

12

King's Bench Walk

Kate Boakes

Call: 2014

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

International & Travel, Industrial Disease, Abuse, Aviation, Environment, Personal Injury, Inquests

Kate acts in all of 12KBW's core areas, with an emphasis on cross-border group actions, industrial disease, and claims arising out of intentional physical or sexual abuse.

She has considerable advocacy experience, having acted as sole counsel at multi-day trials and appeared in front of a jury. She is equally comfortable working on large-scale litigation as part of a team, and is regularly brought into complex cases by the pre-eminent silks in her fields of work.

She is presently instructed in several private international law claims brought by groups of foreign nationals against multinational corporations, including cases which arise out of mass environmental damage, workplace sexual abuse, and mistreatment by private security forces.

She regularly acts in cases involving the application of foreign law under Rome I and Rome II, and issues of jurisdiction.

She has a particular specialism in claims arising out of asbestos exposure. She is junior counsel for the claimant in *Head v Culver Heating*, which is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal in December 2020.

Industrial Disease

Kate has considerable experience of acting in industrial disease claims, particularly those arising out of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. She has acted in numerous mesothelioma cases as sole counsel and regularly assists leading counsel. She has experience of product liability claims, in addition to the usual claims against employers and occupiers.

She co-authored the damages chapter of Sweet & Maxwell's *Asbestos: Law & Litigation* and is well-placed to advise on difficult or novel quantum issues. She co-edits a blog to which many of the leading practitioners in the field subscribe.

Cases include:

- *Head v Culver Heating Co Ltd* [2019] EWHC 1217 (QB): assessment of "lost years" claim brought by a successful businessman involving the application of *Adsett v West*. The appeal application was exceptionally re-opened by Lady Justice Simler under CPR 52.30, and is due to be heard by the Court of Appeal in mid-December 2020. Led by Harry Steinberg QC.
- *Inman v M&S*: acting for the claimant who died of mesothelioma which she alleged was caused by asbestos

when working for M&S in the 1970s. The Defendant accepted a longstanding Part 36 offer the week before trial. Led by Harry Steinberg QC.

- *Wright v London Borough of Tower Hamlets*: acting for a claimant who sought damages for loss of services in the lost years, in the form of the salary of his son who would have to give up his work to care for his disabled mother and brother, after the death of his father from mesothelioma. Settled for £650k the week before trial. Led by Harry Steinberg QC.
- *Madjid v London Borough of Camden*: acting as sole counsel in a mesothelioma claim which settled the evening before trial, in which the claimant recovered c.£70k in respect of a private care regime.
- *Inquest touching upon the death of Linda Johns*: acting as sole counsel for the family of a woman who died of mesothelioma having had no known occupational exposure. Dr Fiona Wilcox, Senior Coroner, concluded that the deceased had been exposed to asbestos when resident in housing owned by Wandsworth Council. Press coverage can be viewed [here](#).

Qualifications

2012-2014: GDL & BPTC, City University Law School

2006-2010: BA (Hons) Modern Languages, Oxford University