

Thomas Duggan

Year of Call: 2019

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Overview

Thomas has a busy criminal and family law practice dealing with a variety of matters well beyond his year of call.

Thomas is a robust and confident advocate. He is committed to providing exceptional client care while delivering sensible, focused advice. He is particularly experienced in representing vulnerable clients with a variety of complex needs.

As a led junior, Thomas has just concluded a lengthy and complex public law case involving urgent applications to the High Court for medical declarations. Thomas has recently appeared in the Court of Appeal, successfully appealing a custodial sentence in a large drugs operation.

Before joining Chambers, Thomas worked in the Mid-West of the USA assisting a senior international attorney with complex cross-jurisdictional cases.

Outside court, Thomas helps to run the mini-pupillage scheme in Chambers and organises training seminars and conferences for instructing solicitors. Thomas is also a member of the Pupillage Committee.

Practice Areas

Criminal

Thomas prosecutes and defends in the full range of criminal matters in the Crown Court.

Thomas has a very busy practice, conducting trials across the Midlands' Circuit. Recent instructions include large drug conspiracies, rape, armed robbery, and grave violence. He is a robust and confident advocate dealing with matters well beyond his year of call due to his excellent reputation. He is committed to providing exceptional client care. He is particularly experienced in representing vulnerable clients with a variety of complex needs.

Thomas has recently appeared in the Court of Appeal, successfully appealing a custodial sentence in a large and complex drug operation.

Thomas is regularly instructed to defend in Animal Welfare Act 2006 prosecutions brought by the RSPCA

Recent Cases:

- R v Donaldo Dyrma [2022] EWCA Crim 1481 – Successful appeal against sentence in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division.
- R v AA – Defending in five-day rape trial

- R v KD – Defending in six-day rape of a child trial with S28 procedure.
- Operation Nellynite – Defending in Multi-week, multi-defendant firearms conspiracy.
- Operation Amalfi – Defending in complex and long running conspiracy to convey prohibited items into Prison
- The Insolvency Service v HR – Prosecuting a complex fraud by misrepresentation.
- R v TP – Defending a vulnerable client in a multi-week multi-handed armed robbery.
- R v JN – Defending. Sentence of conditional discharge imposed after involvement in £120,000 money laundering arrangement.
- R v JG – Instructed to defend in a grave sexual assault matter.
- RSPCA v MM – Defending in a long-running animal welfare trial involving the death of domestic animals.
- R v AI – Defending in multi-week sexual assault of a child family members trial.
- R v HD – Defending in sexual communication of child trial.
- R v RB – Defending. Historic sexual activity with a child family member.
- Operation Charldene – Defending in £1.14 million robbery trial.
- Operation Mable — Defending in long running Class A drugs trial.

Public Law Children

Thomas has a busy Care practice dealing with a variety of matters well beyond his year of call. He is a confident and hard-working practitioner committed to providing exceptional client care while delivering sensible and focused advice. He is experienced in representing very vulnerable clients with a variety of complex needs.

Thomas is regularly instructed to represent parents, children, and local authorities at a full range of hearings including:

- Contested removals
- Interim contested hearings
- Re W hearings
- Part 25 applications
- Fact finding hearings
- Final hearings

In a recently reported case, Thomas represented parents with learning difficulties whose child has significant physical and developmental needs. The local authority's application for a final care order and placement order was successfully resisted.

As a led junior, Thomas has just concluded a lengthy and complex public law case with a separately represented child involving urgent applications to the High Court for medical declarations. Thomas is currently instructed by a local authority as junior counsel as part of a 12 day sexual assault fact finding hearing.

Thomas has experience in High Court matters including applications for an order pursuant to section 97(4) of the Children Act 1989. He is also a qualified court appointed advocate.

Thomas has a detailed understanding of the Fostering and Adoption Regulations. Thomas was recently instructed to provide policy advice to a local authority in relation to their foster carer funding and payment contracts.

Private Law Children

Thomas is a confident and hard-working practitioner. He is committed to providing exceptional client care while delivering sensible and focused advice. He is regularly instructed to appear for parents and Rule 16.4 Guardians at final hearings and fact-finding hearings. He is experienced in representing very vulnerable clients with a variety of complex needs. Thomas is a qualified court appointed advocate trained to cross-examine vulnerable witnesses in complex and sensitive fact-finding hearings.

Thomas is currently engaged in a long running private law dispute involving a confidential Law Enforcement Agency where several public-interest immunity orders have been made.

Thomas has experience dealing with the following private law issues:

- Interfamilial sexual assault
- Parental alienation
- Allegations of serious physical and sexual violence
- International relocation
- Child Arrangements Orders
- Applications to vary Child Arrangements Orders
- Specific Issue Orders
- Prohibited Steps Orders
- Occupation Orders
- Non-Molestation Orders
- S.91(14) applications

Before joining Chambers, Thomas worked in the Mid-West of the USA assisting a senior international attorney with complex cross-jurisdictional family law cases.

Qualifications

CPS Panel Advocate – Level 2

Court appointed Qualified Legal Representative

Youth Court Registered

BPTC – VC – 2019

LLM – Distinction – 2019

LLB (Hons) – First Class – 2018

Memberships

Criminal Bar Association

Family Law Bar Association

Midland Circuit

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Scholarships/Awards

The Middle Temple Anglo-American Scholarship 2019

Recent Articles

Re F and G (Discharge of Special Guardianship Order) 2021 EWCA Civ 622

How Should Reviewing Officers Approach the Question of Intentionality?

Recommendations

Legal 500 2024: Ranked Tier 1 “rising star” Crime ‘Thomas’ advocacy is excellent. He is dynamic and reactive to what can unfold in the courtroom. His knowledge is top-rate.’

Legal 500 2024: Ranked Tier 1 “rising star” Family – Children ‘Thomas’ advocacy is excellent. He is dynamic and reactive to what can unfold in the courtroom. His knowledge is top-rate.’

Reported Cases

Re V and T (Placement application; disabled child) [2022] EWFC 125

Thomas represented parents with learning difficulties whose child has significant physical and developmental needs. The local authority’s application for a final care order and placement order was successfully resisted.

R v Donaldo Dyrma [2022] EWCA Crim 1481

Thomas successfully appealed sentence in the Court of Appeal. The Court quashed the sentence of 14 months’ custody and substituted it for 8 months’ custody.

AA & Others [2022] EWFC 200

Thomas was led by Kirstie Danton in protracted and complex care proceedings involving applications to the High Court for medical declarations.

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