

Bhatt Murphy Solicitors

27 Hoxton Square
London N1 6NN

Phone 020 7729 1115

Fax 020 7729 1117

www.bhattmurphy.co.uk

DX 36626 Finsbury

Press Release

1 November 2006

FRESH INQUEST ORDERED INTO THE DEATH OF HH JUDGE ANDREW CHUBB

Another step forward in Kerry Sparrow's struggle for justice

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Phillips, has ordered today that a fresh inquest should take place into the mysterious death of HH Judge Andrew Chubb in July 2001.

The decision comes upon a hearing of proceedings brought by Kerry Sparrow in the High Court with the authority of the Attorney General. Quashing the verdict of accidental death returned by the East Somerset Coroner in December 2001, Lord Phillips ruled that *"it would be contrary to the interests of justice to leave undisturbed, in a case which has been the subject of wide public interest, a verdict which is based on only part of the relevant evidence and which the balance of the relevant evidence suggests may be open to doubt"*.

Mr Chubb died in a fire in the garden shed of his matrimonial home, within two hours of informing his wife Jennifer Chubb that he intended to seek a divorce in order to make a new life with Ms Sparrow with whom he had been involved in an intimate relationship over the previous two years.

For Ms Sparrow, the order by Lord Phillips for a fresh inquest represents a full vindication of her efforts over the last five years to achieve a full and thorough scrutiny of the circumstances of the death. She said:

"I am absolutely over the moon for Andrew's sake. This has been a long journey, but I remain determined to do whatever is necessary to achieve a full and proper inquiry into the circumstances of his death, and I look forward now to the fresh inquest to that end. I hope that it will allow all the evidence to come to light so that, at last, I may know precisely what happened to Andrew, and move on from this state of limbo in which I have been living all these years. I thank my family and friends as well as Andrew's brother and sister who have supported me through very difficult times. And I hope that my long and difficult battle will encourage others who find themselves aggrieved by the system to challenge it as and when necessary."

Ms Sparrow was represented by Raju Bhatt of Bhatt Murphy, first in her application to the Attorney General for his authority, and then in her ensuing proceedings before the High Court.

For further information, please contact:

Raju Bhatt on 020 7729 1115 or r.bhatt@bhattmurphy.co.uk