



Gethin Thomas

Year of call: 2017

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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

Procurement

Inquiries and Investigations

Planning

Gethin is regularly instructed to advise on a broad range of planning matters. Gethin has particular experience of acting in judicial review proceedings, as both sole and junior counsel. His enquiry experience includes acting on behalf of the successful party in a four-week inquiry, as junior counsel to Richard Wald

KC.

Gethin was ranked as one of the 'Highest Rated Planning Juniors Under 35' by Planning Magazine (2020).

He advises developers, planning consultants, local authorities, and private clients on all aspects of the planning process, including planning enforcement, and planning appeals.

He has particular experience of Development Consent Orders under the Planning Act 2008, having acted in one of the first successful judicial review challenges to the grant of a DCO, concerning Manston Airport.

Examples of his recent instructions include:

- ***Ipswich Borough Council v Fairview Hotels (Ipswich) Ltd* [2022] EWHC 2868 (KB):** Acting on behalf of the local planning authorities in an injunction claim under section 187B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- **Section 288 statutory review:** As sole counsel, defending statutory challenges brought against the Secretary of State.
- **Statutory blight claim:** Assisting John Steel KC in advising as to a statutory blight compensation claim for HS2 safeguarded land.
- **Reserved matters decision challenge:** Acted as junior counsel to Brian Ash KC on behalf of the claimant in a judicial review claim against a reserved matters decision of a local authority.
- **Section 289 appeal:** Acted as junior counsel, in respect of an enforcement appeal to the High Court pursuant to section 289 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- **Judicial review of CLD:** As sole counsel, acting on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority, as an interested party to a judicial review challenge in respect of a certificate of lawful development issued to the operators of Elstree Aerodrome.
- **Appeal against section 215 notice:** Assisting Daniel Stedman-Jones in respect of an appeal against a section 215 notice.
- **Green belt planning permission refusal:** Advising a developer as to prospects of successfully appealing a refusal of planning permission to build within the Green Belt.
- **Section 106 agreements:** Advising a local authority as to provisions of a section 106 agreement.
- **Certificate of lawful development:** Advising a developer as to an application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing use.
- **Planning conditions:** Advised a developer in relation to issues arising from the removal of permitted development rights by planning conditions.
- **Breach of enforcement:** Appeared as sole counsel in committal proceedings for breach of an enforcement injunction before the High Court.

Gethin is a contributor to the current edition of *Shackleton on the Law and Practice of Meetings*

Memberships

- Administrative Law Bar Association
- UK Environmental Law Association
- Environmental Law Foundation
- Commercial Bar Association
- Procurement Lawyers 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 was formerly 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

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