



Kate Grange KC

Year of call: 1998 | Silk: 2017

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"She is hugely impressive, able to comprehend enormous amount of technical detail and her cross-examination style is effective, thorough and forensic."

Chambers and Partners 2022

Kate has a broad practice which combines both public and commercial law. She is one of the lead counsel on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and has taken a principal role in all construction and technical aspects of the inquiry's work. She is a former member of the Attorney General's A-Panel of Counsel and appears on behalf of central government in high-profile public law proceedings with particular emphasis on national security, human rights, terrorism, prisons and immigration law. Her practice also includes substantial and complex litigation, arbitrations or mediations arising out of large-scale commercial, construction and engineering, insurance and professional negligence disputes. The nature of her practice means that she has particular experience of advising on the interface between public and commercial law issues.

Areas of expertise

Construction

Commercial

Administrative and Public Law

Damages Claims Against Public Authorities

Inquiries and Investigations

Construction

"Balanced, sensible and extremely capable opponent, with a strong sense of fairness." The Legal 500 2022

Kate has been involved in a number of substantial and complex cases and the majority of her practice in this area has arisen out of large construction and engineering, commercial, insurance and professional negligence disputes. She is best known for her role in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry where her performance in questioning witnesses has attracted considerable praise from commentators and from the victims of the fire. She has examined key witnesses including the lead architect and fire engineer, key personnel from the cladding contractor, witnesses for the cladding manufacturers and regulators.

Cases of note

- Advising on a series of PFI disputes relating to the construction and management of residential/vulnerable adult homes in the Greater Manchester area.
- Advising and acting on behalf of a local authority in Technology and Construction Court (TCC) proceedings in relation to various multi-million pound construction disputes under private finance initiative (PFI) contracts relating to the Building Schools for the Future Programme.
- Advising PFI Contractor on major building safety dispute relating to high-rise buildings in Manchester including external/cladding defects and internal fire safety defects.
- A multi-million pound TCC action involving defects in an academy school, including defective roof overhangs.
- A multi-million pound dispute involving cladding/curtain walling.
- A multi-million pound asbestos pollution case involving complex issues of causation.
- Two substantial arbitrations regarding open-cast mining operations in the South Wales coalfields.
- ***Skanska Construction UK Ltd v Egger (Barony) Ltd [2005] EWCA Civ 501***
- A successful appeal to the Court of Appeal on the proper construction of an insurance clause in a design and build contract.

Recommendations

"Kate is just excellent in everything she does." The Legal 500 2021

"She carries out an extremely thorough, effective and forensic examination of key witnesses in a calm and unflappable way." The Legal 500 2021

"Balanced, sensible and extremely capable opponent, with a strong sense of fairness." The Legal 500 2021

"She shows an excellent and in-depth understanding of the technical issues." Chambers and Partners 2021

"She's a totally reliable and amazingly supportive person to work with and is immensely popular with the judges." "She's very clever, and has a common-sense grounding and approach to cases and works very hard at them." "An extremely sensible and pragmatic lawyer with a good balance in terms of knowing how far to push things." Chambers and Partners 2020

"She shows an excellent and in-depth understanding of the technical issues." Chambers and Partners 2020

"A superb team player, she maintains her cool even under the most intense pressure." The Legal 500 2019

"Incredibly lucid, with an unerring ability to identify and distill the key points." The Legal 500 2019

Memberships

- Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Commercial Law Bar Association (COMBAR)

Qualifications

Education

Queens' College, Cambridge LLB: 1994-1997

Scholarships and Prizes

Diplock Scholar Middle Temple

Additional information

Kate was nominated for Barrister of the Year in 2022 by The Lawyer magazine.

She acts as a maternity mentor for a number of women at the Bar and she is also Chair of Governors of a North London state primary school.

Appointments

- Attorney General's A-panel (2012)
- Silk (2017)
- Deputy High Court Judge (2019)

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