

Christopher Hopkins

Call: 2003

"A confident junior with a forensic approach and an excellent client manner."

Legal 500 2025 (Business and Regulatory Crime - including Health & Safety)



Christopher Hopkins is a specialist regulatory and inquests barrister, who qualified at the bar following a period of service in the British Army.

His experience includes over ten years working as an in-house barrister defending criminal regulatory offences including at an international law firm. Christopher is therefore able to adapt between working in a team alongside solicitors and lay clients or as an individual depending upon what is required. He is also Direct Access accredited for members of the public to instruct him directly.

Christopher is an experienced advocate before the Criminal Courts, Coroners Inquests, Public Inquiries before the Traffic Commissioners, Licensing Committees, the First-tier Tribunal and various professional disciplinary panels. As a former full-time prosecutor, he is well placed to provide timely and appropriate advice to regulators on the conduct of criminal investigations and disclosure. By virtue of his in-house experience, Christopher is also highly experienced in advising both individuals and organisations who are under investigation or undertaking their own internal reviews. In 2013, he was seconded to Jaguar Land Rover as its legal compliance manager where he provided support at all levels within the global business.

Christopher has advised on enforcement action and investigations being undertaken by a wide range of regulators including the Police, Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environment Agency, Local Authorities, Natural England, Ofcom and the Marine Management Organisation. He has particular expertise in inquests involving the police, care, construction and education sectors.

Expertise

Inquests, Public Inquiries & Coronial Law

Christopher practices the following areas:



Birmingham

103 Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 3AG

DX: 16075 Fountain Court Birmingham
Telephone: +44 (0) 121 606 0500

London

Fifth Floor
7 Savoy Court
London WC2R 0EX

DX: 449 London Chancery Lane
Telephone: +44 (0) 207 420 7500

Bristol

30 Queen Square
Bristol
BS1 4ND

DX: 7838 Bristol
Tel: +44 (0) 117 917 8501

Notable Cases

2024

Representing a charity in a 12 day Article 2 inquest in the South West following a domestic homicide.

2024

Representing a serving police officer at an inquest in the Midlands following a suicide.

2023

3 day inquest in the North West representing a private sector care provider.

2022

10 day jury inquest in the Midlands representing a construction manager following a workplace death on a construction site.

Inquests, Public Inquiries & Coronial Law (Public Law)

Chris has appeared in inquests throughout England and Wales involving the Police, NHS, Local Government, National Probation Service, NHS, CQC, care and education sectors. Many of these have engaged Article 2 and/ or required a jury.

Inquests, Public Inquiries & Coronial Law (Regulatory Law)

Chris has represented private, public and charitable organisation at inquests throughout England and Wales involving the construction, care and education sectors in particular. Many of these have required a jury and been held over multiple days and weeks. He regularly represents drivers following fatal road traffic accidents, and is experienced on advising where potential criminal prosecutions may follow.

Regulatory

Notable Cases

2024

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Defending a medium sized transport business in the Crown Court being prosecuted following a workplace transport incident.

2024

Defending a farmer being prosecuted by the Environment Agency for water pollution offences.

2024

Representing a young female driver in the Crown Court prosecuted for two offences of causing serious injury through dangerous driving.

2024

Representing a driver prosecuted for causing death by careless driving.

2024

Representing a police officer in misconduct proceedings accused of domestic abuse against his wife.

2023

Prosecuting for the HSE a large sized business following a machinery accident.

2023

Representing a motorcyclist prosecuted for causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

2023

Representing a doctor accused of multiple instances of dishonesty before the GMC.

2021

Defending a Hotel business prosecuted for fire safety offences.

Health & Safety

Chris has many years experience in prosecuting and defending Health and Safety prosecutions. He was previously a member of a

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specialist team at a global law firm advising market leading construction and manufacturing companies in this area, and continues to defend in serious cases. Chris is appointed to List B of the List of Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law.

Chris regularly prosecutes and defends in other regulatory prosecutions involving the environment, fire safety, trading standards, food safety, housing, licensing and animal welfare.

Motor Crime

Chris defends in criminal prosecutions in both the Crown and Magistrates' Courts, and represents drivers at coroner's inquests. He has successfully appealed sentences to the Court of Appeal. His full range of driving offences from failures to provide information and speeding to causing death by practice covers dangerous driving. He has many years experience of appearing at Traffic Commissioner Public Inquiries nationwide.

Professional Misconduct

Chris has for many years represented police, teaching, legal and medical professionals in criminal and professional disciplinary proceedings. He regularly represents serving and retired police officers on behalf of the Police Federation of England and Wales. He has represented other professionals in proceedings before the GMC, TRA, GOsC and involving the SRA.

Awards



Accreditations

- Legal 500 – Tier 1, Midland Circuit for Professional and Disciplinary Law Tier 5, London Bar, Inquests and Inquiries
- Chambers & Partners – Band 2, Health and Safety (Midlands Bar) Band 3, Inquests and Public Inquiries (The Regions)

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Appointments

- Appointed to List B of the List of Specialist Regulatory
- Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law.

Qualifications

- LLB (Hons), University of Wolverhampton
- BVC (Very Competent)

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