



# Inquest team



**John Sheath**  
**Head of Healthcare**  
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“The firm’s healthcare department is extremely expert, with a great depth of experience. Members are always helpful and approachable, and they provide the advice and support we require very efficiently.

Chambers UK

### Inquest team expertise

We aim to support you and your staff through the coronial process by proactively identifying the likely issues and preparing them for questions at the hearing from the coroner and the family. We aim to assist the coroner in presenting the full facts and making legal submissions so that an appropriate conclusion is reached.

We can advise you on possible Prevent Future Death (PFD) reports that the coroner can make arising from the events and how to avoid them by reviewing the content of your serious incident report and root cause analysis and action points.

Our knowledge and experience of coroners and coronial practice in the South East will enhance your decision making in preparation for the challenges which will vary from area to area and the approach by particular coroners.

We will provide you with a post-inquest analysis of the risk management points and possible legal and professional consequences arising from the evidence.

### What an inquest means

Coroner’s Courts are restricted by law in their scope from findings of fault but experience shows that it does not protect individual staff and organisational systems from being criticised and challenged in a public hearing. We recognise how stressful these hearings can be and the consequences can lead to serious repercussions for healthcare professionals and the organisations we represent.

### How we can help

Before and during the inquest:

- advice, support and representation

At the end of the inquest:

- an analysis of the risk management and learning points; and
- advice on legal and professional consequences.
- flexible costs to suit your budgetary needs including fixed costs, staged costs estimates and risk based charges.



# Inquest team

“The team attracts praise for its depth of knowledge and perception of issues on NHS related matters”

The Legal 500

Brachers Healthcare team are proud to be ranked nationally in Chambers UK, a leading guide to UK law firms based on client research.

## Meet the team



**John Sheath**  
Head of Healthcare

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John is a specialist healthcare lawyer with over 30 years' experience. He is a recognised leader in the field and provides proactive advice, support and advocacy in the Coroner's Court.



**Scott Alexander**  
Head of Clinical Negligence

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Scott heads the Healthcare & Medical Defence team. He specialises in representing organisations and doctors in relation to inquests, regulatory and clinical negligence claims.



**Dana Ellis**  
Associate

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Dana's specialist experience has been gained from working for the NHSLA, MPS and MDU in all aspects of clinical negligence and inquest work.



**Kelly Ratcliffe**  
Associate

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Kelly has worked for two national healthcare firms and specialises in representing healthcare organisations and professionals in clinical negligence, regulatory and inquest matters.



**Harriet Humphrey**  
Solicitor

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Harriet specialises in clinical negligence and inquest matters on behalf of healthcare organisations and professionals.

