

The Rt Hon Michael Tomlinson

Year of Call: 2002

Email Address: michael.tomlinson@3pb.co.uk

Telephone: 01202 292102



Property and Estates

Michael Tomlinson KC is a barrister specialising in range of chancery disputes including probate and property matters. The former MP and Solicitor General returned to private practice in September 2024, having practised from 3PB from 2003 until 2015.

Michael has an established probate practice and has experience and expertise in all areas of contentious and non-contentious probate, estoppel, Inheritance Act and private client matters. Michael is often instructed where there is an international dimension and questions arising as to Wills in different jurisdictions, covering both moveable and immovable assets. His cases frequently encounter issues of fraud or deception as well as questions as to the validity of a Will. He is instructed by beneficiaries, executors and trustees, as well as other interested parties. He is happy to advise at all stages of a case and is particularly keen in assisting in settlement meetings (including ADR) as well as representing at court.

Michael covers the broad range of property and land work carried out in Chambers; including rights of way; boundary disputes; covenants; and breaches of planning.

Given his background, Michael has a particular interest in statutory interpretation, and many of his cases involve niche or "interesting" points of law. He was recently instructed to advise and draft in a Privy Council chancery case.

Michael is a member of the Chancery Bar Association and believes that many chancery disputes are ripe for mediation. As a qualified mediator he is able to undertake work as a mediator for chancery disputes as well as wider commercial and civil matters. He also appears as an advocate at mediation.

His recent and ongoing cases include a High Court cases involving allegations of fraud and Wills both in the United Kingdom and abroad, where there is a detailed history and complex evidential and legal issues to resolve.

Recommendations

"I have had the privilege of instructing Mike since 2005 in a wide range of matters, including commercial and contract law, property and chancery cases and I can say without hesitation that he is one of the most outstanding counsel I have worked with in my career." **Instructing Solicitor**

"What sets Mike apart is his exceptional care of both the lay client and solicitor. Clients routinely comment on how approachable and reassuring he is, even when dealing with difficult or emotionally charged issues. He has a rare ability to strike the perfect balance between professionalism and warmth, instilling confidence while remaining sensitive to the client's concerns. I recall one particularly anxious client who did not have English as a first language and who was reluctant to proceed with a final hearing considering opting for an very unfavourable settlement; Mike took the time to meet with them in advance, explain the process in a calm and respectful manner, and left them feeling heard, supported, and ready to proceed. He guided this matter through a complex five day trial with very difficult multilingual cross examination and obtained a very

favourable judgement." **Instructing Solicitor**

"He is also a pleasure to work with as part of a legal team. Mike is refreshingly ego-free, responsive, and open to dialogue, always willing to pick up the phone to talk things. It is very easy to say to Mike that you don't understand something and he will take the time to explain it." **In-house Lawyer**

"Working with Michael Tomlinson is a blessing. He is tireless and hard working inside and outside the court. His advice is solid and based on the case strengths. He has assisted me in matters and questions before and after the hearing. His performance in court is impeccable. I would consider that Michael Tomlinson is a Rolls Royce vehicle in the court racing." **Instructing Solicitor**

Academic qualifications

- BA (Hons) Classics, King's College London, 2i
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law and BVC, College of Law, graduated third top in his year

Scholarships

- The Malcolm Memorial Prize for Advocacy, College of Law, 2002
- The Sachs Prize, Middle Temple, 2002
- Rosamund Smith Mooting Cup, Middle Temple, 2002
- Queen Mother Scholarship, Middle Temple, 2001

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, 2024
- Appointed King's Counsel, 2022
- HM Solicitor General (SG), 2022-2023
- Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland, 2023
- Attorney-General's Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel), 2007-2012

Professional bodies

- Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
- Registered Mediator, Civil Mediation Council
- Society of Mediators
- Chancery Bar Association
- Agricultural Law Association