



LORNA SKINNER

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Civil Against the Police
Commercial and Corporate
Law
Election Law
Healthcare, Mental Health and
Mental Capacity
Human Rights
Inquests and Inquiries
Media and Information Law
Mediation
Sports Law

Called to the Bar 1997

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Lorna's specialist area of practice is media and information law. This encompasses defamation, breach of confidence, misuse of private information, privacy, freedom of expression, data protection, freedom of information, Article 8 and Article 10 related human rights law, contempt, harassment, open justice, reporting restrictions and election law. She has developed particular specialities in defamation and privacy in cases involving the internet and harassment and in online data protection. She also has experience in freedom of information and PACE and Terrorism Act production orders, aspects of sports law and a strong interest in civil actions against the police.

Lorna is ranked as a leading junior in data protection and defamation/privacy in the current edition of Chambers and Partners in which she is described as "very good, detailed and thorough", "tactically strong, very involved and very hands-on, helping directly in a way that meant we were always two steps ahead of our opponents", "very comfortable with cases concerning the interplay between defamation, the Human Rights Act and data protection" and as having "authority beyond her year of calling ... more like a leader than a junior". Lorna is also ranked as a leading junior in defamation/privacy and media/entertainment in the current edition of the Legal 500, which describes her as "a superb junior barrister" and "excellent".

In the 2014 editions of Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 Lorna was described as a barrister who "has a broad defamation and privacy practice but really shines on cases involving human rights", "is noted for the quality of her advocacy and praised for her good judgment", is "bold and confident in her approach", "delivers good results through hard work and dedication" and "is very amenable, and very easy to work with". In past editions she has been described as "a media law specialist with a great reputation in defamation and privacy work", with "an impressively rounded skill set" (Chambers & Partners 2013); "someone whose judgement is spot on", an "extremely good advocate, who is good both on paper and on her feet" (Chambers & Partners 2012); a "solid advocate" who is "hardworking and committed to her clients" (Legal 500 2012) and "thorough, hardworking, dedicated, highly intelligent and very pleasant to work with" (Legal 500 2011).

Lorna has extensive litigation experience acting for both claimants and defendants and has acted for television companies, national and local press, publishing houses, Members of Parliament, government departments, local authorities, trades unions and the police, as well as for individuals. In addition to defamation and privacy litigation, she has handled a large number of

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

HERE'S WHAT THEY SAY:

"She's good with clients and on her feet, she's very knowledgeable and she thinks about things sensibly.", "An excellent advocate who works very hard and really rolls her sleeves up."

(Chambers & Partners 2019, Data Protection)

"A very safe pair of hands. Fiercely intelligent, very client-focused and very easy to work with."

(Chambers & Partners 2019, Defamation & Privacy)

"Very clever and has an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter. She adds genuine value to a case."

(Chambers & Partners 2018, Defamation & Privacy)

"Thorough and highly intelligent."

(Legal 500 2018, Defamation & Privacy)

privacy injunctions, contempt proceedings arising from breaches of injunctions and Norwich Pharmacal applications. Her practice also includes pre-publication advisory work for NGOs and publishers.

Lorna is an ADR Group Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator.

EXPERTISE PAGE:

PJS v News Group Newspapers Ltd [2016] UKSC 26; [2016] 2 WLR 1253. Acted for successful claimant in seminal case on privacy injunctions in the internet age.

Orb arl and others v Ruhan and others [2016] EWHC 850. Acted for claimants in commercial case concerning alleged Imerman documents. Also acted in related Norwich Pharmacal proceedings [2016] EWHC 361.

Burrell v Clifford [2015] EWHC 2001; [2016] EMLR 1. Acted for defendant on application to strike out/stay proceedings for breach of confidence and misuse of private information on Jameel grounds.

Vidal-Hall and Others v Google Inc [2014] EWHC 13 (QB); [2014] 1 WLR 4155. Acted for successful claimants in important misuse of private information and data protection case concerning the meaning of "damage" within s13 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and whether misuse of private information is a tort.

From March 2013 acted for a large number of national media organisations in the Inquest into the death of Alexander Litvinenko and related judicial review proceedings.

R (Secretary of Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs) v Assistant Deputy Coroner for Inner North London [2013] EWHC 3724 (Admin) and [2013] EWCH 1786 (Admin)

The wife and children of Omar Othman v English National Resistance and Ors [2013] EWHC 1421 (QB) Acted for the wife and children of Omar Othman (aka Abu Qatada), on successful applications for interim anti-harassment injunctions against various far-right groups to prevent demonstrations within the vicinity of their home.

APW v WPA [2012] EWHC 3151 (QB) Acted for the Claimant on an application for an interim injunction in a misuse of private information and harassment case.

Jan - Dec 2012 Acted on the Counsel team representing News International at the Leveson Inquiry.

Mayer v Hoar [2012] EWHC 1805 (QB) Acted for Defendant on successful application to strike out a libel claim on the basis that words published in response to a complaint to a regulator were protected by absolute privilege.

Viagogo Ltd v (1) Myles (2) Hardcash Productions Ltd (3) Channel Four [2012] EWHC 433 (Ch) Acted for the Claimant on an application for an interim injunction in a breach of confidence claim.

Hunt v Evening Standard Ltd [2011] EWHC 272 (QB) Acted for the Claimant on a successful application to strike out parts of a defence of justification in a libel claim.

Imerman v Tchenguiz [2010] EWCA Civ 908; [2011] Fam 116 Acted for Mr Imerman on his successful appeals in both QBD and Family Division cases involving breach of confidence/misuse of private information and data protection claims.

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Miller v Associated Newspapers Limited [2010] EWHC 700 (QB) Acted for the Claimant in defamation claim brought over an article published in The Daily Mail.

Vaidya v GMC and others [2010] EWHC 984 (QB) Acted for Defendant NHS Trust and various doctors on successful application to strike out libel, malicious falsehood and negligent misstatement claims.

Ashley Cole v MGN Ltd and News Group Newspapers Ltd (2009) Led by Hugh Tomlinson QC, acted for claimant in privacy claim brought in respect of articles published in The Mirror and The Sun. Case settled.

Imerman v Imerman [2009] EWHC 64, 3486 (Fam) Acted for respondent/applicant in application for delivery up and prohibitory injunctions in the family division.

Stelios Haji-Ioannou v Mark Dixon [2009] EWHC 178 (QB) Acted for defendants on successful application for trial by judge alone in defamation proceedings brought over words spoken and published to an FT journalist. The case settled shortly before trial.

Tchenguis v Imerman [2009] EWHC 2024, 2902 (QB) Acted for Claimant in successful summary judgment application for delivery up and prohibitory injunctions in breach of confidence/misuse of private information and data protection proceedings.

Applause Store Productions Ltd v Raphael [2008] EWHC 1781 (QB) Acted for successful Claimant at the trial of the first libel and privacy case relating to a Facebook user in the UK.

David Francis v Peter Evans (2008) Acted for defendant to a slander claim which was discontinued on the day before trial following a successful application to strike out/exclude some of the claimant's evidence.

Gentoo Group Ltd v Hanratty [2008] EWHC 627, 2328 (QB) Acted for the claimant on successful applications to disapply the limitation period in an internet libel case and for trial by judge alone.

L V (1) L (2) H (A Firm) [2007] EWHC 140 (QB); [2007] Fam Law 692 Acted for the Defendant in this prequel to the Imerman litigation.

Carnegie v Drury [2007] EWCA Civ 497 Acted for successful Appellant against a decision allowing a substantial extension of time in circumstances where the judge had made errors of fact and the claimant had not made his application for the extension promptly.

Culla Park Ltd v Richards [2007] EWHC 1687 (QB) Acted for the successful Claimants in libel and malicious falsehood claims brought in respect of placards published by neighbours.

Ashley Cole v News Group Newspapers (2006) Acted for the Claimant in libel, harassment and data protection claims.

McCracken v Northampton Swimming Club (2006) Acted for the Appellant, Dr McCracken on behalf of her daughter on her successful appeal by way of re-hearing (5 day trial) to the Amateur Swimming Association's Independent Appeal Committee. Also acted for Dr McCracken in allied proceedings for libel.

R v Y (2006) Advised and appeared for CPS in relation to a reporting restriction preventing the identification of a defendant who had been convicted of paedophile offences. The restriction had been imposed at Middlesex Crown Court with the aim of protecting a muslim girl outside the jurisdiction who was at risk of 'honour-killing', it being likely that she would be linked to Y if his name were published.

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Miller v Associated Newspapers Ltd [2005] EWHC 557 (QB) Appeared for the Claimant in a libel trial concerning allegations of negligence made against a senior police officer regarding his conduct of the investigation of the false allegations of sexual assault made by Nadine Milroy-Sloan against Neil and Christine Hamilton and in an earlier rape case. Meaning and justification were in issue.

Re J (2005) Appeared for the BBC, MGN Ltd and Newsgroup Newspapers Ltd on a successful application to vary an injunction made to protect a child which effectively prohibited any reporting of his mother's trial for manslaughter and arson was whether the court should exercise its discretion under its inherent jurisdiction applying *In re S (FC) (a child)* [2004] UKHL 47 to continue the orders challenged in circumstances where section 39 powers were available to the judge in the criminal trial.

Steedman v BBC [2005] EWHC 1509 (QB) Acted for the Claimant police officers in their successful resistance of an application to strike out on Jameel grounds in a libel claim brought in respect of a BBC radio programme in which they were not identified by name but were accused of murder.

V v H and anor (2005) Acted for the Claimant in claims for libel, privacy and harassment was brought by a prominent member of a foreign royal family in respect of various publications and further threatened publications as part of a campaign of blackmail.

X and anor v Y (2005) In this case claims for privacy and harassment were brought and successfully pursued by a husband and wife against the husband's male ex-lover who had conducted a campaign of harassment mostly via email consisting of threats to reveal the fact and details of their relationship to friends, family members, and colleagues of, the claimants.

Oliver v Chief Constable of Northumbria Police [2004] EWHC 790 (QB) Acted for successful Defendant at trial of a libel claim arising out of a press release issued by the police in response to press enquiries. Both 'reply to attack' qualified privilege and justification defences succeeded.

Gray v Avadis [2003] EWHC 1830 (QB) Acted for successful Defendant on an application for summary judgment on the basis that communications sent by a solicitor to the OSS in response to a complaint were protected by absolute privilege.

Lorna is regulated by the Bar Standard Board and accepts instruction under Standard Contractual Terms, details of which can be found on the website under Code of Conduct.