

Ruth Brander (Associate)



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Profile

Ruth is now an associate tenant at Doughty Street. Her background is in civil actions against the police, public law, prisoners' rights, inquests and international and constitutional law. She has a particular interest in the rights of protestors and of vulnerable, young or mentally disordered detainees. She has extensive experience of representing bereaved families at inquests and in civil proceedings.

Between 2016-2021, Ruth represented the non-police, non-state core participants in the Public Inquiry into Undercover Policing. Her Supreme Court work includes *DSD & NVB v Metropolitan Police Commissioner*, a claim brought by two of the victims of the serial rapist John Worboys, the former black cab driver; and *R (Hicks) v Metropolitan Police Commissioner* concerning the lawfulness of police powers to preventatively detain individuals in connection with anticipated breaches of the peace. She acted for the claimant in the judicial review that led to the establishment of the independent review into the self-inflicted deaths of 18-24 year olds in custody. She has acted for the Death Penalty Project and the Human Dignity Trust. She provides consultancy work to the Centre for Women's Justice.

Education

BA Hons (Cantab)

CPE Distinction

Scarman Scholar

Languages

French

Related practice areas

Actions Against the Police and Public Authorities

Administrative & Public Law

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Data Protection and Information Law

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury & Product Liability

Publications/Seminar

Ruth is a co-author of The Law of Public Order and Protest [OUP 2010] and a contributing author to Human Rights and the Investigation and Prosecution of Crime, edited by Jonathan Cooper OBE and Madeleine Colvin [OUP 2009]. She co-edited the 2011 edition of the Trespass to the Person volume of Atkins Court Forms and edited the 2014 edition of the Malicious Prosecution volume. She co-edited the Prisons and Prisoners section of Halsbury's Laws of England (5th edition).

Administrative and Public Law

Ruth specialises in judicial review with a criminal justice element: challenges to policing and prosecutorial policy and decision-making; challenges to prison authorities and the Parole Board and claims related to deaths in custody. Recent cases include R (Roberts) v Metropolitan Police Commissioner concerning the lawfulness of police powers to stop and search under s.60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; a challenge on behalf of a prisoner concerning unlawful stoppage of mail; a challenge to a police failure to consult the CPS in relation to the conduct of a rape investigation.

Actions Against the Police and Public Authorities

Ruth is regularly instructed in civil claims on behalf of protestors, prisoners and other detainees. She has secured damages on behalf of many claimants arrested in the course of protests, including the 40+ participants in the Critical Mass Cycle Ride who were arrested during the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics. She has also successfully represented a serving police officer in a claim against her own force for assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and discrimination. She has successfully settled data protection claims against local authorities and police forces.

Prison Law

Ruth regularly represents prisoners at parole hearings, in civil actions and in public law proceedings.

Inquiries and Inquests

Ruth represents bereaved families in inquest proceedings, often, but not exclusively arising out of deaths in custody. She is currently instructed on behalf of the non-police, non-state core participants in the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

International human rights

Ruth is regularly instructed in death penalty appeals and related constitutional challenges from the Caribbean. She provides on-going advice to the Human Dignity Trust on challenging laws criminalising sexual relations between consenting adult men.