



Gethin Thomas

Year of call: 2017

Email: gethin.thomas@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

Gethin Thomas has a multidisciplinary practice, encompassing public law & human rights, environment & energy, procurement, commercial, financial services, regulatory and planning law.

Reflecting the breadth of his practice, Gethin has acted as sole or junior counsel in proceedings in the Court of Appeal, and in the High Court (in the Administrative Court, Commercial Court, Queen's Bench Division, and Technology & Construction Court).

He is ranked as a 'rising star' in environmental law by the Legal 500.

Gethin is a member of the Attorney General's C Panel of Counsel, and of the Welsh Government's B Panel of Junior Counsel.

Gethin graduated from the University of Oxford with a First Class law degree. Before joining the bar, Gethin worked as a research assistant in public law at the Law Commission for two years. Latterly, Gethin interned at the human rights charity JUSTICE. He worked in the administrative justice team.

Gethin is a contributing editor to the Environmental Law Bulletin (published by Sweet & Maxwell). He has also contributed to the latest editions of *Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts* (4th edition, May 2021), and *Shackleton on the Law and Practice of Meetings* (15th Edition, November 2020).

Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Environment and Energy

Planning

Commercial

Financial Services, Banking and Pensions

Regulatory and Disciplinary

Inquiries and Investigations

Financial Services, Banking and Pensions

Gethin is developing a practice in financial services, banking and pensions law. Gethin has acted as consultant counsel to the Financial Ombudsman Service, where he advised on a wide range of issues under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. Gethin has also acted in several judicial review claims, on behalf of the Financial Ombudsman Service, as sole counsel.

Gethin is currently instructed as a member of the legal team from 39 Essex Chambers offering legal advice and support to the Foskett Panel. Further information is available online here: www.foskettpanel.com.

Recent matters include, for example:

- ***R. (on the application of Shawbrook Bank Ltd) v Financial Ombudsman Service Ltd; R. (on the application of Clydesdale Financial Services Ltd (t/a Barclays Partner Finance) v Financial Ombudsman Service* [2023] EWHC 1069 (Admin)**: As junior counsel, led by James Strachan KC, appeared on behalf of the successful Defendant in two joined cases challenged decisions of the Financial Ombudsman Service concerning “fractional ownership” timeshare schemes.
- ***Stuart Binns & Associates v Financial Ombudsman Service* [2021] EWHC 1620 (Admin)**: As sole counsel, successfully defending a judicial review claim.
- **Unison; GMB; Unite; Prospect and PCS; FDA; Allace and LLG v Chancellor for the Exchequer**: As junior counsel, led by James Eadie KC, Daniel Stiltz KC, Simon Murray, and Joanne Clement in the judicial review challenges to the Public Sector Exit Regulations 2020.
- **Pensions regulation**: Assisting Katherine Apps, in advising as to the implications of *R (on the application of Palestine Solidarity Campaign Ltd and another) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government* [2020] UKSC 16, in respect of pensions regulation.
- **PPI claims**: Acting in payment protection insurance (PPI) claims on behalf of defendants.
- **Agency**: Advising as to apparent and ostensible agency.
- **FSMA 2000**: Advising as to the meaning of 'credit' and the scope of 'financial accommodation'.

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association
- UK Environmental Law Association
- Environmental Law Foundation
- Commercial Bar Association
- Association of London Welsh Lawyers

Qualifications

- 2014, BA Jurisprudence, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford – First Class
- 2017, BPTC, BPP University – Very Competent

Additional Information

Scholarships and Awards

- 2016, Lord Edmund-Davies Award, Gray's Inn
- 2016, Residential Scholarship, Gray's Inn
- 2016, Excellence Award, BPP University
- 2017, ALBA Conference Scholarship

Pro Bono and Other Voluntary Work

- Gethin is committed to pro bono work.
- Gethin is a Trustee of the Lord Edmund-Davies Trust, which is an independent charity established in

2013 to serve young people living in Wales or having a connection with Wales who are interested in entering the legal profession.

- Gethin is a member of the Environmental Law Foundation, through which he provides pro bono advice.
- Gethin has volunteered with Free Representation Unit, acting for claimants in social security appeals. Further examples of Gethin's pro bono experience include volunteering as an adviser at Bethnal Green Legal Advice Centre and as a researcher with Citizens Advice Bureau.
- He was a human rights education trainer with Amnesty International.
- Gethin has been a mentor on the Vocalise programme, where he taught debating in prisons.
- Gethin has also volunteered with Big Voice, a social mobility and youth empowerment charity

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

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clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com