



Caroline Stone

Year of Call: 2005

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Overview

A highly-experienced barrister: dedicated and incisive with an excellent 'bedside manner'

Caroline Stone's practice focuses on public law with a particular expertise in national security litigation and a developing practice in education law. She also has significant experience of employment cases.

Caroline is an accomplished advocate and acts on behalf of a diverse range of clients, including individuals, companies and a variety of public authorities. She is frequently instructed in complex matters raising issues of public importance, including human rights challenges, and has appeared before the Court of Appeal and High Court, in addition to various specialist Tribunals and the County Court. She is a member of the Attorney General's B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown, having previously been appointed to the C Panel.

Notable cases include:

- **In the matter of Russian sanctions** - advice regarding Ukraine-related designations and closed material procedures under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018.
- **R (Sarkandi, Nabipour and Ors) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs** [2015] EWCA Civ 687, [2016] 3 All E.R. 837 - the leading appellate authority on s.6 of the Justice and Security Act 2013 and the use of 'closed material' in civil proceedings.
- **Z, Y, U, W, BB, PP and G v Secretary of State for the Home Department** [2015] EWCA Civ 9 - protracted litigation regarding the continued feasibility of HMG's Deportation with Assurances policy (proposed deportations of suspected terrorists to Algeria).
- **In the matter of an Academy** - advising the Department for Education in a high-profile case concerning the potential termination of an Academy's funding as a result of poor governance and failure to comply with the Independent School Standards (in particular, provisions relating to safeguarding and the need to promote community cohesion, including concerns about extremism and radicalisation).

Caroline is a founding and Assistant Editor of and contributor to the leading practitioner's textbook *National Security: Law, Practice and Procedure* (Oxford University Press, March 2021).

Caroline's meticulous attention to detail, tenacity, pragmatic advice and personable approach are among her key strengths. These skills are of particular value in the protracted, multi-party (claimant and/or defendant) cases in which she is often instructed, especially those involving substantial documentation.

Complementing her domestic practice in public law and human rights, Caroline also has extensive experience of international law and foreign jurisdictions. Whilst working at the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo) prior to joining 3PB, Caroline's caseload included Bosnia's first genocide trial relating to a massacre at Srebrenica. In 2012, she was a Judicial Assistant to the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (based in The Hague), dealing with appeals arising from the conviction of Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia. In late 2011, as a Pegasus Scholar, Caroline undertook a 2-month secondment at the Legal Resources Centre, Cape Town, one of South Africa's pre-eminent public-interest law clinics.

In 2009, Caroline was nominated for a Bar Pro Bono Award for her involvement in **R (Compton) v Wiltshire Primary Care Trust** [2008] EWCA Civ 749, 1 WLR 1436 (a leading Court of Appeal authority on protective costs orders, the predecessor to cost-capping orders), for which she and her co-Counsel received a special commendation from the judging panel.

In her downtime, Caroline has a passion for singing and photography.

Public and Regulatory Law

Caroline has a broad public law practice, encompassing judicial review, statutory appeals, hearings before quasi-judicial bodies (e.g. regulatory panels) and civil matters with a public law element.

As an experienced member of the Attorney General's Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown in civil matters (since 2011), she is regularly instructed by a variety of central government departments and agencies, including the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence and Ofsted.

Caroline's ability to present complex legislative and policy frameworks in a clear, intelligible fashion particularly lends itself to this area of law; so too, her aptitude for identifying and advising on novel points of law. Having observed public law cases from both sides of the spectrum, Caroline is alive to the unique challenges of litigating both for and against public authorities, in particular the need for timely advice which takes into account both wider policy implications and the unknown variables often associated with such cases.

Other public law experience

Prior to being called to the Bar, Caroline gained extensive experience of public law and human rights issues whilst working at the pioneering legal charity, the Public Law Project ('PLP'). As a Legal Intern (2005), she advised on diverse matters including the powers of the DVLA; support for 'looked after' children; and challenging the decision of an NHS Primary Care Trust regarding the provision of elective plastic surgery.

In 2006, Caroline worked as a researcher on the The Dynamics of Judicial Review Litigation, a Nuffield Foundation-sponsored study into the mechanics of judicial review, in particular the permission stage, undertaken by the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and PLP. As part of this research, Caroline interviewed dozens of solicitors – working for central and local government, leading private firms and NGOs – about specific judicial review applications covering all the core areas of public law.

International Law and Human Rights

Caroline's work in various foreign jurisdictions complements her domestic public law and human rights practice.

Appeals Chamber, Special Court for Sierra Leone, The Hague (2012) – as a Judicial Assistant (P3), Caroline worked on the preliminary appellate proceedings arising from the conviction of Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia, for his role as an accessory to war crimes and crimes against humanity in neighbouring Sierra Leone. This work involved complex legal research, drafting and case-analysis.

Visiting Pegasus Scholar, Legal Resources Centre, Cape Town (Autumn 2011) – a privileged opportunity to work at the 'coal face' of public interest law in South Africa, encompassing a variety of public law and constitutional challenges. Caroline's work ranged from assisting with asylum seeker and refugee appeals to advising on the constitutionality of proposed legislation which purported to restrict access to sensitive state information and criminalise 'whistle-blowing' in the security sector.

War Crimes Chamber, State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2007) – as a Judicial Assistant, Caroline drafted procedural and substantive decisions, including a major judgment in a case involving crimes against humanity (*Tanasković*, X-KRŽ-05/165) and a procedural decision concerning the legitimate use of pre-trial confessions as evidence and the scope of the right to silence. Caroline’s caseload included Bosnia’s first domestic trial for genocide relating to the murder of over 1000 individuals at the Kravica Farming Cooperative warehouse near Srebrenica.

Published Articles

- “*The South African ‘Secrecy Bill’: taking stock*”, *Constitutionally Speaking*, 8 June 2012 and UK Human Rights Blog (abridged version), 24 June 2012
- “*Corner House Revisited: The Law Governing Protective Costs Orders*”, [2009] JR 43

National Security, Counter-Terrorism and International Relations

Caroline is a specialist in national security litigation, including cases with an international relations dimension. She is frequently instructed by various central government departments in complex and sensitive matters across the range of such cases. In addition to in-depth knowledge of the subject-matter, Caroline brings to this field an aptitude for mastering technical detail and distilling key points from vast swathes of information; a responsive approach, necessary to tackle the rapid developments or unexpected occurrences which frequently arise in such litigation (whether legal, factual or policy-related); and an ability to work collaboratively and effectively with the range of clients often involved. Caroline’s background in international law and foreign jurisdictions has also proved invaluable to her practice in this area.

Caroline’s experience encompasses:

- **Immigration measures** taken on national security grounds, including deportations (and ‘deportation with assurances’), deprivations (*Al Jedda v SSHD*) and exclusions.
- **SIAC immigration bail:**
 - Resisting the grant of bail and making applications to revoke bail (involving consideration of Arts. 5 and 8 ECHR)
 - Variation of bail conditions
 - Advisory work regarding the scope of SIAC’s bail powers
- **Civil damages claims**, e.g. arising from allegations of misfeasance in public office or false imprisonment.
- **Financial sanctions and travel bans** (UK, UN and EU sanctions regimes).
- Removal of individuals’ passports in the exercise of the **royal prerogative** to prevent travel (typically to ISIL-controlled territory) for terrorist-related purposes, e.g. *XH v SSHD*; *TH v SSHD*; *AS v SSHD*; *KCM and Ors v SSHD*.
- **Terrorism Prevention Investigation Measures** (‘TPIMs’), e.g. *SSHD v JM & Ors* (s.9 review relating to TPIM notices served against three members of Al-Muhajiroun).
- **Inquests** involving issues of national security concern and sensitive material.
- **Procedural matters**, for example:
 - Anonymity applications
 - Testimonial immunity of non-parties
 - *W & Ors* reverse confidentiality order
 - Complex disclosure issues (raising Art. 6 ECHR issues)
- **Executive action taken in the education sphere** due to concerns about radicalisation and extremism, e.g. termination of government funding (please see Caroline’s [Education profile](#) for further details).

Cases of note include:

O3 v Secretary of State for the Home Department

A complex deportation and asylum appeal before SIAC (consideration of Arts. 3 and 8 ECHR) (sole junior, led by Jonathan Glasson QC).

Bail: [2019] UKSIAC SC_147_2018: successfully resisting O3’s application for bail despite his detention for over 2 years at the

date of the hearing.

Khaled, Abdulrahim, Maftah and Ors v The Security Service and Ors

Tortious claims for misfeasance in public office and conspiracy to injure in relation to sanctions measures imposed by the UN 1267 Committee, pursuant to the claimants' nominations by the UK as individuals associated with Al Qaida (alleged reliance by the UK on torture-tainted detainee evidence) (led by Rory Phillips QC and, later, Kate Grange QC).

These claims form part of a broader action – *Kamoka and Ors v The Security Service and Ors* (12+ claimants) – and are linked to the *Bel Hajl* litigation (allegations of collusion in the extraordinary rendition and mistreatment of a senior LIFG commander).

R (Khaled) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; R (Maftah) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs – associated judicial reviews by which the claimants sought to challenge various decisions of the Foreign Secretary and others related to their designation (led by Kate Grange QC).

R (Secretary of State for the Home Department) v Special Immigration Appeals Commission

Judicial review of SIAC's decision not to amend the terms of a *W & Ors* reverse confidentiality order to enable HMG personnel to access material served in previous SIAC proceedings (sole junior, led by Robin Tam QC).

Z, Y, U, W, BB, PP and G v Secretary of State for the Home Department – protracted litigation regarding the continued feasibility of HMG's Deportation with Assurances policy (proposed deportations of suspected terrorists to Algeria) (latterly as senior junior, led by Robert Palmer).

Court of Appeal, [2015] EWCA Civ 9: correct legal test to be applied when considering a breach of Art.3 ECHR on return to a non-Convention State (e.g. regarding prison conditions).

SIAC, remitted appeal, 18 April 2016: legality of the DWA arrangements (including informal verification methods), in particular in light of 'reverse-closed' evidence submitted by the appellants.

R (Sarkandi, Napibour and Ors) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs [2015] EWCA Civ 687, [2016] 3 All E.R. 837; [2014] EWHC 2359 (Admin) – the leading appellate authority on s.6 of the Justice and Security Act 2013 and the use of 'closed material' in civil proceedings.

The underlying judicial review related to the Foreign Secretary's decision to propose five individuals alleged to be senior members of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines for EU sanctions (interplay between domestic and EU processes leading to the imposition and annulment of sanctions).

Inquests related to the Stalker-Sampson Inquiry (McKerr and Ors)

Advising as to disclosure obligations (including re. LPP) in 'legacy' inquests relating to the controversial deaths of nine individuals in Northern Ireland during The Troubles and associated allegations of a 'shoot-to-kill' policy on the part of the British Army and Royal Ulster Constabulary.

L1 v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Statutory review and appeal by an individual deprived of British nationality and subsequently excluded from the UK (whether the decision to wait until the appellant was outside the country to deprive him of his citizenship was an abuse of process) (latterly as sole junior led by Jonathan Glasson QC).

Al Rawi & Ors v The Security Service & Ors

Multi-party civil litigation arising from the detention of individuals at Guantanamo Bay and Coalition facilities, raising complicated issues of disclosure and international human rights and humanitarian law. This work was undertaken, in part, during a six-month secondment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Publications and lectures

Caroline is a founding and Assistant Editor of the forthcoming practitioner's textbook *National Security: Law, Practice and Procedure* (Oxford University Press, early 2021).

In addition to her editorial role, Caroline authored/co-authored:

- Chapter 4 – Powers of the Security and Intelligence Agencies
(Topics covered by this chapter include the interception of legally-privileged communications under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016)
- Chapter 7 – Executive Measures and Civil Proceedings: Common Evidential and Procedural Issues
(Topics covered by this chapter include costs in cases involving closed proceedings and anonymity and reporting restrictions)
- Chapter 14 – Civil Proceedings: General
(CMPs under the JSA 2013; Public Interest Immunity; jurisdictional bars, including state immunity and justiciability)

Caroline regularly provides training to civil servants regarding civil litigation in the national security sphere, covering both substantive and procedural issues.

Academic qualifications

- MA (Hons) (Law), Downing College, Cambridge University
- Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School (Very Competent, 9th in year of 300)

Scholarships

- Pegasus Scholarship (South Africa, 2011)
- Chrystal Macmillan Prize (Middle Temple) in recognition of BVC results (2005)
- Queen Mother's Scholar (Major BVC Scholarship, Middle Temple) (2004)

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Attorney-General's Junior Counsel to the Crown (B Panel)
- Assistant Editor, *National Security: Law, Practice and Procedure* (Oxford University Press, March 2021)

Professional bodies

- Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Human Rights Lawyers' Association
- Education Law Association (ELAS)