



Romana Canneti - Barrister Called 1997

PRACTICE AREAS:

- Media & IP
- General civil

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Media Lawyers' Association

PROFILE:

Since 1999 and before returning to the bar, Romana has regularly advised newspapers and broadcasters (including Associated Newspapers, ITN, the BBC, Independent Print Limited, The Telegraph Group, Times Newspapers and News Group Newspapers) on pre-publication and pre-broadcast media. She also provides legal cover for the Press Association national news agency.

Romana has over twenty years' experience in libel and defamation: during the course of her employment at *The Independent*, where she was employed as part of the in-house legal team between 2006 and 2016, the claims she handled for the company included libel and privacy (later, when the group acquired the paper, she also became a legal adviser to the *Evening Standard*).

In addition to the increasing overlap of privacy/defamation and data protection law, Romana is well versed in regulatory issues affecting both the broadcast and print media. For many years she handled IPSO (formerly PCC) adjudications for Independent Print Limited, The Telegraph Group and Associated Newspapers.

Romana has worked on numerous copyright claims from photographers and claimants' solicitors and/or agents. Where there were no reasonable grounds to refute such claims, she negotiated advantageous outcomes for her employer, sometimes by means of settlement. She often liaised with contacts across the industry to deliver a practical and costs-driven result, which was consistent with other news organisations and helped keep any such settlements to a minimum: an important factor in achieving this was an accurate assessment of the market value of the material in question.

She has successfully defended copyright claims in the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court

(which hears claims worth less than £500,000). She conducted such cases without the use of external Counsel. She has also advised on trademark and passing-off matters.

She is experienced in drafting and advising on contractual and commercial issues.

Romana successfully handled the leading case *Independent News and Media v A* [2010] EWCA Civ 343, [2010] 1 WLR 2262 in which the Court of Appeal upheld a landmark decision to allow media access to private court of protection hearings. That application was eventually joined by five other national news organisations and was the first of several more successful consortium media applications for access to court of protection hearings. A pilot project - and a judicial move to increased transparency - were the outcome of the lobbying that she undertook on behalf of the media. She was invited to contribute to the first edition of *The Court of Protection Practitioners' Handbook* and has spoken at seminars on the media and the court of protection, including at the COPPA conference.

Over the years she has built up considerable experience advising on – and where necessary – challenging the many other varieties of reporting restriction which affect media coverage of the criminal and family courts, army disciplinary proceedings and employment proceedings.

She has also handled contempt of court issues, as well as other practical obstacles affecting journalism, such as production orders.

A former television producer who brings a practical and commercial approach to her legal practice, Romana has worked in France, Spain and Italy and is fluent in those languages.

Romana accepts instructions in nearly all of Chambers' advertised civil practice areas.