

Thomas Mason

Call: 2022



Overview

Thomas is a former Partner at a City of London firm of solicitors. He is one of very few individuals to have been triple qualified: as a barrister, a solicitor and a costs lawyer.

Thomas specialises in costs and litigation funding and prides himself on combining technical expertise with a personable approach to deliver a comprehensive service.

Thomas has been recommended as a Rising Star for the London Bar Legal 500 2025:

"Thomas is meticulous in his preparation for any advice or hearing. He has an impressive understanding of legal costs authorities and is a formidable advocate."

Thomas has also been recommended as Up and Coming in Chambers and Partners UK Bar Guide 2025:

"I was very impressed with Tom Mason. He's an up and coming junior above his year of call, who's got a good deal of experience."

Thomas has also undertaken work in Chambers other areas of expertise including professional negligence, commercial and personal injury work.

Costs and Litigation Funding

Thomas is instructed by both paying and receiving parties in all areas of costs and litigation funding.

His practice focuses on the following areas:

- Commercial litigation – Instructed by solicitors from a roster of leading national and international law firms in multi-million pound detailed assessment proceedings related to high value, high-profile and complex cases in the

Commercial Court.

- Solicitor/client advisory – Having been a Partner in a firm of solicitors, Thomas has valuable insight into the working practices of solicitors. He has used this knowledge to draft retainer documentation and provide advice to a number of law firms on effective compliance with statutory, common law and regulatory requirements.
- Solicitor/client litigation – Acting for firms of solicitors to robustly defend challenges to their fees and also acting for companies/high net worth individuals to bring challenges to solicitors fees at detailed assessment. This work often includes complex legal and factual disputes on retainer documentation and the status of interim statute bills.
- Medical negligence, professional negligence and personal injury – Instructed on a full spectrum of cases from fixed costs test cases to detailed assessments in high value, complex and difficult cases.

Commercial

Thomas' commercial work generally focuses on disputes between firms of solicitors and clients:

- Thomas is regularly instructed by solicitors to seek to recover their unpaid fees from former clients. Thomas is also regularly instructed by former clients seeking to defend proceedings brought by their former solicitors. This work involves an international element including work in Abu Dhabi.
- Thomas is also instructed to obtain urgent interim remedies to preserve funds including injunctions and orders pursuant to s73 of The Solicitors Act 1974.

Notable cases

Recent work includes:

- *Challis v Bradpiece* [2024] EWHC 1124. A decision of Deputy Costs Judge Roy KC which determined that QOCS applied to detailed assessment proceedings.
- *Finnan v Candey Ltd* [2024] EWHC 2157 (Ch). A decision of HHJ Cadwallader which determined a contentious business agreement was fair and reasonable.
- *Camran Mirza & Ors v CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP* [2024] EWHC 2058 (Ch). A decision of Master Kaye in relation to a declaration sought that monies paid were held on trust only for the purpose of paying counsel's fees (appearing unled against Roger Mallalieu KC).
- Acting for the receiving party in multi-million pound detailed assessment proceedings related to a billion dollar fraud dispute in the Commercial Court. The case involved a novel preliminary issue on the format of precedent S.
- Acting in multi-million pound detailed assessment proceedings following a billion dollar, multi-party Commercial Court dispute. The case involved complex division between multiple parties with issue-based costs orders.

- Acting for the paying party in multi-million pound detailed assessment proceedings against its former solicitors. The underlying litigation was a billion dollar dispute with a nation state. The case involved jurisdictional issues, complex factual evidence, alleged wrongful termination of a retainer and the status of interim statute bills.
 - Acting for the receiving party in multi-million pound detailed assessment proceedings. The case involved novel issues on the definitions in a funding arrangement, the presentation of certain categories of costs in precedent S and the operation of Part 36.
 - Advising a new law firm on appropriate funding models and ATE/medical agency commissions. The advice involved work with innovative technology and novel ways to meet statutory and common law requirements.
 - An application for a payment on account of costs and forthwith order for detailed assessment relating to a multi-million pound claim against the underwriters of an insurance policy.
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What others say

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"I know Thomas and I like that he has 'lived' experience as a cradle-to-grave drafter - this makes him an attractive costs counsel to instruct."

Further information

Thomas is passionate about social mobility, access to justice and education.

His work in these areas includes:

- Teaching advocacy to students on the Association of Costs Lawyers advocacy course.
- A mentor at the Social Mobility Foundation helping high-achieving young people from low-income backgrounds succeed at top universities and in professional careers.
- The co-founder of a legal tech start up whose aim was to help litigants in person navigate the small claims procedure.

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