax and employment. He is a member of the Attorney General's 'B' Panel of London Counsel.

Jim initially practised in human rights law as a solicitor for three years, dual-qualified in Scotland, England & Wales. He transferred to the Bar in 2012.

He went on to act as Judicial Assistant to Lord Reed and Lord Hodge. He has returned to the Supreme Court twice since then, most recently in *Majera (Rwanda) v SSHD*, where he made submissions on behalf of the Home Secretary.

He graduated from the University of Glasgow in Law with French Language (First Class Honours; McCormick Prize for the Most Distinguished Graduate in Law). He has a Masters degree (LL.M) from the University of Toronto (Rotary Scholar), and also spent a year at Paul Cézanne Université in Aix-en-Provence, France. He went on to intern at UNHCR in Geneva and undertook an exchange to the Paris Bar in 2016.

Jim co-presents the leading legal podcast [Law Pod UK](#) and was previously the editor of the [UK Human Rights Blog](#). He has contributed to practice notes for Lexis Nexis and Practical Law.

In addition to his practice south of the border, Jim is able to accept instructions in inquiries and employment matters in Scotland.

*"Jim is an exceptional barrister. He is thorough and practical and his preparation is second-to-none."*

**Legal 500 2024**

*"Jim is an excellent tactician. He is measured, dynamic and meticulously prepared. He is exactly who you want to represent you in the most stressful of circumstances."*

**Chambers & Partners 2025**

*"Jim's work is exceptional, he shows incredible technical knowledge and provides clear advice which is tailored to the individual clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Jim really does have all the skills you want in a barrister, he is organised, responsive and brainy. He really thinks about the issues in a case and solicitors trust him to advise on complex points of law."*

Legal 500 2025

## Clinical Negligence

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Jim is frequently instructed in complex and sensitive clinical negligence claims. He has good trial experience on both sides of the claimant/defendant divide. Jim often represents families in civil claims brought following the conclusion of an inquest, and has settled a number of claims related to developmental dysplasia of the hips.

### Selected Cases

- **B v Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2018)**: Successfully appeared at trial on behalf of the Defendant in a £1m cervical cancer claim.
- **KJY v University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2023)**: High Court trial for the Claimant where the Defendant was found to have negligently misreported three x-ray scans of a neonate's abdomen, each of which included views of subluxed hips.
- **O'Brien v Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (2022)**: High Court trial relating to ototoxicity induced by gentamicin administered in intensive care.
- **Williams v Betsi Cadwaladr Local Health Board (2022)**: Acted for the Claimant, whose husband died by suicide after calling his local psychiatric unit earlier the same day seeking help. Six-day High Court trial.
- **ABC v St George's Healthcare NHS Trust (2017)**: Acted as junior counsel to Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel KC and Henry Witcomb KC in an important Court of Appeal case: did a hospital trust owe a duty to a family member to inform her of her father's serious – and hereditary – mental health diagnosis?
- **B (2020)**: Successfully defended a GP surgery at the trial of a wrongful life claim.
- **XW v University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust (2021)**: Settlement of a fatal accidents claim relating to a patient who took his own life in a hospital ward after developing delirium.
- **Daley v Dr H and Dr H (2021)**: Acted for both Defendants in claim relating to delayed diagnosis of cancer.
- **JC (2020)**: Represented Claimant seeking damages for negligent delay in treatment leading to an amputation.
- **PG (2020)**: Acted for a young teacher who sustained significant visual loss following a violent assault by a psychiatric inpatient.

# Inquests

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Jim is an experienced inquests advocate, appearing for families, doctors, hospital trusts, police and government departments. He is a contributor to *The Inquests Book*. In recent years, he has been involved in several inquests involving choking deaths, and has particular experience in mental health cases.

## Selected Cases

- **Oliver Steeper inquest (2024)**: Jim acted for Ofsted in connection with the death of a baby following a choking incident at nursery.
- **Abbigail Smith inquest (2024)**: Jim is representing the family of a 26-year-old woman who was discharged from a psychiatric in-patient facility on 14 February 2022. Abbi was found dead the following day having apparently ligatured. Her case was investigated by Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme.
- **Mitchell Oakley inquest (2024-25)**: Jim acts for the family of a father-of-two who absconded from a hospital after being admitted following a suicide attempt. He was later found hanging from a tree in nearby woods.
- **Al-Kharboush and Ors (2024)**: Led by Shaheen Rahman KC, Jim appeared for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in inquests into the deaths of neonates who received contaminated total parenteral nutrition feed.
- **Marwo Kassim inquest (2023)**: Appeared for the family of a young woman with epilepsy who fell from her third floor balcony. The accident was found to have been caused by the failure by the local authority and housing association to provide her with a ground floor flat.
- **Stephen Richardson inquest (2023)**: Acted for the family of a mental health in-patient who ligatured on a ward. The jury found that an earlier failure to secure for him a ward on a mental health unit was a gross failure that contributed to his hanging.
- **Rita Britten inquest (2022)**: Represented son of a psychiatric in-patient who choked on an apple and was found to have suffered 'neglect'. Prevention of future deaths report concerning choking guidance relating to larger patients.
- **Gosport inquests (2022)**: Instructed by a number of families whose elderly relatives died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the 1980s and 1990s. They seek fresh inquests.
- **William Oak Moris-Patto inquest (2022)**: Representing the parents of an otherwise healthy infant who died tragically following a failure to administer Vitamin K during the ante-natal period.
- **Stefan Quagraine inquest (2022)**: Appeared for family of a 23 year-old poet and musician who died after contracting COVID-19 in the early days of the pandemic.
- **Brenda Burbeck inquest (2022)**: Represented a GP in relation to the death of an elderly patient in circumstances where her blood thinning medication had been paused following a road traffic accident.
- **Chanel Nelson inquest (2022)**: Represented the family of a young woman who died on the operating table during an operation to remove a benign tumour.
- **Chloe Lumb inquest (2022)**: Appeared on behalf of the husband of a 24-year-old mother of two. She died as a result of a hospital's failure to diagnose an aortic dissection.
- **T Inquest**: Acted for Animal and Plant Health Authority at inquest into the death of man from salmonella.
- **Y Inquest**: Represented GP in high profile inquest into the death of pregnant woman who died by suicide.

- **O Inquest:** Acted for family in Article 2 inquest into death of woman who died in psychiatric care due to myocarditis caused by clozapine toxicity.
- **W Inquest:** Represented an Edinburgh-based GP practice at death of a student from anorexia nervosa.
- **Wild Inquest:** Complex Article 2 inquest into death of young woman who was unlawfully killed.
- **Patterson Inquest:** Represented the family of woman whose death was contributed to by medical neglect.
- **Peter Maher Inquest:** Represented a GP who carried out a mental health assessment on the deceased. This two-week jury inquest involved complex Article 2 ECHR issues and multiple state agencies.
- **TJ Pimm Inquest:** Appeared for the family in an Article 2 inquest where jury found that adequate precautions were not taken to manage a young man's suicide risk.
- **XW inquest:** Acted for the family of Mr W, who ended his life in a Birmingham hospital.
- **ED inquest:** Appeared on behalf of the deceased's treating GP.
- **ETF inquest:** Represented an orthopaedic surgeon in a complex venous thromboembolism case.
- **NW inquest:** Currently acting for the family of a woman killed by her schizophrenic boyfriend having successfully argued that the investigation engages Article 2 and requires a jury.

## Personal Injury

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Jim has an established practice in personal injury acting on behalf of claimants and defendants, including in abuse claims. He was led by Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel KC, appearing for the appellant children in *CN & GN v. Poole Borough Council*. The Supreme Court considered whether and in what circumstances local authorities might owe a duty at common law to children at risk of harm.

He has been instructed in a number of cases involving E-Coli 0157 and has defended several claims brought by members of fitness gyms. He has also acted for insurers and injured persons in claims arising from road traffic accidents and represented claimants and defendants in numerous occupiers' liability claims.

He also produces practice notes on personal injury law for LexisNexis PSL.

## Selected Cases

- Acted for man who sustained a brain injury after falling down a set of stairs at a bar. Successfully resisted application to withdraw a pre-action admission.
- Secured withdrawal of admission as to where an accident had taken place in case concerning an accident in a transit zone at a ferry port.
- Represented family in civil damages claim under HRA against police.
- **CN & GN v Poole BC[2019] UKSC 25:** UK Supreme Court considered the extent to which local authorities and their employees owe a common law duty to protect children from harm caused by third parties. Led by Lizanne Gumbel KC.
- Sexual abuse by a secondary school teacher upon a pupil.
- Sexual assault of a work experience student by a company employee.
- A local authority's failure to intervene in a case involving the repeated sexual abuse of children within a family home.
- Abuse by a class teacher upon a primary school pupil.

# Public Law

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Jim has built upon his previous experience as a solicitor involved in high-profile judicial review claims by acting for prisoners seeking to challenge decisions relating to their security categorisation. Since his appointment to the Attorney General's Panel, he has also receives instructions in defendant judicial review work.

Jim has helped prisoners serving indeterminate sentences to argue that the prison authorities have failed to enable them to demonstrate, at or near the end of their tariff periods, that they are suitable for release or for transfer to open conditions. He appeared as junior counsel in a judicial review relating to the joint enterprise murder conviction of [Anthony Davis](#). Led by Clodagh Bradley KC, Jim acts for a number of fertility clinics in a judicial review challenge to 'traffic light' guidance issued by the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority in relation to so-called 'add-on' treatments.

He also regularly uses his human rights law experience to inform his approach to cases across his other practice areas.

Jim was instructed in the Undercover Policing Inquiry from 2017, before stepping down in 2020. He was led by Sarabjit Singh KC in *Majera*, a Supreme Court case relating to the bail powers of immigration tribunals.

## Employment & Equality

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Jim advises and represents employees and government departments in tribunal claims.

He has experience of cases involving unfair dismissal, TUPE transfers, whistleblowing, holiday pay, indirect and direct discrimination and discrimination arising from a disability.

### Selected Cases

- **Eirian Morris v Carmarthenshire County Council:** obtained significant damages following the unfair dismissal of a former ski centre coordinator at Pembrey Country Park in Carmarthenshire. Following a five-day hearing, the tribunal held that Mr Morris had been unfairly dismissed, but that he had not been dismissed as a result of his alleged whistleblowing disclosures.
- **P & Others v CMY:** acted for the successful claimants in a heavily contested TUPE transfer case involving a group of nursery workers. The tribunal initially reconsidered its decision to find for the Claimants, but upheld that decision following written submissions.
- **Perratt v City of Cardiff Council:** disability discrimination relating to Asperger's Syndrome. Jim appeared before the Employment Tribunal where the judge considered himself bound to find for the Respondent due to the EAT decision in Griffiths regarding comparators. The case was [overturned on appeal](#) and remitted to the tribunal for a fresh determination.
- **J & Others v S:** advised the claimant care workers in relation to a holiday pay claim.
- **CAM v HMRC:** Represented HMRC in an unfair dismissal claim (decision pending).

# Public Inquiries

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Jim was instructed in the Undercover Policing Inquiry from 2017, before stepping down in 2020. He is the author of two LexisNexis PSL Practice Notes on public inquiries.

## Child Abuse Compensation Law

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Jim acts on behalf of sexually abused children and vulnerable persons in claims against employers, local authorities and institutions. He has been instructed as junior counsel in numerous cases and has also assisted senior members of chambers in relation to a high-profile group litigation. Jim has represented applications to the Lambeth Council Compensation Scheme in relation to historic abuse claims.

### Selected Cases

- **CN & GN v Poole BC[2019] UKSC 25:** UK Supreme Court considered the extent to which local authorities and their employees owe a common law duty to protect children from harm caused by third parties. Led by Lizanne Gumbel KC & Iain O'Donnell.
- Sexual abuse by a secondary school teacher upon a pupil.
- Sexual assault of a work experience student by a company employee.
- A local authority's failure to intervene in a case involving the repeated sexual abuse of children within a family home.
- Abuse by a class teacher upon a primary school pupil.

## Tax & Rating

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Jim is developing a practice in indirect tax cases, with a particular interest in VAT, customs duty and post-Brexit issues. He is a member of the Attorney General's B Panel of Counsel. In *Caerdav v HMRC*, Jim resisted on behalf of HMRC a complex customs and VAT assessment appeal involving the importation of an aircraft.

### Appointments

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- Attorney General's B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown (present)
- Attorney General's C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown (2019 – 2022)
- Solicitor in England & Wales (no longer practising) (2011)
- Solicitor & Notary Public in Scotland (no longer practising) (2010)

### Awards

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- Inner Temple Pegasus Award (Paris Bar Exchange) (2016)

- Advanced International Advocacy Course, Keble College, Oxford (2015)
- Scholarship for US Supreme Court Exchange, Clark Foundation for Legal Scholarship (2014)
- Rotary Academic Ambassadorial Scholarship (2006)
- University of Toronto, International Human Rights Program Fellowship (2006)
- Scholarship for LLM degree, Clark Foundation for Legal Scholarship (2006)
- Glasgow Bar Association, Criminal Defence Moot Prize (2006)
- McCormick Prize for the Most Distinguished Graduate in Law, University of Glasgow (2005)
- Joint-President, Glasgow University Law Society (2004-2005)

## Education

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- Master of Laws (LLM), University of Toronto (2007)
- Diploma in Legal Practice, Glasgow Graduate School of Law (2006)
- Bachelor of Laws (First Class), University of Glasgow, Law with French Language (2005)

## Memberships

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- HRLA
- BHRC
- PNBA
- Association of Child Abuse Lawyers

## Publications

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- Contributor and former Commissioning Editor of the [UK Human Rights Blog](#).
- Co-presenter of [Law Pod UK](#).
- Contributor to the 1COR Quarterly Medical Law Review ([QMLR](#))
- *2018 Paris – London Bar Exchange*, Counsel Magazine (2018)