

The Rt Hon Michael Tomlinson

Year of Call: 2002

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Property and Estates

Michael Tomlinson KC is a barrister specialising in property cases as well as chancery disputes. The former MP and Solicitor General returned to private practice in September 2024, having worked from 3PB from 2003 until 2015.

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. Michael's busy practice has a recent focus on estates and contested probate matters, including cases involving the Inheritance Act; proprietary estoppel; and allegations of fraud; as well as those with an international dimension.

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 case.

Michael believes that there are many property and land disputes that are ripe for mediation and as a qualified mediator he is able to undertake work as a mediator for property disputes as well as wider commercial and civil matters. He has also appeared as an advocate at mediation.

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 a 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**

Academic qualifications

- BA (Hons) Classics, Kings' 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