

## **KEVIN BAYS**

### ***Defamation & Privacy***



Kevin is Head of the Contentious Rights and Dispute Resolution Department and is best known for his libel and media practice which he has developed over the past 20 years. Articled at Wright Webb Syrett, he qualified in 1979 into the firm's Litigation Department where he dealt with copyright and other entertainment related disputes. He moved into libel work and has been involved in many high profile and significant cases beginning in 1986 when he represented Private Eye magazine against a claim by Robert Maxwell who sued over allegations that he was seeking to buy himself a peerage. He has represented Private Eye in numerous libel actions and given pre-publication advice.

Kevin has acted for a large number of national newspapers, book and magazine publishers and has gained a wealth of knowledge and expertise in dealing with publishers, journalists and in-house lawyers including the Mirror Group, Express Newspapers, Centaur Media Plc, Penguin Books, Northern & Shell and John Brown Publishing. He has been at the forefront of "Reynolds privilege" in recent years having acted in the well known cases of Al Fagih and Galloway. In addition to defamation Kevin has represented Defendants in claims for breach of confidence/privacy and infringement of copyright. He acted for Marketing Week in the claim by Lottery organiser Camelot for breach of confidence which has been one of the leading cases on disclosure of sources in recent years. He has represented the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the People in numerous libel claims. He represented Penguin Books in David Irving's "Holocaust Denial" libel claim.

With the introduction of the Human Rights Act and Data Protection Act, Kevin has been concerned with cases involving the implication of those Acts on the existing law and in particular advising Defendants on claims for invasion of privacy and data protection issues. He recently acted for The Daily Mirror in its defence of Naomi Campbell's claim, that went to the House of Lords (twice) for privacy/breach of confidence and is continuing to act for the newspaper in taking the case to the ECHR.

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