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Kate Cornell

Call: 2003



Kate is recognised as a leading junior specialising in police law. She has an extensive practice in police work and a broad experience of civil claims including claims for wrongful arrest, assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, discrimination and misfeasance in public office.

Kate regularly handles human rights claims, especially involving Articles 2, 3 and 8, and has recently advised on high-profile human rights claims arising from death in custody and from the use of a controversial 'spit hood'.

Kate has extensive experience of police discipline, presenting and advising on high-profile, sensitive and complex cases, often attracting significant media interest.

Kate has recently been appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court.

Recommendations

"Really easy to get along with and very approachable, and provides excellent written work. She's very timely when meeting deadlines." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2020

"Provides sharp advice and is very good at getting in touch in advance of hearings." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2019

"She's bright and extremely helpful." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2018

"She is good on paperwork, has good attention to detail and is approachable." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2017

"She presents pleasantly." (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2016

"She's very bright and has made her way in chambers extremely well." – (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2016

"She has a very strong grasp of the details of police regulations and is authoritative as a legal adviser." – (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2015

"She has a good blend of practicality, pragmatism, academic ability and commercial awareness." – (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2015

“She has a very broad practice and is meticulous and well prepared. She’s also extremely approachable and helpful.” – (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2014

“Gets to grips with the case quickly and can handle a massive amount of information within a short period of time.”
– (Police Law)
Chambers UK 2014

Police Law

Kate has an extensive practice in police work and a broad experience of civil claims including claims for wrongful arrest, assault, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, discrimination and misfeasance in public office.

With both criminal and civil experience, Kate has a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and issues facing police forces today, and she has the benefit of having appeared in jury trials, the Court of Appeal and the High Court in both civil and criminal contexts. As a result of her new role as a Recorder Kate will also be able to bring a judicial perspective to any case.

Kate regularly advises and lectures on police policy, topical policing issues and key areas of new and established law, including police powers relating to protest and trespassory assemblies; disclosure and data protection; and the taking, retention and use of photographs without arrest or charge.

Significant cases include:

CLG, ALD, JAD v Merseyside Police (2014) - Successful at trial and on appeal defending a claim for wrongful disclosure of witnesses’ identities to criminal defendants in a criminal trial..

A & B v Chief Constable of Hampshire Police [2012] EWHC 1517 - Successful strike out of a claim that the police had caused unauthorized disclosures of an informer’s identity to be made during court hearings where the disclosures were protected by the core immunity applying to court procedures.

Brogan and Baker v South Yorkshire Police - Series of claims concerning execution of a search warrant. Successfully argued that there could be no claim based on an allegedly invalid warrant where parallel powers of entry meant the entry and search were lawful.

See under Regulatory for Kate’s extensive police disciplinary practice.

Human Rights

Kate regularly handles human rights claims, notably those involving Articles 2, 3 and 8.

Kate has recently advised on a high-profile human rights claim arising out of a death in custody. She has also recently advised on an Article 3 claim arising from the use of a controversial ‘spit hood’. The case drew public attention in both mainstream and social media.

She has particular expertise in the complex issues surrounding the use and protection of informants including the developing area of law relating to the “core immunity” of witnesses from suit.

She also has particular knowledge of claims and those arising out of protest having handled numerous cases related to a large-scale environmental protest . She has particular expertise in the complex issues surrounding the use and protection of informants including the developing area of law relating to the “core immunity” of witnesses from suit. Kate has recently advised on high-profile human rights claims arising out of death in custody and from

the use of a controversial 'spit hood'.

Regulatory

Kate has a comprehensive police disciplinary practice and regularly presents cases for the Appropriate Authority, acts for the IOPC and acts as legal adviser to the panel. She handles cases from initial advice and drafting the Regulation 21 notice through to misconduct hearings, the Police Appeals Tribunal and Judicial Review. She regularly handles complex, lengthy and sensitive cases including cases of sexual misconduct, cases arising from deaths in custody, cases relating to undercover policing and those attracting significant media interest.

Kate frequently delivers lectures and training sessions on all aspects of police discipline and unsatisfactory performance to lawyers, investigators and panel members.

Notable cases include:

- A forthcoming case arising from the activities of an undercover police officer (presenting)
- A four-week misconduct case against six officers arising from an investigation into the death of young black man following a prolonged police restraint in a mental health hospital ward. (Acted for the IPCC) - The hearing was in private but the case received extensive national media coverage.
- A special case hearing against an officer accused of having a sexual liaison with a young and vulnerable victim of sexual exploitation whom he had met through work. (Presented).
- The Head of Finance of Surrey Police found to have concealed a relationship with a colleague and to have passed on confidential information to her. (Legal Advisor to the Chair).
- A high profile case involving a supervising Sergeant accused of misallocating allegations of rape in order to improve performance targets within his unit. (Presented).
- An officer sacked after initiating a sexual relationship with a vulnerable woman he met through his policing duties. The case involved extensive legal argument about disclosure; the credibility of the claimant; and allegations of procedural irregularity. The findings and decision to dismiss were upheld by the PAT. (Presented at first instance and on appeal).

In addition to her police disciplinary practice, Kate is an appointed legal assessor for the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and has been so since 2012. During this period she has been selected for re-appointment twice and has received consistently positive feedback. Kate advises panels at preliminary hearings, substantive hearings and appeals.

Kate was recently asked to assist in conducting interviews for panel members to sit in regulatory hearings for CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants). She acted as the 'legal voice' on a three-person panel consisting of an HR professional and a CIMA accredited accountant.

Kate also has experience of cases at the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, and is a member of the Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers.

Inquests

Kate acts in inquests and has dealt with cases involving the particular vulnerabilities of the mentally ill and the impact of this on police powers and duties.

Healthcare

Kate has extensive experience of dealing with cases involving individuals with mental health issues, including:

- Inquests into the deaths of people suffering from mental health issues;
- Misconduct proceedings arising from the death of a man restrained by police in a mental health setting;
- Round table meeting addressing the quantification of claims of serious psychological health issues;
- Misconduct proceedings arising from an allegation of excessive force used against an individual displaying delusional behaviour;
- Cases involving the assessment and use of police powers under s.136 MHA 1983.
- Kate has dealt with individuals with significant mental health problems as clients; witnesses and opponents in person and understands the sensitive handling this requires