



Practice Profile

Chris Sutton-Mattocks is a leading expert in Coronial/inquest law and procedure. As well as being Assistant Coroner for NW Kent and Surrey, NE Kent, Central and SE Kent, Mid Kent and Medway, he heads the 5 King's Bench Walk team of specialist barristers and has helped make Chambers a centre of excellence in the field.

He began as a general practitioner conducting cases in the family and criminal courts, together with High Court and County Court civil litigation. After some years he specialised as a criminal defence barrister conducting a variety of cases including serious fraud, murder, terrorism, rape and arson. Whilst largely retired from criminal work he will still occasionally undertake privately funded defence cases.

In 2008 his interest in Coronial law began to take greater prominence when he was appointed Deputy Assistant Coroner. He continues in the same role (re-named following the 2009 Act) and attends regular updated training sessions. He lectures the Chambers' Coronial team and ensures that all members of the team are up to date with changes to the law and procedure.

In recent years he has acted for family members who have lost loved ones as well as for public/local authorities. He has a particular niche specialisation when he acts for the Court itself as Counsel to the Inquiry in serious inquests involving Article 2.

In recent years he has been instructed in cases and/or tried cases involving deaths in action in Afghanistan (both deaths due to terrorist activity and deaths caused by 'friendly fire'), road traffic deaths, deaths in custody, allegations of medical negligence, motor racing deaths, possible suicides, homicides, drug misuse and many others.

Following many years of practice in the field Chris Sutton-Mattocks is very aware of the sensitivity of inquest work and is adept at supporting grieving families in difficult circumstances whilst at the same time being assiduous in his professional duty to discover the truth of what occurred and why.

Areas of Practice

- Inquests

Recent Cases

Inquest into the Death of Ralph Brazier 2017

Death of Surrey Entrepreneur after hitting a Pothole on group bicycle ride

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks presided over the Surrey Inquest into the death of a Surrey Tech Entrepreneur who died after hitting a Pothole on a group ride with his bike club in Weybridge.

Inquest into the Death of Francesca Cappucini 2017

Inquest of young mother following emergency c-section

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks acts as Counsel to the inquiry, at the inquest into the tragic death of a young Kent mother of two whom died following an emergency caesarian section following the birth of her second child. Mrs Cappucini died after 8 hours after the birth of her son, after losing litres of blood, surgeons having made the fatal error of leaving a large piece of placenta in the uterine cavity.

News report here.

R v. Davies & ors [Southwark] 2016

HMRC gift aid fraud

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks and Hannah Wyatt were instructed by the defence in this 3 month Southwark trial where the ring leader was accused of a £5 million pound cut-throat HMRC gift aid fraud. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Hannah Wyatt had to take over leading the case after the third week. This included legal argument, cross examination of co-defendants, including the defendant's son and daughter and making the closing speech.

R v. O & ors [Snaresbrook] 2015

Drugs, Kidnap & Wounding

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks led Andrew Collings on the first trial who then led Samantha Bonner in a long running trial and re-trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court involving multiple incidents of kidnapping false imprisonment and GBH over a failed drug deal. Those kidnapped were burned to the face and body with irons whilst falsely imprisoned.

Inquest into the Death of Terrence Wooten 2014

Stabbing of Pensioner by Schizophrenic son

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks acted as Counsel to the Inquiry and Mark Dacey represented the family at this 2 week Inquest into the Death of Terrence Wooten who died by stabbing by his schizophrenic son.

News report here.

R v KK & Ors [Portsmouth CC] 2014

Conspiracy to Supply

Chris Sutton-Mattocks led Hannah Wyatt in the defense of a senior member of a 10 handed conspiracy to supply cocaine worth over £600,000, during an 8 week trial

Inquest into the Death of Edward Barry 2013

Inquest, Death by misadventure

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks appeared as Counsel to the inquiry during the 4 week Inquest into the tragic death of Kent teenager Edward Barry who died as a result of the combined effects of methadone and diazepam intoxication.

News report [here](#).

Inquest into the Death of Sapper Mark Smith 2013

Death by Friendly fire whilst on duty in Afghanistan

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks appeared as Counsel to the inquiry during the Inquest into the tragic death in a "friendly fire" incident in Afghanistan.

BBC news report [here](#).

R v. JE & 6 ors [Winchester] 2013

Murder

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks led Valeria Swift instructed by the defence in this conspiracy to murder involving an attempted contract killing. This defendant subsequently pleaded guilty to attempted GBH and was acquitted of conspiracy to murder. Instructed by the Grech Gooden Partnership.

Inquest into the Deaths of Brown & Lynch 2011

Channel Tunnel Rail Link Fire

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks appeared as Counsel to the inquiry during the 6 week Inquest into the tragic deaths of Darren Brown and Douglas Lynch as a result of a fatal fire upon the maintenance locomotive during the building of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

BBC news report [here](#).

Inquest into the Death of Cpl Sean Violino 2009

Inquest, Death on Active Duty

Christopher Sutton-Mattocks was the assistant coroner whom presided over the Inquest into the death of Cpl Sean Violino whom died whilst on active service in Afghanistan.

News report [here](#).