Thomas Clarke

Call: 2022

E	clerks@dekachambers.com
T	+44(0)20 7832 0500

Thomas Clarke has a wide-ranging common-law practice across all of Chambers' core areas. He is in court almost every day alongside a busy civil paperwork practice.

Thomas joined Chambers in October 2023, having successfully completed pupillage under the supervision of Jeremy Ford, Tabitha Barran, Louise MacCullough and Jennie Oborne.

Thomas appears in the County Court, the Court of Protection, the Crown Court, and Family Court on a weekly basis. He has already appeared in the High Court on a number of occasions and was sole counsel in two reported cases in 2023.

In ***Re R and S*** [2023] EWHC 1971 (Fam) Thomas acted for the Local Authority in a highly sensitive and complex application brought under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court.

In ***FTF v MWM*** [2023] EWFC 191 (B), Thomas acted for the Local Authority and successfully opposed the making of a family assistance order which was being sought by both the mother and father in private children proceedings.

Thomas has a sensitive and patient manner with clients and witnesses alike. He has represented the families of recently deceased individuals in both inquests and clinical negligence proceedings and is part of a team at Deka Chambers working to update the vulnerable witnesses toolkit for the advocates' gateway.

Thomas is a grade 2 prosecutor for the CPS and appears in the Crown Court on a weekly basis. He has particular experience of cases involving domestic violence and special measures. He also frequently represents the police in both civil matters and POCA cases.

Areas of Expertise

Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence

Thomas has extensive experience of fast-track trials and small claims in RTA, public liability and employer's liability cases. He acts for both claimants and defendants on a weekly basis and accepts paperwork instructions to advise on both liability and quantum

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across the range of civil claims.

Throughout 2024, Thomas has been brought in to assist with document work on multiple catastrophic injury claims by senior members of chambers and is currently being led by Giles Mooney KC in a childbirth hypoxia claim. He has represented claimants at CCMCs, settlement hearings, and interlocutory applications on the masters' corridor.

Crime and Police Law

Thomas is a grade 2 CPS prosecutor and appears in the Crown Court on a weekly basis across London and the South of England. He has experience of trials involving special measures and expert evidence. Thomas recently secured the acquittal of a mother accused of assaulting her ex-partner and child in a case involving complicated ongoing family proceedings and ancillary orders.

Thomas frequently represents the police in civil claims, disclosure applications and POCA matters. He also advises the police on issues of law and procedure.

Family Law and Court of Protection

Thomas acts for Local Authorities, parents, and guardians in care proceedings and private law matters. He has experience of the overlap between criminal and family law proceedings and frequently acts in applications for disclosure between the two jurisdictions.

Since commencing practice in 2023, Thomas has appeared in the High Court on multiple occasions and was sole counsel in the reported case of ***Re R and S*** [2023] EWHC 1971 (Fam), in which he successfully made an application under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court for permission not to notify the family of the existence of newborn twins. The mother of said twins feared community reprisals if the Local Authority carried out any investigations into family members as potential alternative carers.

In ***FTF v MWM*** [2023] EWFC 191 (B), Thomas acted for the Local Authority and successfully opposed the making of a family assistance order which was being sought by both the mother and father in private law proceedings.

Thomas represents Local Authorities and health bodies in the Court of Protection at all stages of s.21A proceedings. He has experience of final hearings as well as case management and RTMs and has appeared in front of tier 1 and 2 Judges in matters concerning care, residence, property, and contact.

Education

- Wadham College Oxford – Literae Humaniores, 2:1
- BPP University – GDL
- University of Law – BPTC, Very Competent

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Awards

- Astbury Scholarship – Middle Temple
- Harmsworth Exhibition – Middle Temple

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