

Thomas Horton

Call Date: 2015



Thomas has a broad practice that covers sports law, commercial disputes, insolvency (personal and corporate), property law (commercial and residential), employment law and travel law.

Thomas has experience before a range of courts and tribunals, including an extensive amount of work in the County Court and the High Court, and before regulatory bodies such as The FA Regulatory Commission. Further, Thomas has undertaken a range of pleading and advisory work in the above-stated practice areas.

Thomas is also the founder of [Football Law](#), your go-to resource for overviews of football's institutions and procedures, and analysis of the latest football law news and decisions.

Thomas is Public Access qualified and accepts instructions directly.

Legal Services

Sports Law

Representing an EFL League Two football player in an appeal against a decision of a FA Regulatory Commission on a FA Anti-Doping Regulation violation and, in particular, obtaining a reduced sanction in one of the first applications of the more lenient sanctions for 'Substances of Abuse' in the then incoming World Anti-Doping Agency's 2021 Code.

Representing an EFL Championship football player before an FA Regulatory Commission who was charged with a FA Anti-Doping Regulation violation, and successfully arguing for the application of the *lex mitior* principle to allow the football player to benefit from the more lenient sanctions for 'Substances of Abuse' in the WADA 2021 Code.

Representing a National League football player before a FA Appeal Board and successfully opposing an appeal made by a National League club in respect of the football player's notice of termination of employment.

Advising an EFL League One football club in respect of refunds due to season ticket holders following COVID-19 causing the cancellation of football matches.

3 HARE COURT

Writing a letter on behalf of an FA Premier League ("FAPL") football club's supporters' trust in respect of the FAPL's application of the Owners' and Directors' Test, which was sent to the relevant individuals at the FAPL.

Advising a football intermediary (agent) in respect of a dispute with another intermediary concerning unpaid commission payable following the signing of a player by an FAPL club.

Commercial and Insolvency

Appearing as counsel before the Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge in the High Court (Chancery Division) on behalf of a limited company disputing a debt owed to HMRC which formed the basis of a winding-up petition HMRC had presented to the Court.

Appearing as junior counsel to Simon Davenport QC acting for a respondent facing an application to revoke approval provided at a creditors' meeting for an IVA. The application was successfully dismissed, and costs were awarded on the indemnity basis.

Regularly advising, drafting and appearing on behalf of a trade company concerning the enforcement of personal guarantees provided by company clients' directors.

Property Litigation

During pupillage, assisting with the drafting of a skeleton argument and written submissions for Aidan Casey QC and Tom Poole who represented the appellant in the case of [Marr v Collie \[2017\] UKPC 17](#).

Advising and assisting a public company who was the landlord of a business premises. The tenant of the business premises had fallen into administration and the administrators had subsequently granted a licence to occupy the business premises to a third party in breach of the terms of the lease. The landlord sought to recover possession of the business premises. A settlement was ultimately reached with the administrators of the tenant and with the third party, avoiding the need of the landlord to apply to the High Court to lift the moratorium that otherwise prevented the landlord from starting legal proceedings to recover possession of the business premises.

Acting for and reaching a settlement for residential tenants exercising their right to collective enfranchisement to purchase property from a freehold owner which contained two flats of which the tenants were the respective long-leaseholders.

Successfully defending a claim brought by a purchaser of a freehold title against the seller of the same for the cost of replacing a boiler that had stopped working after the sale had completed. The hearing was summarised by the Defendant client in [this article](#) written after the hearing.

Representing landlords and tenants in the First Tier Tribunal Property Chamber (Residential Property) in applications seeking an order that a breach of covenant or condition in a lease has occurred, and for a determination of liability to pay and reasonableness of service charges.

Employment

Advising and assisting an individual to dispose of a proposed action by the individual's former employer. The individual's former employer alleged there had been breach of a settlement agreement entered between the

individual and her former employer due to an alleged summary dismissal offence committed by the individual before the settlement agreement had been entered.

Advising and assisting an individual in a claim for unfair dismissal and disability discrimination.

Travel and Aviation

Regularly appearing as counsel on behalf of large and boutique tour operators at interlocutory hearings and trials to defend personal injury and contractual claims brought under The Pack Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 or The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

Advising and representing tour operators facing claims in contract for holiday bookings cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19.

Public Access

Thomas is able to accept instructions directly from members of the public, companies and other entities through the public access scheme (also known as direct access). He is able to act, advise and draft pleadings and documents for clients and small and medium sized businesses on a direct access basis. He is happy to accept instructions on a direct basis in appropriate cases. If you wish to instruct Thomas on a direct basis, please speak to the clerks.

For more information on public access, please see the Bar Council [website](#).

Memberships

- Employment Lawyers Association

Qualifications

- University of Birmingham, 2010-2013: LLB (Hons)
- City University London, 2014-2015: BPTC (Very Competent)

Awards

- The Birmingham Scholarship (University of Birmingham)
- Major Scholarship (Inner Temple)
- Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award (Inner Temple)