



Kate Maynard

Partner

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Kate Maynard specialises in civil litigation on behalf of people who have been failed by the criminal justice system: victims of crime, victims of miscarriages of justice and those on the receiving end of the abuse of police power.

She is an expert on inquest law who has represented individuals in some of the most significant recent inquests involving allegations of abuse of power by state bodies. She has particular expertise in deaths following police contact and in prison and immigration custody.

Kate also carries our public law work on behalf of claimants and defendants in civil actions relating to her main practice areas.

Kate forges close professional relationships with her clients which endure over what is often years while striving to achieve justice in complex and long-burning cases in which she specialises.

A pioneer in the emerging legal field of universal jurisdiction (cases which cover various territories and crimes), Kate's total dedication to her clients' causes has seen her achieve successes in a variety of complex and high-profile matters.

Having studied at The University of York and The College of Law, Kate carried out her legal training at Hickman & Rose and has been with the firm for 19 years.

Areas of Expertise

Actions Against Police

Kate Maynard has dedicated her professional life to fighting against police abuse of power. She is

respected and feared as a tenacious lawyer whose total dedication to her clients' causes has seen her achieve success in a variety of complex and difficult cases.

As an inquest law expert, much of Kate's practice over recent years has been in relation to deaths and serious injuries during or after contact with the police, in particular cases relating to Tasers, restraint and the use of force.

Kate takes pride in nurturing close working relationships with her clients which often endure over years as the complex nature of many of these cases necessitates detailed and often long-term, litigation strategies.

Notable inquest clients include the family of Dalian Atkinson, a former professional footballer who died after being Tasered and restrained by police, and the family of Darren Cumberbatch who died after police Taser and use of force.

Kate also acts in public law cases involving the police and other decision makers within the criminal justice system such as the Ministry of Justice, Lord Chancellor, Independent Office For Police Conduct and Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

State Abuses Of Power

Kate specialises in defending the rights of victims of state abuses of power.

As an inquest law specialist, her cases are often in relation to deaths that occurred after encountering the police or in relation to other state bodies such as the prison and immigration detention systems. Kate been involved in some of the most significant and high-profile of these inquests of the last fifteen years.

As well the families of Dalian Atkinson and Darren Cumberbatch – both of whom died after the significant use of police force – her other ongoing notable inquest cases include:

- The family of Prince Kwabena Fosu, an immigration detainee who died naked in solitary confinement after having his bedding removed for six days, and not eating, drinking or sleeping during that period. A jury has recently concluded that Prince died suddenly while suffering from psychotic illness following hypothermia, dehydration and malnourishment. The jury found gross failings across all agencies and that neglect contributed to Prince's death.
- The family of a Serco prison custody officer who was killed by a prisoner in the court cells. The Health and Safety Executive is currently considering criminal charges against Serco.
- The family of Jack Merritt who was killed in the Fishmongers Hall terrorist attack in November 2019.

Kate has obtained damages for a series of prisoners seriously assaulted and/or raped in custody and has an enviable track record at achieving beneficial settlements for her clients without in the need to resort to litigation.

In *Radislav Krstic v Ministry of Justice* – a rare case that did go to trial – Kate won damages from the Ministry of Justice for negligently failing to prevent her client from being seriously attacked and left for dead by other prisoners in a high security prison.

In another recently settled case, she obtained significant damages for a client who was sexually assaulted by prisoners in prison causing life changing injuries.

Prisoners deemed to be difficult are often those more likely to be subjected to serious abuses of power in prison. She recently settled a compensation claim for a paraplegic prisoner based on a disability discrimination claim (failure to provide humane conditions and adequate facilities), and breach of privacy.

And in another case, *Paul Smith v Ministry of Justice*, the MOJ did not want to give her client a penny. He had been assaulted by prison officers in the segregation unit of HMP Parkhurst whilst on a dirty protest. However, the case was won at trial, the successful judgment handed down on 2 September 2009 which criticised the prison officers, prison management (for their failure to investigate) and their lawyers (for serving composite witness statements).

Kate is also a leader in the field in universal jurisdiction cases covering various territories and crimes.

Since 2005, Kate has been instructed on behalf of victims of torture and war crimes from more than ten conflict zones to obtain justice under the legal principle of universal jurisdiction. She has prepared and conducted cases that have been presented to the courts in the UK, New Zealand, Netherlands and Spain.

Much of her work on these cases is necessarily done in secret but those that have been in the public domain include obtaining an arrest warrant for an Israeli war crimes suspect and representing a torture victim in the second such prosecution ever brought in the UK.

Inquests

Kate is an inquest law expert whose core practice has been in police, prison and immigration deaths, more recently focusing on those relating to police Taser, restraint and use of force.

She forms close professional relationships with her clients which often endure over the many years it takes to achieve justice in these complex and long-burning cases.

What Others Say

- “Band One” lawyer in *Police Law: Mainly Claimant* – *Chambers UK, 2024*
- “Band One” lawyer in *Inquests* – *Chambers UK, 2024*
- “Leading Individual” in *Civil Liberties and Human Rights* – *Legal 500, 2024*
- “Leading Individual” in *Administrative and Public Law* – *Legal 500, 2024*
- “Recommended Lawyer” in *Civil Liberties & Human Rights* – *Chambers UK, 2024*
- “Recommended Lawyer” in *Civil Liberties & Human Rights: Prison Law* – *Chambers UK, 2024*