



Sir Wyn Williams FLSW

Year of call: 1974 | Silk: 1992

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

Sir Wyn Williams accepts appointments as an arbitrator and mediator for both domestic and international disputes.

Sir Wyn was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 1992 and a Deputy High Court Judge in 1999. He took up a full time judicial appointment on 1 April 2004 when he was made a senior circuit judge and the specialist Chancery Judge for the Wales and Chester Circuit. In January 2007, Sir Wyn was appointed to the High Court and immediately upon appointment was authorised to sit in the Administrative Court. Between 1 January 2012 and December 2015, he was a presiding judge for Wales becoming the Senior Presiding Judge in January 2014. Although Sir Wyn has retired as a full time judge, he is authorised to sit as a Deputy High Court Judge. In December 2018, Sir Wyn was sworn in as a Court of Appeal Judge for Guernsey.

Between September 2012 and July 2016, Sir Wyn was the Deputy Chairman of the Boundary Commission for Wales, and between 2013 and his retirement in 2017 was the Chairman of the Wales Committee of the Judicial College. In 2013, Sir Wyn was elected to a fellowship of The Learned Society of Wales in recognition of his services to the law in Wales.

Prior to taking up a full time judicial career, Sir Wyn had a broad and highly successful practice at the Bar. He was called to the Bar in 1974 and practised from chambers in Cardiff until 1998. He took silk in 1992. In October 1998, he joined 39 Essex Chambers in London. In his later years as a silk, he practised principally in personal injury, clinical negligence, sports and public law but developed a particular interest in sporting disputes.

Areas of expertise

Sport

Administrative and Public

Common Law

Chancery

Sport

Sir Wyn has extensive experience in sports law as a barrister, judge and mediator. He is a member of the Sports Resolutions' Arbitration Panel and examples of work in this area include:

As QC:

Sir Wyn was regularly instructed on behalf of the Welsh Rugby Union in a variety of disputes. His cases

included appearing for the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) at a disciplinary tribunal convened by World Rugby when the WRU was accused of selecting ineligible players for the national team (so called "Grannygate") and at a tribunal constituted by World Rugby to ascertain whether an Australian-born player was eligible to play for the Wales national team and, if so, whether compensation was payable to Australia for the development costs it expended during the formative years of the player.

He was appointed a judicial officer by World Rugby, Six Nations Rugby and European Cup Rugby in which capacity he conducted many disciplinary hearings. He was a judicial officer at the 1999 Rugby World Cup in Wales and the 2007 Rugby World Cup in France. He was invited to act as judicial officer at the World Cup in Australia in 2003 but other work commitments prevented him taking up the invitation.

He advised in and conducted a number of cases involving claims by injured sportsmen.

As mediator:

In 2013, Sir Wyn was appointed as the independent chairman of a committee constituted by the Welsh Rugby Union and the four regional clubs in Wales to oversee professional rugby in Wales. Subsequently, he was asked to act as a facilitator and then mediator to assist in concluding a new agreement between the Welsh Rugby Union and the regional clubs. He performed that role voluntarily for six months during complex negotiations, which culminated in a new six-year agreement. Under the agreement, a Professional Rugby Board has been constituted and Sir Wyn is the independent member of the board.

As a High Court judge:

Sir Wyn has tried a claim by a football club against its manager (*Crystal Palace FC (2000) Ltd v Ian Dowie* [2008] EWHC 240 (QB) and disputes between boxers and their agents/promoters relating to their contractual arrangements, including a bitterly fought claim brought by a company controlled by Frank Warren against Joe Calzaghe (*Sports Network Ltd v Calzaghe* [2009] EWHC 480 (QB)).

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