

Ruth Kennedy

Call: 2015 England & Wales Call: 2025 BVI

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

She acts in the most high-profile and complex cases. She is consistently recognised in the legal directories as a leading junior across her areas of practice: in administrative law, civil liberties and human rights; commercial dispute resolution; employment, public inquiries and sport.

She has been described as *"a real star of the future and a star of the junior bar already", "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 B 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 DIFC, 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.



A star of the junior bar.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Ruth is recognised as a leading junior in commercial dispute resolution in the Global Chambers & Partners and UK Chambers & Partners guides.

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.



***Ruth Kennedy
produces excellent
work and is always
positive in her
approach.***

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

C v D

(2025)

acted for the Defendant in anti-anti suit proceedings before the Commercial Court

Former CEO/Team Principal v Leading F1 Team*

(2023 – 2024)

acted for a leading F1 team defending claims brought by former CEO and team principal in the High Court for constructive dismissal and shares

M v N

(2021)

acted for the Claimant in an arbitration under the UNCITRAL rules concerning an EU law and contractual claim for over £3million

Pan NOx litigation – Walsh v Stellantis Europe and Suzuki Motor Corporation

(2021 – 2025)

acted for a leading car manufacturer in group litigation arising out of "Dieselgate"

Guy Carpenter v Howden

(2023)

acted for Guy Carpenter in High Court team move litigation against Howden and certain of its former employees

X v Y

(2021 – 2023)

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

A v B

(2021 – 2022)

acted as sole counsel for the Respondent in an ICC arbitration advanced on the basis of the Commercial Agency Regulations

Re X Insurance

(2018 – 2019)

advising on the consequences of the insolvency of a foreign motor insurer in a claim worth circa £50 million

P v Q

[2020] EWHC 1688 (COMM)

Acted in 68 proceedings (challenge for procedural irregularity) in relation to an LCIA Arbitration concerning sale and supply of organic produce from Eastern Europe

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

Employment

She is recognised as a leading junior in Chambers & Partners, Legal 500 and Doyle's Guide.

Ruth is an experienced employment practitioner who regularly appears in the Employment Tribunal, High Court, the Employment Appeal Tribunal and in arbitrations under the LCIA, ICC and UNCITRAL rules. She has particular experience of acting in applications for injunctive relief including springboard injunctions and acting in "team move" litigation.



Excellent with clients

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

C v D

(2025)

acted for the Defendant in anti-anti suit proceedings before the Commercial Court

Former CEO/Team Principal v Leading F1 Team

(2023)

Acting for a Formula 1 team resisting High Court claims in relation to constructive dismissal and shares brought by former CEO

Guy Carpenter v Howden

(2023)

acted for Guy Carpenter in High Court team move litigation against Howden and certain of its former employees

Wathan v Welsh Rugby Union

(2022 – 2023)

acted for the Welsh Rugby Union defending allegations of sex discrimination from its former head of Women's Rugby

Aquinas v Miller and others

[2018] EWHC 404 (QB)

sole counsel for the first and second defendants resisting an application for a springboard injunction

Hughes v Virgin Active

[2023] EAT 130

acted for the successful appellant overturning findings of race discrimination

X v Reverend Martyn Percy and Christ Church College

(2021 – 2022)

acted for the Claimant bringing allegations of sexual harassment against the former Dean of Christ Church College, Oxford University

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. At the domestic level, she has particular expertise in claims arising under the Online Safety Act. She often acts in cases before international courts and tribunals, including the European Court of Human Rights, and is called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands.



A star of the junior bar.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

R (Wikipedia) v Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology

[2025] EWHC 2086

acted for the successful SoS in a challenge brought to categorization regulations made under the Online Safety Act alleging they were irrational or infringed ECHR rights

Central European University New York v Hungary

(2023 – PRESENT)

acting for the applicant university in its ECHR claim against the Hungarian Government on account of it having to cease its operations in Budapest

R (Friends of the Earth) v UK Expert Finance

(2022)

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

Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

(2021 – PRESENT)

counsel to the Inquiry

R (Salvato) v DWP

([2021] EWCA CIV 1482)

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

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

R (All the Citizens) v Minister for the Cabinet Office and others and R (Good Law Project) v The Prime Minister and others

[2022] EWCA CIV 1580

acted for the Defendant government departments in these joined judicial reviews of the use of private communications systems, including WhatsApp, for government business

BA v Derby City Council

([2021] EWCA CIV 1867)

acted for the intervening Secretary of State for Education in this case concerning Deprivation of Liberty orders made in respect of children

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

counsel to the Inquiry for the Lambeth strand

Kimathi and others v Foreign and Commonwealth Office

In which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office successfully defended an application for permission to appeal a final judgment in the first of 25 test cases arising from the acts of the British colonial administration in Kenya during a State of Emergency declared in 1952 to deal with the Mau Mau uprising.

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

Private International Law

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 or allegations of fraud. She is a member of the Attorney General's Public International B panel of Counsel.

C v D

(2025)

acted for the Defendant in anti-anti suit proceedings before the Commercial Court

Guy Carpenter v Howden

(2023)

acted for the Claimant in a complex conspiracy claim involving issues of applicable law

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.

Walsh v Stellantis Europe and Suzuki Motor Corporation

(2023)

acted for the Defendant challenging the claimants' ability to serve a deceit claim out of the jurisdiction

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

Re X Insurance

(2018 – 2021)

advising on the consequences of the insolvency of a foreign motor insurer in a claim worth circa £50 million

Public International

Ruth has extensive experience of acting in cases before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the European Court of Human Rights and *ad hoc* arbitrations. She has also acted and advised on the application of public international law principles before domestic courts and tribunals.

She is a member of the Attorney General's specialist Public International B panel of Counsel. She also advises states and international organisations in non-contentious settings. Prior to becoming a barrister she was Research Assistant to Professor Philippe Sands KC.

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening)

(2025 – PRESENT)

acting for The Gambia in this case before the International Court of Justice alleging that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya people

R (Friends of the Earth) v UK Expert Finance

(2022)

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

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia)

acted for Croatia in the leading International Court of Justice case on genocide under the Genocide Convention. 1948 before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Central European University New York v Hungary

(2023 – PRESENT)

acting for the applicant university in its ECHR claim against the Hungarian Government on account of it having to cease its operations in Budapest

Mauritius v United Kingdom

ITLOS arbitration concerning the application of the Law of the Sea to the Marine Protected Area surrounding the Chagos

Kenya Emergency Group Litigation

acted for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in a case involving over 40,000 claimants alleging abuse arising out of the Mau Mau uprising

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.

Sport

Ruth is recognised as a leading junior in sport in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500.

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.



Absolutely excellent

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

The English Football League v Sheffield Wednesday and Dejphon Chansiri

(2025)

acted for the English Football League in proceedings against the Club and its owner for failure to pay other clubs and players on time

The English Football League v Sheffield United

(2023 – 2024)

acted for the English Football League in proceedings against the club alleging breach of the league's financial regulations, resulting in a two point deduction with two further points suspended

Imali v World Athletics

(2023 – 2024)

acting for World Athletics in a challenge to its regulations relating to who can compete in women's competitions before the CAS

Premier League v A Club

(2023 – PRESENT)

acting for a Club in ongoing disciplinary proceedings

Former CEO/Team Principal v Leading F1 Team

(2023 – 2024)

acted for a leading F1 team defending claims brought former CEO and team principal in the High Court for constructive dismissal and shares

The English Football League v Cardiff City FC

(2023)

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

Wathan v Welsh Rugby Union

(2022 – 2023)

acted for the Welsh Rugby Union defending claims of sex discrimination brought by the former Head of Women's Rugby

Achievements

Appointments

Attorney General's London B panel

Public International Law B panel

News, Articles & Publications

The ECHR Grand Chamber judgment in Semenya v Switzerland and its wider impact on international sport, co-authored with Chris Lavey of Bird & Bird, Law in Sport, 3 October 2025

For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers and Haynes v English Blackball Pool Federation: considerations for sports organisations, co-authored with Rachel Nolloth and Siobhan Murray of Farrer & Co, 22 September 2025

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

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

Education, Scholarships & 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

Memberships

ALBA

COMBAR

LawInSport

BASL

ELA

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.

“

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

LEGAL 500 2025

“

A cerebral and hard-working junior with extensive expertise in issues of public and private international law.

LEGAL 500 2021

“

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

CHAMBERS UK 2021

“

Ruth is very commercial and cuts through to the key issues for clients. Ruth is also incredibly personable.

LEGAL 500 2022

“

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

CHAMBERS UK 2022



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



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



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.

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.

CHAMBERS UK 2023