

# 12

King's Bench Walk

## Kate Boakes

Call: 2014

boakes@12kbw.co.uk



### 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.

### Environment

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Kate has acted in many cases arising out of environmental disasters and contamination. In such cases she brings to bear her experience of cross-border litigation and personal injury.

Cases include:

- *Lungowe v Vedanta Resources Plc*: acting for more than 2,000 Claimants in group litigation arising out of pollution of waterways and land surrounding a copper mine in Zambia. Listed for trial in October 2021. Led by Richard Hermer QC.
- *Bravo & Ors v Amerisur Resources Plc*: acting for Colombian *campesinos* who allege that their local waterways have been contaminated by oil emanating from Amerisur's operations. Led by Richard Lord QC.
- *Vilca & Ors v Xstrata Plc & Xstrata Tintaya SA*: one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2016, in which 22 Peruvian environmental protestors brought claims for serious injuries and mistreatment sustained during demonstrations at an Andean copper mine. Kate appeared in five reported decisions in this long running litigation. Led by Phillippa Kaufmann QC, Harry Steinberg QC and Charles Béar QC.

- *Bomu-Bonny Oil Pipeline Litigation*: as a pupil, assisted with litigation in which 15,600 claimants settled their claims against Shell for £55 million, following two oil spills in the Niger Delta. Assisted Harry Steinberg QC.

## **Qualifications**

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

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