

Bernard Thorogood

Call: 1986

“He always secures excellent results for the client and works tirelessly to achieve those results.”

Legal 500 2024 (Business and Regulatory Crime including Health and Safety)

Bernard Thorogood practises in the most serious categories of Health & Safety and other Regulatory cases of gravity and complexity, both defence and prosecution.

He is involved in the build-up to and conduct of substantial Inquests. He is a leading practitioner in such cases, having specialised in the area for over 25 years. He is ranked at Band 1 for Health & Safety and Consumer Law (Chambers & Partners 2024) and Tier 1 for Business and Regulatory Crime (Legal500 2024) and is a member of List 'A' of the Specialist Panel of Regulatory Advocates.

He is always involved in a very substantial number of fatal cases, usually being instructed from well before the Inquest or prosecution decision. He represents and advises both individuals and organisations, including major commercial concerns and public bodies, in Regulatory matters concerning their present and future practice.

His work covers all aspects of manufacturing, construction (including adequacy of materials/systems), the health and social care sectors (both charitable and publicly funded), local government, transport, food safety, farming accidents, environmental matters and many other areas. He has extensive experience of mining cases, including falls of ground, ventilation and operation of heavy equipment. He works frequently on fire safety cases across the UK, having acted for the Fire Service in the Hillsborough Inquests and been instructed in the Grenfell Inquiry, amongst many other high profile cases.

His trademarks include thorough attention to detail and to the needs of the client, and achieving a deep understanding of the most complex and technical evidence.

Expertise

Environment

For many years Bernard has acted (in defence and prosecution) and advised in a range of Environmental cases.

He acts for companies, directors and regulators in cases concerning pollution – air, water and land – with regard to Tree Preservation Orders, waste, asbestos, animal husbandry, activities involving radioactive material and procedures, SSSIs and conduct allegedly in

Birmingham

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breach of permit. He has articular experience and skill in geotechnical issues and other matters associated with land drilling and sub-surface activities.

He has conducted a number of highly complex prosecutions for Natural England and the Environment Agency concerning the preservation of moorland, ancient woodland, protected rivers and other SSSIs – eg. Wemmergill Moor (County Durham, 2008), Gelt Wood (Cumbria, 2013), the Pevensey Levels (Sussex, 2015), Baggly Point farm (North Devon, 2021-22) and the River Lugg (Herefordshire, 2023).

His trademarks include thorough attention to detail and getting to grips with the environment concerned. He works throughout the country and typically travels to the environment under scrutiny in order to get to grips with the finer details of such processes or technicalities as might be relevant to the case in hand.

Inquests, Public Inquiries & Coronial Law

Bernard is a leading Inquest practitioner. He is always involved in a very substantial number of fatal cases, usually being instructed from well before the Inquest or prosecution decision. He represents and advises both individuals and organisations, including major commercial concerns and public bodies, in regulatory matters concerning their present and future practice.

He is always at work in the most difficult and demanding of Inquests. Amongst others, he appeared for the Fire Service in the Hillsborough Inquests, for the Regulator in the Red Arrows Inquest, for the Council in Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board v HM Coroner for the County of Worcestershire [2013] EWHC 1711 (QB). He also acted for a whistleblower in the Grenfell Inquiry, and has acted as Counsel to the Inquest.

His trademarks include thorough attention to detail and to the needs of the client, and achieving a deep understanding of the most complex and technical evidence.

Regulatory

Bernard practises in the most serious categories of Health and Safety and other Regulatory cases of gravity and complexity, both defence and prosecution, including the build-up to and conduct of substantial Inquests. He is a leading practitioner in such cases, having specialised in the area for over 25 years. He is ranked at Band 1 for Health & Safety and Consumer Law (Chambers & Partners 2024) and Tier 1 for Business and Regulatory Crime (Legal500 2024) and is a member of List 'A' of the Specialist Panel of Regulatory Advocates.

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