

## Ruth Kennedy

Ruth specialises in all areas of commercial, employment, human rights, international, public and sports law.

She is recognised in the legal directories as a leading junior across her areas of practice: in Chambers & Partners for civil liberties and human rights; commercial dispute resolution; employment and sport and in Legal 500 for administrative law and human rights; employment; and public inquiries. She has been described as *“absolutely fantastic”*, *“a superb advocate”*, *“a real rising star”*, *“a brilliant barrister”*, *“brilliant in everything she does”*, *“exceptionally hard-working”*, *“a pleasure to work with”* and having *“superstar quality.”*

A member of both the Attorney General’s London B panel and specialist Public International C panel, Ruth has acted and appeared in various domestic courts and tribunals up to and including the Supreme Court, as well as international courts including the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice. She has experience of acting in arbitrations under the LCIA, ICC and UNCITRAL rules and under specialist sports arbitrations.



### Professional Summary

Called 2015

### Contact Details

[Ruth.Kennedy@11kbw.com](mailto:Ruth.Kennedy@11kbw.com)

+44 (0)20 7632 8500

**Clerk** Lee Cutler

**Clerk** Tori Eastwick

**Clerk** Harry Farrow

[Contact Clerks](#)

## Specialisms

### Commercial

Ruth is recognised as a leading junior in commercial dispute resolution in Chambers & Partners: *“The quality of her output and her ability to work to demanding deadlines both seriously impress.”*

Ruth has substantial experience acting both led and unled in the Commercial Court and in arbitrations under the LCIA, ICC and UNCITRAL rules. She has particular expertise in cases involving private international law issues and those that involve state actors.

She has previously acted for clients in the financial services, former professional footballers, insurance companies, entrepreneurs and governments.

Recent and current cases include:

- **Walsh v Stellantis Europe and Suzuki Motor Corporation** – Acting for a leading car manufacturer in group litigation arising out of “Dieselgate” (2021 – present)
- **Former CEO/Team Principal v Leading F1 Team**: Acted for a leading F1 team defending claims brought by former CEO and team principal in the High Court for constructive dismissal and shares (2023 – 2024)
- **Guy Carpenter v Howden** – Acted for Guy Carpenter in High Court team move litigation against Howden and certain of its former employees (2023)
- Acting in a commercial insurance dispute arising from the Grenfell Tower tragedy (2021 – present)
- **M v N** – acted for the Claimant in an arbitration under the UNCITRAL rules concerning an EU law and contractual claim for over £3million (2021)
- **X v Y** – acting for the Respondent insurers in an ad hoc arbitration defending a claim in excess of £100million for alleged business interruption losses caused by COVID-19 (2021 – present)
- **A v B** – acted as sole counsel for the Respondent in an ICC arbitration advanced on the basis of the Commercial Agency Regulations (2021 – 2022)
- **P v Q** [2020] EWHC 1688 (Comm) – acted in s. 68 proceedings (challenge for procedural irregularity) in relation to an LCIA Arbitration concerning sale and supply of organic produce from

Eastern Europe

- Acted as sole counsel for an individual claimant in a high value claim for interest again a multinational investment bank (2019)
- **Re X Insurance** – advising on the consequences of the insolvency of a foreign motor insurer in a claim worth circa £50 million (2018 – 2019)
- **Aquinas v Miller and others** [2018] EWHC 404 (QB) – acted as sole counsel for the First and Second Defendants resisting an application for a springboard injunction in the High Court

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## Employment

She is recognised as a leading junior in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500. She has been described as a *“superb advocate and a future star of the Employment Bar.”*

Ruth is an experienced employment practitioner who regularly appears in the Employment Tribunal, High Court and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. She has particular experience of acting in applications for injunctive relief including springboard injunctions and acting in “team move” litigation.

Recent and current cases include:

- **Former CEO/Team Principal v Leading F1 Team:** Acted for a leading F1 team defending claims brought former CEO and team principal in the High Court for constructive dismissal and shares (2023 – 2024)
- **Guy Carpenter v Howden** – Acted for Guy Carpenter in High Court team move litigation against Howden and certain of its former employees (2023)
- **Wathan v Welsh Rugby Union** – Acted for the Welsh Rugby Union defending allegations of sex discrimination from its former head of Women’s Rugby (2022 – 2023)
- **X v Reverend Martyn Percy and Christ Church College** – acted for the Claimant bringing allegations of sexual harassment against the former Dean of Christ Church College, Oxford University (2021 – 2022)
- **Republic of Denmark v AC** – acted for the Republic of Denmark defending claims of unfair dismissal (2021)
- Acted for an internationally renowned firm specialising in the production of rankings for the legal industry defending disability discrimination and constructive unfair dismissal claims made by a former manager (2019 – 2020)
- **X v SSAFA** – represented an international military charity in successfully defending an unusual claim for constructive unfair dismissal arising out of a child protection investigation in Cyprus (2018)
- **Aquinas v Miller and others** [2018] EWHC 404 (QB) – sole counsel for the first and second defendants resisting an application for a springboard injunction

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## Public Law and Human Rights

Ruth is recognized as a leading junior in Administrative Law and Human Rights in the Legal 500 and in Chambers & Partners for Civil Liberties and Human Rights. She has been described as *“fiercely intelligent and articulate – a master in her field.”*

Ruth acts in judicial review and human rights claims and public inquiries. She is currently junior counsel to the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry.

Recent and current cases include:

- **Central European University v Hungary** – acting for the applicant university in its ECHR claim against the Hungarian Government on account of it having to cease its operations in Budapest (2023 – present)
- **R (Friends of the Earth) v UK Expert Finance** – acted for the Center for International Environment Law in its application to intervene in the Court of Appeal, making written submissions on the proper interpretation of the Paris Agreement (2022)
- **R (All the Citizens) v Minister for the Cabinet Office and others** and **R (Good Law Project) v The Prime Minister and others** – acted for the Defendant government departments in these joined judicial reviews of the use of private communications systems, including WhatsApp, for government business ([2022] EWCA Civ 1580)

- **Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry** – counsel to the Inquiry (2021 – present)
- **BA v Derby City Council** – acted for the intervening Secretary of State for Education in this case concerning Deprivation of Liberty orders made in respect of children ([2021] EWCA Civ 1867)
- **R (Salvato) v DWP** – appeared in the Court of Appeal for the Department of Work and Pensions on question of whether payment of the childcare element of universal credit is discriminatory under the ECHR and/or irrational ([2021] EWCA Civ 1482)
- **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse** – counsel to the Inquiry for the Lambeth strand
- **Lungowe v Vedanta** [2019] UKSC 20 – acted as part of the counsel team for the Claimants in this Supreme Court case relating to alleged human rights and environmental abuses in a mine in Zambia.
- **Kimathi v Foreign and Commonwealth Office** – instructed by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office to assist with the Kenyan Emergency Group Litigation, a case involving over 40,000 claimants alleging abuse arising out of the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya during the 1950s
- **Darnley v Croydon NHS Health Trust** [2018] UKSC 50 – acted for the defendant NHS trust in the Supreme Court on the scope of the duty of care owed by receptionists in A&E

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## Private International

Ruth has built a strong practice in conflicts of law disputes and is frequently instructed in complex disputes regarding jurisdiction or applicable law. She has particular expertise in cases where there is an overlap with public international law issues. She is a member of the Attorney General's Public International C panel of Counsel.

Current and recent cases include:

- **Walsh v Stellantis Europe and Suzuki Motor Corporation** – acted for the Defendant challenging the claimants' ability to serve a deceit claim out of the jurisdiction (2023)
- **Guy Carpenter v Howden** – acted for the Claimant in a complex conspiracy claim involving issues of applicable law (2023)
- **Clarke v Generali** (2020) – acted as sole counsel for the Defendant insurer in a High Court dispute arising out of a serious motorcycling accident in France (2020)
- **Lungowe v Vedanta Resources plc** [2019] UKSC 20 – acted as part of the counsel team for the Claimants in this important Supreme Court case concerning issues of jurisdiction arising out of a mine in Zambia.
- **Re X Insurance** – advising on the consequences of the insolvency of a foreign motor insurer in a claim worth circa £50 million (2018 – 2021)
- **A v Ministry of Defence** (2018 – 2021) – acted as sole counsel for the Claimant in a claim against the Ministry of Defence for stress at work at an international military base

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## Public International Law

Ruth has expertise in inter-state dispute and domestic disputes involving state actors, particularly cases involving human rights issues.

She is a member of the Attorney General's specialist Public International panel of Counsel. She also advises states in non-contentious settings.

Recent cases:

- **Central European University v Hungary** – acting for the applicant university in its ECHR claim against the Hungarian Government on account of it having to cease its operations in Budapest (2023 – present)
- **R (Friends of the Earth) v UK Expert Finance** – acted for the Center for International Environment Law in its application to intervene in the Court of Appeal, making written submissions on the proper interpretation of the Paris Agreement (2022)
- Advising states confidentially on questions of sovereignty over territories
- **Mauritius v United Kingdom** arbitration concerning the application of the Law of the Sea to the Marine Protected Area surrounding the Chagos Islands.
- **Croatia v Serbia**, a case where both sides were alleging genocide under the Genocide Convention

1948 before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

- **Kenya Emergency Group Litigation**, acting for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in a case involving over 40,000 claimants alleging abuse arising out of the Mau Mau uprising

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## Civil Fraud

Ruth is instructed in respect of all aspects of commercial fraud, including freezing and search orders and other without notice applications. From May to July 2019 Ruth was seconded to the Civil Fraud team at Peters & Peters Solicitors LLP. During this time she assisted with complex commercial fraud disputes.

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## Sport

Ruth is recognised as a leading junior in sport in Chambers & Partners, which describes her as “*absolutely fantastic*”, “*absolutely excellent*” and “*a pleasure to work with*”.

Ruth has extensive experience of acting for sports regulatory bodies, clubs, players and associations across the range of forums including arbitrations, tribunals, disciplinary proceedings and Court of Arbitration for Sport (“the **CAS**”). She has particular expertise in claims relating to football, rugby and athletics.

Recent and current instructions include:

- **Imali v World Athletics** – acting for World Athletics in a challenge to its regulations relating to who can compete in women’s competitions before the CAS (2023 – present)
- **Premier League v A Club** – acting for a Club in ongoing disciplinary proceedings (2023 – present)
- **Former CEO/Team Principal v Leading F1 Team**: Acted for a leading F1 team defending claims brought former CEO and team principal in the High Court for constructive dismissal and shares (2023 – 2024)
- **The English Football League v Cardiff City FC**: Acted for the English Football League defending arbitral proceedings brought by Cardiff City Football Club against a 3 window fee restriction after its failure to pay an instalment of the transfer fee of Emiliano Sala on time (2023)
- **Wathan v Welsh Rugby Union**: Acted for the Welsh Rugby Union defending claims of sex discrimination brought by the former Head of Women’s Rugby (2022 – 2023).

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## Recommendations

“*Ruth is absolutely fantastic – she’s very responsive and understands the commercial background of cases very well.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*She is absolutely excellent.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*Ruth is a pleasure to work with and she works seamlessly and tirelessly alongside us.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*Ruth is very personable and highly responsive, and produces work efficiently and to a high standard.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*The quality of her output and her ability to work to demanding deadlines both seriously impress.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*Ruth gives very clear advice and is exceptionally user-friendly. She also has sound tactical judgement and is highly commercial in her approach.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*Ruth is a brilliant barrister.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

“*Ruth is brilliant at taking responsibility for the case; she has real self-confidence and great judgement.*” **Chambers UK 2025**

*"Ruth is very strong on human rights law. A very insightful analyst and a very clear, concise and effective communicator"* **Legal 500 2025**

*"A fantastic advocate. She's pragmatic, commercial, clients love her and she can be depended upon to deliver work of the highest calibre"* **Legal 500 2025**

*"Ruth's advocacy is poised, polished and when needed, extremely punchy"* **Legal 500 2025**

*"Ruth is extremely good with clients, putting them at ease and explaining concepts and the process in a way they understand. A real go-to junior barrister."*

*"Ruth is a safe pair of hands. She is incredibly client-friendly and commercial."*

*"She is a superb operator, being technically excellent but also hard-working and hyper commercial and practical."*

*"She is incredibly bright and is easy to work with as she is able to forge a warm and engaging relationship."* **Chambers UK 2024**

*"Ruth is a junior to watch. She is incredibly calm under pressure, a fantastic advocate and has exceptional client care skills. She has superstar quality."*

*"Ruth is fiercely intelligent and articulate – a master in her field."*

*"Her advocacy style is measured and confident, and her witness handling skills are both sensitive and highly effective."* **Legal 500 2024**

*"A superb advocate and a rising star of the Employment Bar." "She is good with clients and has great technical skills."*

*"Ruth provides consistently excellent technical and commercial advice. Her drafting and advocacy are very impressive and she provides excellent strategic guidance."* **Chambers UK 2023**

*"Ruth is excellent – she is commercial and practical in her approach and her advocacy is concise and considered. Ruth also has exceptional client-care skills and very much works as a team with instructing solicitors to deliver for the ultimate client."*

*"Ruth is a diligent and exceptionally hard-working junior barrister with a formidable work ethic and attention to detail. She is a real rising star in the field of administrative law."*

*"Ruth is a highly intelligent, all-round impressive lawyer, who works well on her own or as part of a large team. Ruth is a clear and persuasive advocate."* **Legal 500 2023**

*"She is good at cross-examination and client management, and her presentation of a respondent's case to the client is respectful of their experiences."* **Chambers UK 2022**

*"An up and coming star. Brilliant in everything she does, and so user friendly."*

*"Ruth is very commercial and cuts through to the key issues for clients. Ruth is also incredibly personable."* **Legal 500 2022**

*"She's a pleasure to work with: insightful and extremely responsive." "She is very calm, personable and thorough."* **Chambers UK 2021**

*"A cerebral and hard-working junior with extensive expertise in issues of public and private international law."* **Legal 500 2021**

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## Appointments

Attorney General's London B panel

Public International Law C panel

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## News, Articles and Publications

*Conveyancing fraudsters – who picks up the bill after P&P & Dreamvar?* Journal of Professional Negligence, December 2018

*Pure omissions and public authorities*, Personal Injury Law Journal, May 2018

*Unlawful fees & Out of time claims*, New Law Journal, September 2017

*Clarity provided for insurers aggregating claims*, Insurance Day, August 2017

*The Scope and Effect of Purdah*, Judicial Review, December 2017

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## Education, Scholarships and Awards

BA (Hons) Pembroke College, Oxford University

LLM (Distinction) University College London

Lord Justice Holker Award (Gray's Inn) Residential Scholarship (Gray's Inn)

Lee Essay Prize (second place, Gray's Inn) Advocacy Scholarship (University of Law) Monk Prize (Pembroke College)

Hogan Lovells Prize for Law (Pembroke College)

South Eastern Circuit Florida Bar Civil Advocacy Course

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## Memberships

COMBAR

Industrial Law Society

LawInSport

ELA

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## Additional Information

For the legal year 2016-2017 Ruth was Judicial Assistant to Sir Terence Etherton, Master of the Rolls. Prior to becoming a barrister, Ruth was a Research Assistant to Professor Philippe Sands KC working on public international law, ICSID Arbitrations and Court of Arbitration for Sport cases. She also previously worked as a Research Associate at UCL's Judicial Institute and a Teaching Fellow in public law at UCL.

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### ADDRESS

11KBW  
11 King's Bench Walk  
Temple  
London  
EC4Y 7EQ

### CONTACT US

T +44 (0)20 7632 8500

### OUT OF HOURS CLERK

T +44 (0)7824 365 991

### EMAIL

clerksroom@11kbw.com