

## Saba Naqshbandi



Call: 1996

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Saba Naqshbandi



## Details of practice

Areas of expertise: health and safety and fire safety, inquests and inquiries and commercial crime.

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 Investigations-UK Winner 2019  
Lawyer Monthly Business Crime Defence Lawyer of the Year UK 2018

**"Composed, compelling and tenacious"**

**"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"**

### Health & safety, fire safety 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, inquests and inquiries. Areas of specialisation include:

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

### Inquests and Public Inquiries:

Saba is an expert in high profile, sensitive inquiries.

She is an Assistant Coroner for Inner North London

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 instructed by all participants including:

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

### Commercial crime

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

### 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:

### Health & safety

'Composed, compelling and tenacious' **(The Legal 500)**

"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)**

### 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 impeccable attention to detail, leaving no stone unturned, and is extremely client-friendly' **(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)**

### Crime/Financial Crime/POCA

"Offers sharp strategic insight and has a very calm and reassuring manner. She really whittles down the facts to the key issues". **(Chambers UK)**

"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)**

### **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)

Governor of the Expert Witness Institute (2019- )

## Other information

### Awards

International Crime Lawyer of the Year - Corporate LiveWire Global Awards 2019  
Best Barrister of the Year in Regulatory Compliance & Criminal Law - United Kingdom Global 100 - 2019  
Crime Defence Lawyer of the Year UK, Women in Law, Business, Lawyer Monthly 2019  
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

Featured in the Middle Temple Exhibition Celebrating a Century of Women in Law (2019)

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

### Fire safety

#### R

Acting for a professional football club

#### W

Acting for a prominent school

#### 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](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/AC1B4F18D05A4D82B52979C6465BBFE5_Carehomeproviderslatedfordeathofelderlywoman.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****C**

Advised a chemical factory following a spillage; resolved without prosecution

**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

**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.litvinenko inquiry.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

**Commercial crime****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>

**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