

Brynmor Adams

Call 2008



Clerks' Details

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Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel B) (2018)
- Registered Pupil Supervisor (2017)

Memberships

- Social Housing Law Association (SHLA)
- Property Bar Association (ALBA)
- Lincoln's Inn European Law Group

Local Government and Social Housing Overview

Brynmor is recognised as a leading barrister in the field of social housing law. Chambers and Partners describes him as a “talented up-and-coming junior who is particularly well known for his adroit handling of social housing cases that contain property and public law elements or raise novel points of law. He offers significant experience in Environmental Protection Act prosecutions, as well as possession and disrepair matters” and also notes that Brynmor “displays maturity beyond his call and is always incredibly thorough and well prepared. He is brilliant on his feet and good at technical arguments.” The Legal 500 similarly describes him as “a very astute, confident advocate” and “really able to think around the problem”.

Brynmor recently joined Exchange Chambers from a specialist housing and property law set in London. He is regularly instructed by local authorities, housing associations and other providers of social housing. He is also a member of the Attorney General's Panel of Counsel, which enables him to represent central government departments.

Brynmor's is able to advise on the broad range of issues facing social landlords and has particular expertise in relation to:

- Housing management, landlord and tenant law and possession proceedings.
- Social housing fraud, subletting and non-occupation.
- Housing standards, disrepair and environmental protection proceedings.
- Anti-social behaviour (including injunctions and committals)
- Homelessness, s. 204 appeals and related issues of immigration and EU law.
- Judicial review, public law and human rights challenges including

- challenges to contracting out arrangements and delegated decision-making.
- Equalities and discrimination law and cases involving litigants lacking mental capacity.

Recommendations

“Very smart and very capable.” “He is knowledgeable and can present well in court.”
Chambers and Partners 2019

“Displays maturity beyond his call and is always incredibly thorough and well prepared.” “He is brilliant on his feet and good at technical arguments.”
Chambers and Partners 2018

“His ability to read a document and pull it apart is way beyond his years.” “He achieves fantastic results and offers incredibly sound advice.”
Chambers and Partners 2017

“A rising star who has already appeared in a significant High Court appeal. He is noted for his successful representation of local authorities in fraudulent subletting cases.”
Chambers and Partners 2016

“Incredibly knowledgeable, with a robust approach to cases.”
The Legal 500 2018/19

“A very astute, confident advocate.”
The Legal 500 2017

“Really able to think around the problem.”
The Legal 500 2016

Cases

Brynmor has recently appeared in a number of high profile cases involving social landlords, including:

Joy Smith v Mohammed Riaz Khan [2018] EWCA Civ 1137: established the correct approach to general damages for trespass in unlawful eviction cases. The Court emphasised that damages run until the evicted tenant's right to possession was actually terminated (not to the date when it could lawfully have been terminated). The Court also considered the appropriate rate of damages and the relevance of the rent and comparator cases. <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2018/1137.html>

Smith v London Borough of Haringey [2017] EWCA Civ 1624: Brynmor acted for the London Borough of Haringey in this appeal concerning the assessment of vulnerability for the purposes of local authorities' duties to the homeless. The authority successfully resisted a wide-ranging challenge to the contracting out of homeless decision-making functions. The Court of Appeal expressed strong doubts as to whether such challenges could be made in the context of a s. 204 appeal. <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2017/1624.html>

Esposito v London Borough of Camden QBD (Admin) (May J) 31/07/2017: Brynmor was junior counsel for Camden LBC and successfully resisted a grant of urgent injunctive relief by residents of a group of tower blocks. This case addressed some of the issues facing social landlords following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. [https://www.lawtel.com/UK/FullText/PT8481955QBD\(Admin\).pdf](https://www.lawtel.com/UK/FullText/PT8481955QBD(Admin).pdf)

Aslamie v London & Quadrant Housing Trust [2016] EWHC (Admin) 2396: Brynmor successfully defended the housing trust in this judicial review relating to the withholding of consent to an assignment.

Southward Housing Co-operative v Walker & Hay, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Intervening [2015] EWHC 1615 (Ch): Brynmor successfully acted for the co-operative landlord in obtaining a possession order. The judgment of Hildyard J addressed the implications of the Supreme Court decision in *Mexfield v Berrisford* and the application of public law and human rights principles to fully mutual landlords. <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Ch/2015/1615.html>

Deptford Housing Co-operative v Goze (Central London County Court): successfully obtained for possession for a housing co-operative at trial where the Defendant tenant sought to rely on *Mexfield* and claim a tenancy of an uncertain term.

Ndomba v Estuary Housing: obtained the dismissal of a private prosecution under s. 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and obtained a rare order for costs in favour of

the defendant landlord.

London Borough of Southwark v Ofogba (Court of Appeal) (unreported): junior counsel for the local authority in an appeal relating to a possession claim and a defence based on the regulation of water re-sale.

Education

- Christ Church, Oxford – MA Jurisprudence (Course II), Law with Law Studies in Europe
- Université de Paris II (Panthéon-Assas) – Certificat supérieur de droit français et européen
- Before starting practice at the Bar, Brynmor was a stagiaire at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg where he drafted judgments and decisions on applications from the United Kingdom.
- Lincoln's Inn – Inns of Court School of Law Major Scholarship, Hardwicke Scholarship, Peter Duffy Human Rights Scholarship and Sunley Scholarship.

Beyond the Bar

Brynmor has undertaken cases on a pro bono basis for the Bar Pro Bono Unit. He is a mentor for Lincoln Inn's Pupillage Foundation Scheme.

Bryn is a supporter of Amicus and completed an internship in Mississippi helping to represent inmates on death row.

He is a keen road cyclist and is now looking forward to some challenging rides into the Peak District.