



ROISIN SWORDS-KIELEY

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Commercial
Competition
Education
Employment
Discrimination and equality
Public Law

Called to the Bar: 2019

CONTACT:

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Alison Scanes, Senior Practice
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Roisin joined Matrix in October 2020. Roisin welcomes instructions in all of Matrix's practice areas; she practices primarily in Employment and Equality Law, Public Law and Human Rights and Commercial Law.

PUBLIC LAW

Roisin has experience in a range of public law and human rights matters. She has worked across all stages of judicial review proceedings, from advising clients at the pre-action stage to preparing for interim proceedings and appeal, recent highlights include:

- Acting as part of a team of counsel who successfully obtained an interim injunction to prevent a mass deportation charter flight in circumstances where there was a real risk that the individuals deported would be subject to inhuman and degrading treatment on their return.
- Acting (with Jessica Jones) for two NGO's who sought to intervene in proceedings before the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division.
- Acting (with Chris Butler) for an individual who sought to challenge the application of a 6 year limitation period to charges pursued by a Local Authority under s.69 of the Care Act 2014.
- Assisting Dan Squires QC in advising on the legality of a piece of primary legislation in light of Brexit and recent ECtHR jurisprudence.

EDUCATION LAW

- Roisin has significant experience providing advice and assisting parents, carers and young people with their appeals to the SEND Tribunal.
- Roisin is currently instructed in a two day National Trial Appeal before the SEND Tribunal.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Roisin has experience across a range of employment law matters, recent highlights include:

- Defending a claim for direct age discrimination in circumstances where the Claimant was dismissed following an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment made by a number of other employees, including a significantly younger and more junior member of staff.

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- Advising multiple Higher Education Institutions and other Respondents co-defending proceedings in the Employment Tribunal (with Claire Darwin).

Throughout her traineeship Roisin gained experience of the full spectrum of employment law. She assisted in advising both Claimants and Respondents in respect of: ordinary unfair dismissal claims, complex sex, pregnancy and disability discrimination claims, sexual harassment claims, high value whistleblowing claims involving major financial institutions, holiday pay disputes (concerning the effect of King v The Sash Window Workshop Ltd C-214/16) and matters relating to TUPE and restrictive covenants.

Roisin also assisted in defending Restraint of Trade Proceedings in the High Court at the Interim Stage.

EQUALITY LAW

- During traineeship, Roisin assisted in a number of jurisdictional challenges to claims brought under Part 3 and Part 6 of the Equality Act 2010 in the County Court. She has a particular interest in goods and services claims.
- Roisin also assisted Nicholas Gibson in advising a regulator on its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the potential litigation risks in respect of the same.

COMMERCIAL LAW

- Roisin was the Judicial Assistant to Longmore LJ in the Court of Appeal in 2017-2018; she worked on a number of significant commercial cases, for example Property Alliance Group Ltd v Royal Bank of Scotland Plc [2018] EWCA Civ 355. Roisin therefore has significant commercial law experience and welcomes instructions in this area.
- Howell v Labour Party, Howell v Stewart: Roisin recently appeared in the High Court (unled) and successfully represented an individual who sought the grant of a general civil restraint order, the appropriateness of which was being considered by the Court of its own initiative. Roisin successfully obtained her Client's costs in full.

COMPETITION LAW

- During traineeship, Roisin assisted in preparing written submissions for both the Competition and Markets Authority and the European Commission and was involved in proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal. She also assisted (Nicholas Gibson) in advising on issues arising from the CMA's market study into online platforms and digital advertising and on issues arising from the EU Commission's infringement decision in Case AT.40099 Google Android and related matters.

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OTHER EXPERIENCES

Prior to joining Matrix Roisin was the Judicial Assistant to Lord Justice Longmore in the Court of Appeal of England and Wales and taught Constitutional Law at Keble College, University of Oxford. She also worked as an Immigration and Asylum paralegal.

QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

Roisin obtained an Outstanding on the BPTC, scoring the highest mark nationally in the professional ethics paper, for which she received a Buchanan Prize from Lincoln's Inn. Roisin's studies were supported by a Lord Denning Scholarship and Hardwicke Entrance award from Lincoln's Inn and an excellence award from BPP University.

Prior to studying for the bar Roisin was an academic excellence scholar of Keble College, University of Oxford where she completed both her undergraduate and postgraduate studies; she holds BA Jurisprudence and the BCL (with distinction) respectively.

Roisin is regulated by the Bar Standards Board and accepts instructions under Standard Contractual Terms. To find out more information on this and the way we work at Matrix, including our fee transparency statement, please see our [service standards](#).