

John Wyn Williams

Call 1992



Clerks' Details

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Appointments

- CPS Advocate Panel Level 4 including Rape Panel
- Attorney General List as EA/HSE Specialist

Memberships

- UK Environmental Law Association
- Criminal Bar Association

Education

- Aberystwyth University – 1986
 - LLB Hons
- Inns of Court School of London – 1991
- Gray's Inn – Ede and Ravenscroft Prize winner

Environmental Regulation Overview

John has extensive knowledge and experience of this complex area of law. He was initially appointed by the Attorney-General in 2003 to prosecute cases on behalf of the Environment Agency both in the Magistrates and Crown Court. Since then he has moved into defending both individuals and large companies in the Criminal Courts. He has a wealth of experience in presenting cases in criminal cases and uses his experience in front of juries in other criminal cases for the benefit of his lay clients. He has an approachable manner, and feels that it is important to be able to explain complex areas of law in a way that clients understand. His knowledge and experience allows him to get the best results for his clients.

In a very recent case involving breaches of the Environmental Permitting Regulations, he was praised by the judge for his handling of the case and was able to secure a nominal fine of £1000 for his client.

He has a particular interest in "waste" and "water pollution" cases as well as "statutory nuisance" cases brought by Local Authorities. He also advises Local Authorities and Companies in relation to "Air Pollution" cases. He is adept at dealing with large POCA cases which invariably follow in these cases.

Recommendations

“John is a master of strategy pre and during a trial. He is able to build up and maintain a rapport with clients during the legal process and is a powerful advocate.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2023

“He is extremely diligent and meticulous, with a real ability to think outside the box. He is courteous and respectful to his clients and solicitors alike, a real team player. I can find nothing to be critical of.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2022

“His relationships with clients are friendly and down to earth but at all times ultimately professional, all the facets of a real diamond.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2021

“Noted for his expertise in environmental cases of waste, water and air pollution.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2018/19

“Recommended for environmental cases of waste and water pollution.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2017

“An environmental expert.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2016

“Sought after for his expertise in cases involving breaches of environmental regulations.”

Leading Junior: Legal 500 2015

In an article on “Who reigns over the Regions” in the Lawyer Magazine he was described as “having an ability to communicate, not only with the client, but also with judges and solicitors”.

In a recent case involving the rape of a 13 year old girl, the senior criminal partner at Allington Hughes said: “I was very impressed with John’s tenacity and willingness to challenge aspects of the prosecution which others would have perhaps have left untouched. As always John’s advocacy was very persuasive and his client care was faultless.”

Beyond the Bar

John enjoys walking in the mountains of his native Wales and welcomes any instructions from those who wish to be represented in Welsh.

Cases

Recently advised a leading UK commercial vehicle body and trailer manufacturer on Statutory Nuisance Proceedings brought by Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council. Represented “Castle Cement” in proceedings involving air pollution and a risk to human health. Case was resolved by expert evidence confirming there was no risk. Instructed by Osborne Clarke solicitors.

Prosecuted BNFL for water pollution.

Prosecuted Welsh Water for breaches of Consents of water abstraction.

Prosecuted Kronospan PLC for pollution cases.

Defending a Rhyl businessman for depositing controlled waste and the ensuing POCA proceedings.

Advised Wrexham County Council on proceedings against a leading company for potential Statutory Nuisance Proceedings for air pollution.

Advised Pendle County Council in relation to odour pollution and Statutory Nuisance.

Appeared on behalf of a businessman in the building and construction field in a “Controlled Waste” case.

John is an enthusiastic member of UKELA and has a keen interest in the environment and the countryside. He has appeared in a number of cases involving the Forestry Commission, The Countryside Council, Defra and the Food Safety Agency.