



RHYS AB OWEN THOMAS

Call : 2009

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Rhys was called to the Bar in 2009 after completing the Bar Course at Cardiff University where he was awarded the Panyfedwen Scholarship. Rhys graduated in Law from Oxford University and following pupillage joined Iscoed as a tenant in October 2011.

Rhys is a fluent Welsh speaker and regularly accepts instructions and conducts cases through the medium of Welsh.

Rhys trained as a mediator in 2012. He accepts instructions in all of Chambers' practice areas and is happy to conduct mediations in English, Welsh or bilingually.

Crime

Rhys is regularly instructed in Criminal matters and has an even balance of Defence and Prosecution work. He has experience in cases of violence, sexual offences, child cruelty, drugs and dishonesty.

He is a Level 2 CPS Panel Advocate and has prosecuted on their behalf in Magistrates and Crown Courts throughout South Wales. He has been the prosecutor in many trials which included vulnerable witnesses, including a 92 year old victim, a defendant who was an inpatient at a psychiatric hospital and a 8 year old witness with behavioural difficulties.

Rhys has defended trials in the Crown and Magistrates Courts. A significant proportion of Rhys' defence instructions are publicly funded but he has represented many professional defendants including an actor, dentist, doctor, teacher, solicitor and a politician.

Rhys teaches Criminal Law at Swansea University.

Civil

Rhys regularly represents both claimants and respondents in small, fast and multi-track claims concerning all aspects of civil law, including slipping/tripping cases, road traffic, housing and contractual law. He accepts instructions to provide written advice and will return an opinion within 14 days unless a shorter timetable is required.

Devolution

Rhys has a sound understanding of the present Welsh devolution settlement and appreciates the greater divergence that now exists between the law of England and Wales since legislative devolution in 2011. He has presented written evidence to the National Assembly's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee and the Silk Commission on the substantial developments in Wales' legal system. He has also provided advices and opinions to local and national law firms on devolution in Wales, including the powers of the National Assembly and the Welsh Government and the operation and implications of the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

Rhys is a panel member of the Welsh Government Public Law Scheme.

Tribunals

Rhys has represented both claimants and respondents in the Employment Tribunal, he has successfully appeared in front of the Transport Tribunal in London and was regularly instructed as a Home Office Presenting Officer in the Immigration Tribunal in Newport.