

Saba Naqshbandi



Call: 1996

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Details of practice

Areas of expertise: crime/fraud, inquests and inquiries, regulatory (health and safety, professional discipline and licensing).

Recognised in Chambers UK, The Legal 500, Who's Who Legal UK Bar, Business Crime Defence, Criminal Fraud and Investigations and Lawyer Monthly.

Lawyer Monthly Business Crime Defence Lawyer of the Year UK 2018

"The first choice for fire safety work"

"Strategically a master, making difficult decisions with ease"

"A very fearless advocate who is not cowed by a difficult case or difficult tribunal"

"Her mastery of the detail, advice and advocacy are consistently excellent"

"...a super advocate who is very, very clever...very popular with clients"

"One of the leading licensing juniors"

Crime/Fraud & Financial Regulation:

A criminal specialist with a recognised reputation, Saba's advice is sought both nationally and internationally and includes advising foreign Governments and Enforcement Authorities, corporates and individuals in multi-jurisdictional cases.

Areas of specialisation include:

- Private Prosecutions
- Bribery & Corruption
- International crime
- Mutual Legal Assistance
- Fraud
- Insider dealing
- Money laundering
- Confiscation and restraint
- Terrorism
- Complex production orders

Inquests and Public Inquiries:

Saba is an expert in high profile, sensitive inquiries.

Current and previous cases include the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry, the Inquests into the deaths following the London Bridge and Westminster terrorist incidents and the Public Inquiry into the death of Alexander Litvinenko.

Saba is also currently representing two separate families and a witness in three separate inquests.

Saba is experienced in questioning vulnerable witnesses. She has recently completed (March 2019) the Middle Temple Vulnerable Witness Advocacy course (11 hours).

Saba is instructed by all participants including:

- Companies
- Charities
- The police
- Fire and other enforcement authorities
- Families
- Witnesses

Saba is an Assistant Coroner for Inner North London.

Health & Safety, Licensing and Regulatory Law:

Saba advises and represents notable major companies and acts for enforcing authorities, including the HSE, fire and local authorities and the police nationally in both criminal proceedings and inquests. Areas of specialisation include:

- Fire safety
- Health & safety
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information
- Licensing
- Gambling
- Consumer protection
- Environmental
- Food safety
- Trading standards

Professional Discipline

Healthcare: Saba acts for the General Dental Council

Sports: Clients include UK Athletics and the Lawn Tennis Association. Additionally, she has experience as Chair of a Sports Appeal Panel

Tax Appeals

Building on her criminal experience of Missing Trader Intra Community Frauds ("MTIC"), Saba acts for appellants before the First Tier Tax Tribunal

Directory recommendations

Saba is recognised for her expertise in Crime, Fraud, POCA, Health & Safety, Inquests and Licensing by the Legal Directories. Entries include:

Crime/Financial Crime/POCA

A junior highly regarded for her expertise in fraud, bribery and money laundering cases (**Chambers UK**)

"Her mastery of the detail, advice and advocacy are consistently excellent" (**The Legal 500**)

"Very polished and very versatile" (**Chambers UK**)

"Has an impressive practice". "She is an incredibly thorough practitioner, who is smart and absolutely charming with judges. She focuses judges' minds on the points they need to focus on and is very adept at dealing with clients" (**Chambers UK**)

Extremely user-friendly, sharp, quick and to-the-point, making her a pleasure to work with (**The Legal 500**)

"She is very experienced and good at sensitive criminal cases" (**Chambers UK**)

"excellent tactical judgement" "a reassuring presence"... (**The Legal 500**)

Inquests & Public Inquiries

"She's straight-talking, clear-thinking and knows what is in the client's best interests."

"She's very experienced, fantastic with clients and very good tactically" (**Chambers UK**)

'A seriously impressive senior junior who leaves nothing to chance' (**The Legal 500**)

"She has an excellent manner with clients, a commanding presence and a nice style. Her attention to detail is first-rate and she is able to get up to speed very quickly. She is especially impressive when technical medical evidence is involved" (**Chambers UK**)

"Brilliantly friendly with clients and solicitors but she also has a very strategic mind and an excellent grasp of the law" (**Chambers UK**)

"An excellent junior, she is very intelligent and hard-working, and a pleasure to work with." 'She's really thorough and well prepared, excellent on her feet and great on the detail in terms of her written work" (**Chambers UK**)

"She is very intelligent and hardworking, and a pleasure to work with" (**The Legal 500**)

Health & Safety

"Her client-handling skills are really impeccable and her advocacy is first-rate" (**Chambers UK**)

'A strong barrister with exceptional knowledge of fire safety law' (**The Legal 500**)

"The first choice for fire safety work" **(The Legal 500)**

"A very fearless advocate who is not cowed by a difficult case or difficult tribunal." "She really knows the area inside out" **(Chambers UK)**

"Strategically a master, making difficult decisions with ease" **(The Legal 500)**

"Precise and persistent as an advocate. You can just depend on her for the right view..." **(Chambers UK)**

'Recognised in the health and safety market for her extensive work and particular expertise in the fire safety space' **(Chambers UK)**

"A criminal barrister with a notable regulatory practice". "Clever, hard-working and thorough, she is very diligent and quite a tough prosecutor" **(Chambers UK)**

Licensing

An accomplished advocate, who frequently advises well-known operators and is called on to appear in challenging tribunal hearings.

"Presents attractive and authoritative arguments in court."

"She is very good with tribunals, has an ice-cool temperament and is very articulate" **(Chambers UK)**

'One of the leading licensing juniors' (The Legal 500)

'She is a super advocate and is very, very clever.' "Her detail is second to none and she is very popular with clients" **(Chambers UK)**

"She has an incredible eye for detail and her preparation is a work of art" **(Chambers UK)**

"Professional, diligent and extremely personable, she has great presence before licensing committees and in the courtroom, and is extremely popular with the client" **(Chambers UK)**

The 'outstanding' Saba Naqshbandi has 'a wealth of experience' in the area **(The Legal 500)**

"fantastic, very knowledgeable on legislation, gives good practical advice and is always easy to get hold of" **(Chambers UK)**

"Saba Naqshbandi is 'very bright, hardworking, dedicated and good with clients. She is very persuasive, yet measured. Her written work and her advocacy are both top class'" **(The Legal 500)**

Sports Law

"the intelligent and practical Saba Naqshbandi enters the tables this year as one to watch. She is carving something of a niche in coach discipline matters" **(The Legal 500)**

Education/professional qualifications

Call 1996

LL.B (Hons) University College London 1994

LL.M (Distinction) University College London 1995

Appointments

Assistant Coroner for Inner North London 2019

Specialist Advocate in Health & Safety and Environmental Law (A Panel)

General Dental Council Panel of Advocates

Court of Arbitration of Sport Pro Bono Lawyers Panel

Bencher of the Middle Temple (2016)

Middle Temple Advocacy Trainer

Middle Temple Bencher Selection Advisory Committee (2016-)

Middle Temple Membership Committee Member 2014-

Bar Council International Committee Member (2016-2017)

Chair of the Annual Bar Conference 2013 (Vice Chair 2012)

Co-Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the International Bar Association (2009-2012)

Elected Committee member of the Criminal Bar Association Committee (2009-2012)

Other information

Awards

Winner. Business Crime Defence Lawyer of the Year UK 2018, Lawyer Monthly

Winner, Criminal Lawyer of the Year 2014, Lawyer Monthly

Women in Law Awards 2014, Lawyer Monthly

Memberships

Criminal Bar Association
Health & Safety Lawyers Association
Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

Publications

2012-current: author of the online Westlaw Encyclopaedia for 'Health and Safety in Sport'
2012-current: author of the online Westlaw Encyclopaedia for 'Licensing: Hearings'
2012-current: author of the online Westlaw Encyclopaedia for 'Gambling: Appeals'

Languages

French (conversational)
Urdu (conversational)

Direct access

Saba is qualified to accept instructions direct from clients which means that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come direct to her. In addition, she welcomes instructions from in-house counsel and qualified foreign lawyers

Please contact her clerks on 020 7400 6400 or clerks@3rblaw.com

Notable cases

Crime/fraud & financial regulation

SD

Represented an individual charged with bribery

SEM

Successfully defended The Sport Entertainment and Media Group Limited and individuals in a private prosecution brought by a football agent, Anthony McGill <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-34312416>

W&C

Represented a company and director regarding alleged breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998

Preko

Acted for the former banker of James Ibori <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/09/us-britain-banker-corruption-idUSBRE9B800E20131209>

Operations Weeting, Elvedon & Tuleta

Advised the Metropolitan Police specifically in relation to productions orders

Al-Sanea

Advised in relation to criminal aspects of this substantial civil claim

PS, BJ

Advised two individuals facing separate investigations into carbon trading

Rausing

Represented Hans Kristian Rausing following the death of his wife, Eva, in both the criminal proceedings and inquest <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-19078646>

Ali

Represented a seriously mentally ill patient in relation to complex confiscation proceedings and separate fraud proceedings. Confiscation significantly reduced by the Court of Appeal

Asil Nadir

Advised a partner of BDO Stoy Hayward, a witness in the trial of Asil Nadir

T

Represented a family in relation to a substantial cash seizure and forfeiture proceedings

Westwood & Westwood

Defended two Directors charged with conspiracy to steal. The case was eventually dropped by the prosecution

Uberoi

Defended a dentist charged with insider dealing
<http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2009/149.shtml>

James

Defended the personal interpreter to General Richards, Commander of forces in Afghanistan charged with offences under the Official Secrets Act and Wilful Misconduct in Public Office

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7754981.stm>

Skinner & others

'Jubilee Line fraud' – defended in the longest ever criminal trial in which the defendant was acquitted
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/4373461.stm>

Theobald

Represented the financial director of a company acquitted of a complex £30 million VAT/MTIC fraud

Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis v The Sun

An expert in complex production order applications, this was a successful application on behalf of the police seeking footage relating to Amy Winehouse

Raja & others

Represented the first defendant at trial, an 18 year old school boy convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000. The conviction was subsequently quashed by the Court of Appeal
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/7242724.stm>

Devani

Represented a solicitor charged with perverting the course of justice
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/5106672.stm>

Ocampo

Defended in the largest Columbian importation trial in the UK in which the defendant was acquitted

Whiting

Junior counsel for the prosecution in the abduction and murder of Sarah Payne
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/1701742.stm>

Inquests & public inquiries

Grenfell Tower

Acting for the LFEPA in the Public Inquiry into the deaths following the Grenfell Public Inquiry

London Bridge

Acted for the LFEPA following the deaths from the terrorist incident at London Bridge

Westminster

Acting for the LFEPA following the deaths from the terrorist incident in Westminster

Alexander Litvinenko

Acted for the Metropolitan Police Service in the Public Inquiry into the death of Alexander Litvinenko
<https://www.litvinenkoinquiry.org/>

Lakanal House

Acted for the fire authority in respect of the inquests into the deaths of six people in a tower block fire
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-21964325>

MG

Represented an employer supermarket following the death of an employee at work

MP

Represented the BBC following the death of an individual after a dog attack

Olaseni Lewis

Represented the Metropolitan Police Service in the inquest <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-23943229>

Ashraf Amrani

Represented the Metropolitan Police Service in the inquests of three people: son, father and mother
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-31487347>

Ambrose Ball

Acted for the Metropolitan Police Service in the inquest into the death of a man who went missing for three months

Chevonea Kendall-Bryan

Acted for the Metropolitan Police Service in this inquest into the death of a 13 year old girl
<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/girl-13-slipped-and-fell-to-death-while-begging-boy-to-delete-video-tape-8450573.html>

HH

Represented a hospital following the death of a patient

MG

Represented an employer following the death of an employee

DJ

Represented a care home following the death of a resident

DP

Acted for a sheltered housing provider following the death of a resident

KM

Acted for a care home following the death of a resident

MD

Acted on behalf of a mother in the inquest into the death of her son

Sahar Daftary

Represented the family in this inquest into the death of a young woman <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-18976878>

SM

Acted for the employer of a woman in an inquest where the verdict was suicide

Health & safety, licensing & regulatory

Fire safety:

Grenfell Tower

Acted for the LFEPA in the Public Inquiry into the deaths following the Grenfell tower fire.

New Look Retailers Plc

Prosecuted New Look Retailers for fire safety breaches at its flagship store in Oxford Street, London. First appeal under the RRO and the highest fine in fire safety of £450,000 imposed and upheld by the Court of Appeal <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Crim/2010/1268.html>

Lakanal House

Acting for the fire authority in respect of the criminal investigation into the deaths of six people in a tower block in Southwark

Anchor Trust

Acted for the LFEPA in the prosecution of a care home following a death from smoking.

http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/AC1B4F18D05A4D82B52979C6465BBFE5_Carehomeproviderslatedfordeathofelderlywoman.asp.

man.asp.

Subsequently acted for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in a second prosecution of Anchor Trust following a fatality from smoking in a care home.

EI

Acted for a large corporate in relation to an appeal against a fire safety Enforcement Notice

ESL

Acted for a corporate in relation to an appeal against a fire safety Prohibition Notice

MC

Defended a care home following fire safety allegations

SSL

Defended the owners of a block of flats for fire safety breaches. Case kept in the magistrates' court

HTO

Defended a sheltered housing provider following fire safety allegations

NE

Defended an individual for fire safety breaches. Case kept in the magistrates' court

Adeyemi

Prosecuted landlord imprisoned for serious fire safety breaches discovered after a fire in which two people died

Atomlynn and Douglas & Gordon

Represented the prosecution against a prominent London managing agents and the leaseholder for fire safety breaches. D&G fined £100,000

Tesco Stores Plc

Acted for the prosecution in which the Company was fined £95,000 for fire safety breaches

De Havilland & Fox

Represented the prosecution in relation to multiple breaches of fire safety legislation by the landlord defendants. Each was sentenced to six months imprisonment

Sharma

Defended a hotelier charged with fire safety breaches. The prosecution was eventually dropped just before trial

City Centre Restaurants

Defended Frankie & Benny's in respect of a fire safety prosecution

Health & safety:

TSL

Acted for a large supermarket in relation to a prosecution

Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

Acted for the HSE following the death of a patient at a mental health hospital

Hague Construction Limited

Acted for the HSE in relation to a fatality

Erith Haulage

Acted for the HSE in relation to an incident resulting in serious injuries

GL

Acted for the HSE following the death of an employee at a printing works. Individual sentenced to 15 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years, a fine of £7500 and £45,000 in costs

EMRL

Acted for the HSE in relation to a fatality. Company fined £300,000 with costs of over £70,000
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rnn-ldn-emr-ltd.htm>

MB

Acted for HSE prosecuting a builder charged with dangerous gas fitting to a boiler

GB

Advised an individual regarding a health and safety investigation at a firing range. No enforcement action was taken

SG

Successfully represented a pub company in two separate health and safety cases with prosecutions in both cases not proceeded with

KFC

Represented the company in relation to two health and safety prosecutions

Licensing & Gambling: clients include: Murano, City Cruises, Kensington Roof Gardens/Virgin Limited Edition, Rochelle Canteen, The Department Store, Drop Wine, Madame JoJos, Aspers, Grillshack, Dirty Martini, Bills, Cote, Honest Burgers, Subway, The Bedford, The Gambling Commission

Tax appeals**Option NTC v HMRC**

Represented the company in its appeal to re-claim input tax of over £1.4 million

Our Communications Plc v HMRC

Successfully represented the company in this appeal which recovered over £9.5 million in VAT

Professional discipline**Healthcare:****GDC v S**

Presented a case for the General Dental Council where involving allegations of sexual assault where the dentist was erased from the register

GDC v E

Advised the General Dental Council in relation to allegations of inappropriate claims and standards of care

GDC v M

Advised the General Dental Council in relation to allegations of inappropriate claims, standards of care and record keeping

GDC v F

Presented at a review hearing for the General Dental Council

Sports:**UKA v S**

Presented a case for UK Athletics at both first instance and upon appeal against sanction regarding allegations of inappropriate personal relationships with young female tennis players by a coach

UKA v S

Chair of an Appeals Panel in relation to the grant of a competition permit

LTC v C

Acted as a legal adviser to the Lawn Tennis Association disciplinary panel