



Press Gazette Media Law Conference: Max Mosley ruling "did the press a favour"

At the recent Press Gazette media law conference, litigation partner Caroline Kean, discussed some of the implications of the ruling in the action by Max Mosley against the News of the World for breach of privacy.

In her speech, which analysed the statement by Paul Dacre that a backdoor privacy law was being introduced by a certain judge, she said that Mr Justice Eady, who ruled strictly on the facts in the Mosley case, had actually done the press a "favour" by keeping the damages "modest", thereby deterring other celebrities from pursuing large claims against the media.

She made the point that if ever there was a case that warranted a large payment, it was Max Mosleys, due to the vast publicity that the story had received. However, the size of the damages meant that other claims could be disposed of - in effect, the game was up.

She also identified the real danger to freedom of the press - European law, "where their decisions are reflective of the continent's historic privacy laws, not our own liberal privacy laws".

For further details see The Press Gazette - 11 February 2009