

Nicola Evans

Partner

 Nottingham

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Nicola is an experienced solicitor advocate and partner in our inquest and advisory team. She has over 20 years' experience advising NHS organisations, Trust Boards, senior NHS managers and clinicians on advisory and inquest matters in the health and care sector. She is highly regarded for her legal expertise, which is grounded in a deep-rooted understanding of the health sector drawn from lived experience of working within the NHS.

Nicola has previously worked at senior leadership level within the NHS for over a decade as Associate Director of Legal Services at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust. In that role, Nicola was the key advisor to the Trust Board, led the large in-house team and was responsible for delivery of legal services across all five Trust sites. This experience means Nicola has a genuine insight into what NHS clients need from their lawyers and clients value her pragmatic, client-focused approach.

Nicola has a national reputation and acts for a wide range of NHS organisations and NHS Resolution, advising on coronial and health law. She has particular expertise in representing NHS organisations and clinicians at coroners' inquests and regularly represents NHS trusts at complex coroners' inquest hearings, conducting advocacy in different jurisdictions across the country. She is trusted by clients to provide user-friendly, straightforward advice and skilled representation in court, supporting witnesses and organisations throughout the inquest process, considering reputational impact and prevention of future death strategy.

In addition, Nicola regularly provides training to NHS clients covering a wide range of medico-legal subjects and is one of the key speakers on our popular Mock Inquest training course, a virtual training course for NHS Professionals who need to understand the inquest process.

Finally, Nicola is one of the leads on our [Shared Insights forum](#) for NHS professionals. Launched at the beginning of the pandemic as a way to connect our health and social care sector and provide support at a time of unprecedented challenge for the health service, the programme has evolved into a unique forum which brings those organisations together to discuss shared challenges and share best practice.

Expertise

Sectors

Commissioner and integrated
care systems

Health and life sciences

NHS acute trusts

NHS mental and community
health trusts

Featured experience

Child death inquest

Representing the acute Trust at the inquest into the death of a child following complex heart surgery. Supporting the clinicians and advising on Duty of Candour and prevention of future death strategy.

Employee suicide inquest

Representing an acute Trust at the inquest into the death of a theatre practitioner from an overdose of drugs obtained at work.

Maternal death inquest

Representing two acute Trusts and the ambulance service at a complex six-day inquest into the sudden, tragic death of a young woman (P) in the end stages of pregnancy. P suffered an unexpected cardiac arrest at home and the baby was delivered by resuscitative hysterotomy at the scene.

Neonatal death inquest

Representing the acute Trust at a five-day inquest into the death of a baby born at a midwife-led birthing centre. Supporting the midwives through the inquest process and advising on prevention of future death strategy with particular regard to the Ockenden recommendations.

Testimonials

Clients

"I would like to feedback to you how professional, helpful and supportive Nicola Evans has been to me with regard to the maternal death inquest she is currently involved in and that I was a witness for. ... The perfect balance of technical/ professional competence with sensitivity."

Consultant Obstetrician,

"(Nicola Evans) was really excellent at coordinating and leading what was a large amount of internal investigating and prep work with the various witnesses. She was also very supportive of the staff and the work we had done with her leading up to the inquest. It went as well as we could have expected, given there had clearly been significant issues in the care."

Consultant Physician and Rheumatologist ,