Rachel Best KC



Year of Call: 2006
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Overview

Rachel Best KC is an associate member of 3PB and has nearly 20 years experience as a barrister specialising in employment and discrimination disputes, judicial reviews, inquests and personal injury cases. She was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 2006, the Bar of Ireland in 2021 and was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2022. She was promoted to Silk in 2024.

Rachel has extensive experience in advising and conducting litigation in a wide range of courts whether Employment Tribunals, County Courts, Coroners' Courts, the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Rachel regularly acts on behalf of Government Departments in the UK including the Department of Justice, Department of Infrastructure, Police Service of Northern Ireland as well as representing a host of businesses, insurers and private clients.

She recently produced a major amended report for the UK Covid-19 Inquiry which was a "Fact-finding investigation on behalf of the Head of the Civil Service."

An experienced speaker on employment law and employers' liability, Rachel has been invited to speak by the IPLS (QUB), Employment Lawyers Association (UK), Education Authority and Department for Infrastructure. She was also a regular contributor to - and a former sub-editor of - the Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law.

Inquests

Rachel Best KC has acted in a number of inquests, typically representing Police Authorities, Prison Boards, HM Government departments and agencies. This includes the high-profile recent case of:

Inquest touching upon the death of Lillian Marjorie Cawdery & anor [2023] NICoroner 22: acted for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) at the inquest to review the actions of mental health professionals, hospitals and the police. This followed the deaths of a 83-year old couple in their homes by a man who was later found guilty of their manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility.

Academic qualifications

- LLB Law, 2:1, Queen’s University, Belfast
- MSSC Criminal Justice, Queen’s University, Belfast
- Level 4 Diploma in Management

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Trainer, Advocacy Training Board, Bar Council for Northern Ireland
- Qualified Mediator
- Counsel Panel, Government Legal Services

Professional bodies

- Medico-Legal Society (Committee Member 2016-2019, Honorary Secretary 2018-present)
- Employment Lawyers Group Northern Ireland (Committee Member 2009-present)
- Sub-Editor, Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law (2007-2012)
- Commercial Bar Association