



Ruth Flame

Call 2023

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Ruth is developing a broad commercial practice in line with chambers' profile.

Ruth has a broad commercial practice with particular interest in commercial litigation, civil fraud, banking and finance and commercial crime.

At present, she is instructed in cases spanning competition law, professional discipline, civil fraud, construction and commercial litigation. Ruth regularly appears in the County Court, primarily acting on behalf of Defendant airlines and banking institutions.

Prior to completing pupillage, Ruth graduated with a First Class degree in Law from New College, Oxford, where she also read for the BCL. She then completed the BTC as a scholar of Lincoln's Inn. While studying for the BTC, Ruth taught law at the University of Oxford (St. Peter's College, University College, and Balliol College), and University College London.

Recent Highlights

Aston Martin MENA Ltd v Aston Martin Lagonda

Acted (alongside Jeffrey Chapman KC and Samuel Ritchie) for the appellant (AMMENA) in a rare appeal on a point of law from an arbitral award under s.69 of the Arbitration Act 1996. The underlying arbitral proceedings related to a Distribution Agreement entered into between AMMENA (as exclusive distributor of Aston Martin vehicles in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey) and AML.

Whittington Facilities Limited v Whittington Health NHS Trust.

Acting (alongside Adam Tolley KC and James Hart) for the Defendant NHS Trust in proceedings concerning the termination of a PFI Project Agreement for the design, construction, and maintenance of a hospital. The trial is listed for 6-weeks in the Technology and Construction Court in October 2027.

Brook v Alphabet Inc & Ors

Acting (alongside Kieron Beal KC, Robert O'Donoghue KC, Daniel Carall-Green, and Camilla Cockerill) for Dr Or Brook, the class representative, in collective proceedings against Google before the Competition Appeal Tribunal. Dr Brook is seeking to recover damages on behalf of UK advertisers in respect of Google's abuse of dominance in the search advertising market.

Hughes v CSCL Computer Science Ltd [2025] EWHC 302 (Comm)

Acted (led by Tamara Oppenheimer KC) for the Defendant (CSCL) in proceedings concerning the operation of an 'earn-out' mechanism under a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA). The Court was concerned with whether 'notices' communicating whether any earn-out was due were validly served and, if not, whether the Claimant was estopped from denying that they were validly served, or had otherwise waived this right.

SATA Internacional – Azores Airline SA v (1) Hi Fly Limited and (2) Aircraft Engine Lease Finance Limited [2024] EWHC 2762 (Comm)

Acted (led by James Duffy KC) for the successful Defendant (Hi Fly) and the Third Party (AELF) in proceedings concerning the construction, and rectification of, an aircraft lease novation agreement.

Expertise

Art & Cultural Property

Notable Art & Cultural Property cases

Assisted with drafting pleadings in litigation arising out of investments in an art portfolio and involving breaches of a settlement agreement (during pupillage).

Aviation & Travel

Notable Aviation & Travel cases

SATA Internacional – Azores Airline SA v (1) Hi Fly Limited and (2) Aircraft Engine Lease Finance Limited [2024] EWHC 2762 (Comm)

Acted (led by James Duffy KC) for the successful Defendant (Hi Fly) and the Third Party (AELF) in proceedings concerning the construction, and rectification of, an aircraft lease novation agreement.

Acted for British Airways to defend claims, including those concerning the Montreal Convention and the Package Travel Regulations 2018.

Assisted with drafting pleadings in litigation concerning an airline's claim for breaches of duty (during pupillage).

Assisted with drafting pleadings in litigation concerning breaches of a helicopter lease agreement (during pupillage).

Banking & Finance

Notable Banking & Finance cases

Advised a high net worth individual in respect of bridging loans acquired from two separate companies concerning issues of set-off, breach of fiduciary duty, and secret commissions.

Acted for Barclays Bank to defend proceedings, including presenting strike out and summary judgment applications.

Assisted with drafting an advice concerning a claim against a bank for breaches of its *Quincecare* duty of care (during pupillage).

Civil Fraud

Notable Civil Fraud cases

Your Lawyers Ltd v Capital Interchange Ltd

Instructed (with Philip Ahlquist) in Court of Appeal proceedings concerning the scope of the tort of unlawful means conspiracy and whether, on that basis, Your Lawyers' claim should be summarily dismissed. This appeal was listed as one of *The Lawyer's* Top 10 Appeals of 2025.

Advising (with Derrick Dale KC) a company in respect of potential claims in breach of confidence and unlawful means conspiracy in respect of the award of government contracts.

Assisted with drafting pleadings concerning claims against company directors for breaches of duty and breaches of contract (during pupillage).

Assisted with research concerning a jurisdiction challenge in a civil fraud claim, involving competing exclusive jurisdiction clauses and the applicability of the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements 2005 (during pupillage).

Commercial Crime

Notable Commercial Crime cases

Advised (with Richard Lissack KC, Robin Loof, and Katherine Ratcliffe) a company in respect of its contractual right to terminate a share purchase agreement, including whether such right could be lost by waiver or estoppel, where the counterparty was involved in fraud. Issues under POCA 2002 also arose, including as to when compliance with a contract would involve committing an offence under POCA, and when a DAML could be submitted to the NCA.

Advised (with Robin Barclay KC) a company on the Money Laundering Regulations 2017 in respect of the unexplained termination of their banking services.

Assisted with research concerning the potential criminal liability of a company for breach of the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (during pupillage).

Commercial Disputes

Notable Commercial Disputes cases

Acting (led by Bridget Lucas KC) for the Defendant in a contractual dispute concerning the sale and purchase of Ultra-Low Sulfur Deisel.

Whittington Facilities Limited v Whittington Health NHS Trust

Acting (led by Adam Tolley KC and James Hart) for the Defendant NHS Trust in a contractual dispute arising out of the termination of a PFI Project Agreement for the design, construction, and maintenance of a hospital.

Acted (led by Adam Tolley KC and James Hart) for a Defendant Police and Crime Commissioner in a contractual dispute arising out of the termination of a PFI Agreement for the design and construction of flagship Police Headquarters. These proceedings also raised issues of public law, including when and how the Nolan Principles could affect a public authority's ability to exercise its contractual rights.

Hughes v CSCL Computer Science Ltd [2025] EWHC 302 (Comm)

Acted (led by Tamara Oppenheimer KC) for the Defendant (CSCL) in proceedings concerning the operation of an 'earn-out' mechanism under a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA). The Court was concerned with whether 'notices' communicating whether any earn-out was due were validly served and, if not, whether the Claimant was estopped from denying that they were validly served, or had otherwise waived this right.

Advised (with Richard Lissack KC) individuals on the prospect of securing an injunction against a multinational banking corporation to prevent it from sharing sensitive material from internal investigations with the press.

Assisted with advice concerning a contractual dispute involving an introductory fee paid in connection with the construction of luxury property in London (during pupillage).

Company, Restructuring & Insolvency

Notable Company, Restructuring & Insolvency cases

Assisted with research concerning a winding-up petition for loss of substratum against a multi-million pound company (during pupillage).

Assisted with drafting pleadings concerning claims against company directors for breaches of duty and breaches of contract (during pupillage).

Competition

Notable Competition cases

Brook v Alphabet Inc & Ors

Acting (alongside Kieron Beal KC, Robert O'Donoghue KC, Daniel Carall-Green, and Camilla Cockerill) for Dr Or Brook, the class representative, in collective proceedings against Google before the Competition Appeal Tribunal. Dr Brook is seeking to recover damages on behalf of UK advertisers in respect of Google's abuse of dominance in the search advertising market.

International Arbitration

Notable International Arbitration cases

Acting (led by Jeffrey Chapman KC and Samuel Ritchie) in high value LCIA arbitration proceedings concerning the distribution of luxury goods in the Middle East.

Privilege, Confidentiality & Conflicts of Interest

Ruth has experience advising on complex issues of legal professional privilege and assisting in the review of documents for privilege. She also has experience in successfully securing an injunction to restrain the use of inadvertently disclosed privileged material under PD57AD (led by Adam Tolley KC).

Professional Discipline

Notable Professional Discipline cases

Acting (led by Chloe Carpenter KC) for an independent regulatory body in proceedings concerning the interpretation and application of the Legal Services Act 2007.

Advised (with Tim Dutton KC) a law firm concerning whether its charitable work gave rise to an inducement to make a personal injury claim, in breach of ss. 58-60 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015, and the regulatory consequences of the same.

Assisted with research regarding proceedings brought by the SRA against a UK law firm for alleged breaches of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 (during pupillage).

Sanctions

Notable Sanctions cases

Assisted with research concerning the potential criminal liability of a company for breach of the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (during pupillage).

Sports

Notable Sports cases

Assisting with research concerning potential breaches of FA rules by an officer of a premier league football club (during pupillage).

Education

- Bar Training Course, BPP University (2022-2023)
- Bachelor of Civil Law, New College, University of Oxford (2021-2022)
- BA Jurisprudence, New College, University of Oxford (2018-2021)

Appointments, Memberships and Prizes

- Tutor in Land Law at University College London (2022-2023)
- Tutor in Tort Law at St. Peter's College (2022-2023)
- Tutor in Roman Law at Balliol College and University College (2022-2023)



- Cassel Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2022-2023)
- Academic Scholar, New College, University of Oxford (2019-2022)
- Lord Rodger Prize for Law, New College, University of Oxford (2019)

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