



Ruth Keating

Year of call: 2017

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Ruth Keating has a broad practice across all areas of chambers' specialisms, with a particular interest in energy and construction disputes, commercial, environmental and public law.

She has acted as junior counsel in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court and appears regularly as sole counsel in the High Court and County Court. In addition, she undertakes pleading and advisory work.

Ruth was a judicial assistant to Lady Arden and Lord Kitchin at the Supreme Court. During this time, she assisted on cases of the United Kingdom Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Before coming to the Bar, Ruth was a research assistant at the Law Commission of England and Wales. Prior to her time at the Law Commission, she was an associate at Ci, a company which organises global technology conferences.

Ruth has been called to the Bar of England and Wales (2017) and the Bar of Ireland (2019).

Areas of expertise

Environment

Construction, Energy and Natural Resources

Administrative and Public

Commercial

Construction, Energy and Natural Resources

Ruth has worked on a wide variety of different of disputes, both litigation and arbitration – acting as both sole counsel and junior counsel in a larger team. She regularly acts in adjudication and adjudication enforcement proceedings, drafts pleadings, provides advice and appears at both interim applications and trials.

She provides regular training on relevant topics in these areas and is a contributing editor to the current edition of Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts (4th edition, 2021).

Cases of note

Recent experience includes:

- Acting as junior counsel in respect of an ongoing dispute concerning a large football stadium. Ruth's

work on this case involves both adjudication and preparation for litigation.

- Approved counsel for CERN to provide contract drafting and dispute resolution advice in respect of the building and infrastructure works at the CERN site in Switzerland and France, in particular in relation to FIDIC-based contracts.
- ***The Rugby Football Union v FM Conway Limited [2023] EWCA Civ 418*** – junior counsel at first instance and on appeal. Issues included the scope of the co-insurance defence under an “all risks” project policy, the means by which identified and unidentified parties participate in a project policy and a contractor’s insurable interest in the project property after the completion of its works. (Led by Karim Ghaly KC and Alexandra Bodnar.)
- Instructed as junior counsel by a core participant in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.
- Acting as junior counsel in an ongoing £60m defects and subsidence dispute.
- Acted as junior counsel in an arbitration concerning a nuclear power plant in a delay and defects claim.
- Advised on a claim and drafted pleadings in a claim against a contractor and geotechnical engineer for breach of contract and negligence. The claim also involved the scope of a public liability insurance policy, involving issues of double insurance.

Ruth regularly records a podcast with Camilla ter Haar on the construction industry and climate change issues. They are joined by industry guests to discuss the big topics facing the sector in reaching net zero.

Qualifications

- Called to the Bar of Ireland, King’s Inn (2019)
- Called to the Bar of England and Wales (2017)
- LLB, Trinity College Dublin (2014) (First Class)

Prizes

- Megarry Scholarship – Lincoln’s Inn
- Advocacy Scholar – BPTC, University of Law
- Lord Denning Scholarship and Residential Scholarship – Lincoln’s Inn
- Hardwicke Entrance Award – Lincoln’s Inn
- Entrance Exhibitioner Award – Trinity College Dublin
- At university, Ruth was a keen debater on both a national and international level winning the Best Speaker Gold Medal and captained the winning teams against Harvard and Yale in the Student Economic Review debates. During her time at Lincoln’s Inn she was the Debating Secretary for the Inn.

Additional Information

- Ruth is an editor of the Sweet & Maxwell Environmental Law Bulletins.
- Ruth has co-authored, with Nigel Pleming KC, the chapter on Climate Change Litigation in the UK in ‘Climate Change Litigation: Global Perspectives’ (edited by Ivano Alogna, Christine Bakker and Jean-Pierre Gauci) and to the current edition of Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts (4th edition, May 2021).
- While a Judicial Assistant Ruth worked on the Supreme Court’s publication ‘Public International Law in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom’ (London Conference on International Law, October

2019) (co-authored with Lord Lloyd-Jones, Lady Arden and Courtney Grafton).

- She has also been a contributing author to several international journals and online sources including the BCDR International Arbitration Review, Judicial Review, the Trinity College Law Review and the King's Inns Law Review, Oxford Business Law Blog, the Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers Bulletin and the UK Constitutional Law Blog.

Previous Employment

- Judicial assistant to Lady Arden and Lord Kitchin at the UK Supreme Court.
- Research assistant at the Law Commission of England and Wales – commercial and common law team.
- Associate at Ci – Web Summit, Collision, RISE, SURGE, MoneyConf and f.ounders.

Pro bono

Ruth is happy to consider pro bono instructions.

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