

Thomas Mason

Call: 2022



Overview

Thomas is a specialist in costs and litigation funding who practises in this complex area.

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. He brings his valuable insight and experience to the Costs Group at Hailsham. He prides himself on combining technical expertise with a personable approach to deliver a comprehensive service in all areas of costs and litigation funding.

He has been recommended in the professional directories as “*fantastic*” and “*very responsive, commercially minded and has a great demeanour for putting clients at ease*”.* *Legal 500, 2023*

*as a solicitor

Thomas is also experienced in RTA claims, having been instructed on behalf of claimants and defendants.

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. 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.

Notable cases

Recent work includes:

- 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.

What others say

*“fantastic” Legal 500, 2023**

*“very responsive, commercially minded and has a great demeanour for putting clients at ease” Legal 500, 2023**

*as a solicitor

Further information

Thomas is passionate about social mobility and access to justice.

His work in these areas includes:

- 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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