

RUTH O'GORMAN KC

Year of call - 2009
Year of silk - 2021

DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS:

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT DETAILS:

Kristen Edwards
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AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate
Commissions of Inquiry
Criminal Law
Disciplinary Proceedings
Inquests
Regulatory Prosecutions

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Ruth took silk in 2021.

She practises in criminal law where she appears in trials in the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts of Queensland, and appeals in the High Court of Australia and Queensland Court of Appeal. Ruth has been recognised as a pre-eminent Queensland senior counsel in criminal law in *Doyle's Guide* in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Ruth regularly appears in Commissions of Inquiry and inquests. In 2024-2025, Ruth was the Senior Counsel Assisting the inquest into the Wieambilla shootings. In 2022, Ruth was the Senior Counsel Assisting the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence. In 2020 – 2021, Ruth was one of the Counsel Assisting the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry.

Ruth is also regularly engaged in professional disciplinary matters and regulatory prosecutions. She also appears in matters under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act* 2003 (Qld).

HIGGINSCHAMBERS

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PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Ruth is a current part-time member of the Queensland Law Reform Commission. She was previously a part-time member of the Commission from 2017 to 2020.

She is a member of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board and a councillor of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for the State of Queensland.

Ruth is a member of the Bar Council of the Queensland Bar Association. She is also a member of the Association's Criminal Law Committee, Professional Conduct Committee, Bar Practice Course Management Committee and Annual Bar Conference Committee.

RECENT REPORTED CASES FROM THE HIGH COURT AND QUEENSLAND COURT OF APPEAL

Dayney v The King [2024] HCA 22

Lang v The Queen [2023] HCA 29

Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne [2023] HCA 28

Townsend v Attorney-General (Qld) [2025] QCA 258

Watkins v Attorney-General (Qld) [2025] QCA 255

Nicholson v GCMR Project Services Pty Ltd [2025] QCA 242

R v Walker-Ely [2025] QCA 183

R v Bradshaw [2025] QCA 172

R v Ferns [2024] QCA 262

R v Predragovic [2023] 25 QLR; [2023] QCA 123

R v YTZ; Ex Parte Attorney-General (Qld); R v YTZ [2023] QCA 87

Carne v Crime and Corruption Commission [2022] QCA 141

R v Stallan [2022] QCA 40

R v Lang [2022] QCA 29

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R v Dumble & Ors [2021] QCA 161

Comptroller-General of Customs v Inchcape Shipping Services Pty Limited [2021] QCA 61

R v Geddes [2020] QCA 94

R v Enright [2020] QCA 6

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

6 November 2025	Presenter, Queensland Bar Association CPD seminar, <i>"Ethics and courage in the context of criminal trials"</i>
11 August 2025	Presenter, Supreme and District Court Judges' Conference, <i>"Queensland Law Reform Commission – Review of particular criminal defences"</i>
19 October 2023	Commentator, Current Legal Issues Seminar, <i>"Wrongful convictions – kinds, causes and solutions"</i>
17 March 2023	Chair, Legalwise Criminal Law Symposium
4 March 2023	Panel presenter, Queensland Bar Association annual conference, <i>"Sex, Crime and the #MeToo Movement"</i>
26 May 2022	Presenter, Queensland Bar Association CPD seminar, <i>"Criminal sentencing advocacy"</i>
26 March 2022	Presenter, Queensland Bar Association annual conference, <i>"Can I – or should I – plead or argue that?"</i>
18 March 2022	Presenter, Legalwise Criminal Law Conference, <i>"Recent legislative updates - criminal law"</i>
5 October 2021	Panel presenter, Queensland Bar Association, <i>"Career and family as a criminal lawyer"</i>
7 September 2021	Presenter, Bar Practice Course, <i>"How to prepare for indictable criminal trials"</i>
20 August 2021	Presenter, Queensland Law Society criminal law conference, <i>"Managing jury trials"</i>
28 May 2021	Presenter, Queensland Bar Association CPD seminar, <i>"Criminal sentencing advocacy"</i>
13 March 2021	Presenter, Queensland Bar Association annual conference, <i>"Expert evidence in practice"</i>

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Laws, University of Queensland, 2005

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