



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

Environment

Ruth is an editor of the Environmental Law Bulletin (published by Sweet & Maxwell) and has co-authored, with Nigel Fleming KC, the chapter on Climate Change Litigation in the UK in 'Climate Change Litigation: Global Perspectives' (published in 2021).

Ruth is a member of the Environmental Law Foundation, through which she provides pro bono assistance. She has been invited to speak on environmental law issues including by Bristol University, the UK Association of Environmental law and the Joint Planning Law Conference. She is a committee member of ESG and Sustainability Group for the Society for Computers and Law.

Ruth is also a member of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law's International Expert Group created to produce a 'Global Toolbox on Corporate Climate Litigation'.

Cases of note

Her experience includes:

- Junior Counsel representing the OEP in the Supreme Court in *R (on the application of Finch on behalf of the Weald Action Group) (Appellant) v Surrey County Council and others (Respondents)* – an appeal concerning the environmental impact assessment of Scope 3 emissions, i.e. greenhouse gas emissions from the use of fossil fuels extracted as the result of a project. (Led by Stephen Tromans KC.)
- Junior counsel in *R (on the application of Samuel Smith Old Brewery (Tadcaster) and others) (Respondents) v North Yorkshire County Council (Appellant)* [2020] UKSC 3 – an appeal concerning the meaning of preserving “the openness of the Green Belt” in the context of mineral extraction. (Led by Peter Village KC, James Strachan KC and Ned Helme.)
- Junior counsel in a judicial review challenging the grant of planning permission to two intensive meat poultry buildings – grounds included a failure to: assess the likely significant effects of ammonia emissions; the impacts of manure spreading and the impacts of the proposed development in terms of its contribution to climate change.
- Advises large organisations on the impact of draft legislation including the draft provisions of the Environment Bill (as it then was) and the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill.
- Carried out a large scale review of the effectiveness of the environmental assessment regimes – EIA, SEA and HRA.
- Acting as junior counsel in a judicial review regarding the Oil & Gas Authority’s strategy, concerning new net zero obligations.
- Assisting as junior counsel in a judicial review challenge to the development of a third runway at Heathrow airport.
- Sole counsel in a trial concerning the destruction of property under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.
- While at the Supreme Court as a Judicial Assistant Ruth assisted with several cases relating to environmental law. Those cases included: *R (on the application of Lancashire County Council)*; *R (on the application of NHS Property Services Ltd)* [2019] UKSC 58; *R (on the application of Newby Foods Ltd) v Food Standards Agency* [2019] UKSC 18 and *London Borough of Lambeth v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and others* [2019] UKSC 33.

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

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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