



Thomas O'Donohoe

Year of Call: 2007

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Overview

Thomas O'Donohoe is a member of the Attorney General's London B Panel of Junior Counsel and specialises in acting for government organisations in a range of public and private law contexts.

For more detailed information please see his specialist profile pages.

Public and Administrative Law

Public Inquiries

Thomas is currently instructed by HMG in the Omagh Bombing Inquiry and also in the Undercover Policing Inquiry in which he has advised and appeared as an advocate on numerous occasions.

Additional public law experience

Thomas has also been instructed by HMG in a range of other public law cases, recent examples of which include:

- A & C International Road Cargo SRL V SSHD (defending haulier's appeal under s35A IAA 1999 against a civil penalty imposed owing to the presence of a clandestine entrant in one of their vehicles at Calais)
- Witham v Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (defending appeal by a liable person against a Deduction from Earnings Order to recover child support maintenance)
- Roberts v DWP (defending disability discrimination claims brought under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the administration of benefits).
- Various immigration cases (defending oral applications made in the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) for permission to judicially review Home Office immigration decisions)

Civil litigation and IPT

Thomas has extensive experience acting for HMG in the High Court and the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) in cases engaging issues of national security, foreign law and allegations of HMG complicity in rendition, detention and/or torture. He is currently instructed in two such cases.

A recent concluded case of this kind, heard in the IPT, is *Al-Hawsawi & Al-Nashiri v The Security Service & others* (2025) UKIPTrib 11.

Recommendations

"Many thanks for your help with this case and for securing an excellent result – the client was very complimentary about you and it is obviously of particular importance where we aren't attending hearings to have a personable barrister with strong client management skills." - instructing employment solicitor, 2017.

"Please extend my thanks to Mr O'Donohoe for this comprehensive submission. Your choice in him was very well placed" – whistleblowing claimant client represented successfully by Thomas at ET and EAT level.

"Tom's approach was exceptionally thorough and this gave our client great confidence in his advice in a case involving complex variables about future loss of earnings" – instructing PI solicitor.

"Thank you for your outstanding work on this case. I look forward to working with you again" – instructing solicitor in successful defence of claims of unfair dismissal and whistleblowing.

"We instructed Tom in a recent RTA case involving a father and his daughter who both suffered substantial physical and psychological injuries. Both have been impressed not only by Tom's thoroughness and attention to detail but also by the sympathetic treatment and understanding they have received from him throughout" – instructing PI solicitor.

"Thomas has been instructed on a number of occasions and has proved to be excellent...exceptional legal knowledge within his selected area... . A fantastic ability to quickly understand complex issues within a short space of time and the ability to analyse and deal with a large amount of information without prompting.... Clients find him to be an excellent orator with fantastic diction and cross examination skills... a trusted advocate and is recommended amongst fee earners in the department... determined to succeed on behalf of clients" – head of employment law at a firm of instructing solicitors.

Academic qualifications

- BA Hons (Oxon), Magdalen College, Oxford
- Tutorial Prize in Modern History, Magdalen College, Oxford (2000/1)
- Exhibitioner, Magdalen College, Oxford (2000/1)
- Graduate Diploma in Law, City University (Distinction)
- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law (Outstanding, 4th in year)

Scholarships

- Lord Brougham Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2005)
- Hardwicke Entrance Award, Lincoln's Inn (2005)
- Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2006, Highest award available for the BVC)
- Barstow Scholarship, Inns of Court School of Law (2007, for coming 4th in the year on the BVC)
- Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn (2007, for obtaining 'Outstanding' on the BVC)
- Sunley Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2007)

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Attorney General's London B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown (September 2025)
- Attorney General's London C Panel of Junior Counsel (September 2020)