

Ruth Keating – Barrister 39 Essex Chambers. Ruth acts in and advises on a variety of environmental law cases, including those brought by campaigning groups.

She recently lectured on an MSc course on environmental campaigning, is an editor of the Sweet & Maxwell Environmental Law Bulletins and has co-authored, with Nigel Pleming QC, the chapter on Climate Change Litigation in the UK in the forthcoming book 'Climate Change Litigation: Global Perspectives'.

She was previously a researcher at the Law Commission and a Judicial Assistant to Lady Arden and Lord Kitchin at the Supreme Court.

Adam Payter practises in the fields of criminal litigation, investigations, extradition, inquests and inquiries and related areas of public law. His recent work includes the criminal proceedings arising from the Hillsborough tragedy; representing families in the inquests and public inquiry into the Manchester arena terror attack and pre-charge advice in relation to the Grenfell tower fire. He acts for those charged with criminal offences arising out of protests including actions about the environment, arms dealing, nuclear weapons and fox hunting. He recently acted for an Extinction Rebellion campaigner charged with criminal damage following an action in Cambridge, which was appealed to the Divisional Court earlier this year.

Melanie Strickland is a community activist and campaigner. She has taken part in various high profile direct actions for climate and social justice, including peacefully stopping a deportation flight in 2017. 11 people remain in the country as a result, including parents of dependent children and trafficking survivors. The 'Stansted 15' were subsequently convicted with a terror-related offence, which was quashed earlier this year. Melanie also took part in direct action against the climate crime of expanding Heathrow Airport in 2015, avoiding prison following a huge campaign in 2016.

Melanie is also a practising solicitor of 12 years. In her free time, she volunteers at gardens and food redistribution projects.