

DAVID BURROWS-SUTCLIFFE

BIOGRAPHY JULY 2024

London-based David has been a practising lawyer since 1978 and throughout his eventful professional career has always specialised in litigation, not only as a trial lawyer but also in a judicial capacity. His specialist field is emergency planning and preparedness to which he brings unique legal knowledge, expertise, style and flair derived from extensive practical legal experience.

David has advised and addressed many UK government departments including the Cabinet Office, Home Office, Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health & Social Care, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, and HM Treasury in relation to major incident preparedness. David has successfully trained all emergency first responders nationally.

At the start of his long and varied career, David was a senior criminal law advocate in Manchester. He subsequently founded and ran his own practice in the north of England from which he retired to join an international firm in the City of London.

David has acted in many successful appeals to the High Court and the Court of Appeal and has appeared as an advocate in countless public inquiries and inquests.

David has specialised in high profile major incident cases. He acted for those seriously injured in countless cases including the Deal Barracks Bombing, Ladbroke Grove and the Clapham Rail Disaster. In 2008, he was heavily involved in the Princess Diana Inquest/Public Inquiry and, in 2010/11, the 7/7 London Bombing Inquests before HM Coroner Lady Justice Hallett (now Baroness Hallett, who is chair of the Covid-19 Public Inquiry).

In the aftermath of the 7/7 Inquests, and the Rule 43 Report, David advised London emergency services on lessons identified and the implementation thereof. In 2013, David was involved in the Inquest into the Chinook helicopter crash in 2008 and in 2014, David appeared at the Inquest into the death of the Red Arrows pilot Flt Lt Sean Cunningham. He was involved professionally in the Inquest into the 2017 Borough Market/London Bridge terrorist attack.

In a judicial capacity, David has sat on the bench with district and circuit judges in London at both criminal and civil court levels thereby gaining an insight into the world of the judiciary.

David's practice is now international including Malaysia Airlines in Kuala Lumpur, the US State Department in Washington DC, and Heathrow, Edinburgh and Manchester Airports on matters relating to emergency preparedness.

David regularly presents for, amongst others, NHS England nationally, NARU, for the London Resilience Forum, London Fire Brigade, Welsh Government, JESIP, City of London Corporation and NILO nationally. During 2020/2021, he advised NHS, local authorities and other organisations including the Welsh Government on their legal accountability in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. In November 2021, David advised on matters relating to COP26 held in Glasgow.

Professionally, David has been listed by 'The Legal 500' publication as one of the top specialist lawyers in England and Wales, is a member of The Law Society, the English Speaking Union & the RAC Club. He is an Honorary Member of Gray's Inn.