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## **Leigh Day win Attorney-General's backing for new inquest into Jeremiah Duggan's suspicious death**

The Attorney-General, Baroness Scotland, has granted her support (or *fiat*) for a new inquest to be held on the suspicious death of Jeremiah Duggan. This groundbreaking development allows Erica Duggan (Jeremiah's mother) to make an application to the High Court for a fresh inquest and move one step closer toward obtaining a just and proper public investigation into her son's tragic and suspicious death.

Jeremiah died in Germany in March 2003, after becoming involved in an organisation known for its anti-Semitic views. Shortly before his death, Jeremiah (who was Jewish) had phoned his family and told them he was scared for his life. His body was subsequently found on the autobahn. The German authorities closed the case early by concluding that he had committed suicide by running into the path oncoming cars. In 2003 the British Inquest ruled out suicide and concluded Jeremiah died in a state of terror without investigating the source of the terror. Since then, however, fresh forensic and witness evidence has emerged suggesting Jeremiah may have lost his life elsewhere and that his body had been disposed of on the road to indicate suicide.

In 2007 Frances Swaine, partner and head of the human rights department at Leigh Day & Co, submitted an application to Attorney-General for a new inquest to be held on the basis of this fresh evidence. In issuing her *fiat* this week, the Attorney-General said:

*"I am of the view on reconsidering your application that there is an unanswered question from the inquest into Jeremiah's death as to*

*whether the fatal injuries he suffered are in fact attributable to a car accident.”*

Both Frances Swaine and Erica Duggan are very pleased to have obtained the Attorney-General’s *fiat*, which is rare in cases of death outside the UK. The next step is to prove to the High Court that evidence not previously available to the Coroner, and the full circumstances of Jeremiah’s tragic death, should be properly and fully considered in a fresh inquest.

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For further information please contact:

Frances Swaine, Partner, Leigh Day & Co:  
020 7650 1200, [fswaine@leighday.co.uk](mailto:fswaine@leighday.co.uk)

Sharon Steward, Press Office, Leigh Day & Co:  
020 7650 1319, [ssteward@leighday.co.uk](mailto:ssteward@leighday.co.uk)

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