









Brynmor Adams

Call 2008



Clerks' Details

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Appointments

- Property Bar Association Committee (2021-2022)
- Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel B) (2018)
- Registered Pupil Supervisor (2017)
- Bar Council Leadership Programme (2020-2021)

Local Government and Social Housing Overview

Brynmor is recognised as a leading barrister in the fields of local government and social housing law. Chambers and Partners describes him as “a well-regarded junior experienced in the handling of local authorities powers, education, social housing and licensing matters. He acts for local authorities both in the North and across the UK. Chambers and Partners has also said that Brynmor has “a superb analytical brain and superb judgement”, “a huge, in-depth knowledge of social housing” and “a fantastic understanding of housing law and social landlords”. The Legal 500 similarly describes him as having a “highly analytical mind” and say he is “popular with clients due to his unflappable and common sense approach”.

Brynmor is part of Exchange’s local government and social housing team that represents social landlords and local authorities in the most challenging cases. He achieves successful outcomes in difficult litigation. Brynmor has a busy advisory practice and is adept at identifying practical and legal solutions to the most difficult problems facing local authorities.

Brynmor is regularly instructed by local authorities, housing associations and other providers of social housing. He is also a member of the Attorney General’s B Panel of Counsel, which enables him to represent and advise central government departments.

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

- Property law disputes including residential and commercial landlord and tenant and real property issues.
- 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.

Brynmor has helped to develop the [Social Housing Law Association](#) in the North. He is also available to offer bespoke training and seminars to clients in all of his specialist areas.

Recommendations

“Brynmor Adams is really good and has a very commercial approach.”

“Brynmor is a gentleman with great technical ability. He is also good with clients.”

“He is technically able and very familiar with relevant legislation.”

“He gives detailed advice and is an exceptional advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“Brynmor is great with complex cases and technical arguments. He is approachable and persuasive in submissions.”

“Brynmor provides excellent service and expertise. He is reliable, straightforward and practical.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“He’s a technical master when it comes to advice.” “He is an enthusiastic and sound advocate and a pleasure to work with.”

“He is great in housing disputes and has the necessary experience and expertise. He provides the right advice and gives the client confidence.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“He has a superb analytical brain and superb judgement, and he’s very reasonable. He has huge, in-depth knowledge of social housing.” “He has a fantastic understanding of housing law and social landlords.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“A brilliant advocate.” “Clients find him very reassuring and he thoroughly understands the world of social landlords and registered providers.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“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

“Brynmor is pragmatic, and provides thorough advice tailored to client objectives.”

“Brynmor is a highly intelligent and astute barrister. He has superb attention to detail and gets to the nub of a matter very quickly. Clients love his no-nonsense approach.”

“Brynmor is bright, calm, measured, and meticulous, and he has been super impressive both on paper and in conference.”

The Legal 500 2024

“Brynmor is highly knowledgeable with great communication skills. He is patient, thorough and impressive at trial.”

“Brynmor has an analytical and logical mind. He is able to cut through complex issues and communicate in an efficient and understandable manner. He is a delight to instruct and work with on any case.”

“Brynmor impresses technically in relation to complex landlord and tenant litigation. He delivers reasoned, commercially focussed advice and manages client expectations from the outset.”

The Legal 500 2023

“Excellent with technical arguments and great advocacy skills.”

The Legal 500 2022

“Very clear and persuasive submissions. Very knowledgeable. Excellent with witnesses. Very personable and easy to work with.”

“Brynmor has a highly analytical mind and an ability to get to the nub of a thorny and difficult issue very quickly. Ever popular with clients due to his unflappable and common sense approach, he is sterling advocate whose presence reassures clients and Judges alike. Additionally, his drafting skills are widely called upon, whether to draft policies and procedures or tenancy agreements. He is often the first port of call.”

“Ever popular with clients due to his unflappable and common sense approach, he is sterling advocate whose presence reassures clients and Judges alike.”

The Legal 500 2021

“Technically able, robust and thorough.”

“Particularly experienced acting for local authorities.”

The Legal 500 2020

“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

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
- Lincoln’s Inn – Inns of Court School of Law Major Scholarship, Entrance Award, Peter Duffy Human Rights Scholarship and Sunley Scholarship.
- Stagiaire at the European Court of Human Rights (2009)

Cases

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

Scarborough BC v Westwood (MAN/36UG/HSE/2019/0007, February 2020): Brynmor represented the local authority in securing a rent repayment order against the landlord under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 due to the landlord's failure to obtain a licence in accordance with the council's selective licensing regime.

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5efb3f283a6f4023cb365a2a/8_Globe_Street_Scarborough_YO11_1QH_-_HSE.pdf)

Lynn v Leeds City Council (MAN/00DA/HNA/2019/0034, July 2019): Brynmor represented the local authority in an appeal against its decision to impose a civil penalty in relation to a landlord's breach of an improvement notice under the Housing Act 2004.

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d42c24ae5274a0a1caaa7e1/CLEVELEYS_TERRACE_1_-_Decision__003_.pdf)

St Albans City and District Council v Dell (Milton Keynes County Court): Brynmor acted for the local authority in this claim for possession on the basis of a failure to occupy a property as an only or principal home. The trial of the claim was spread over 2 weeks due to the defendant's cognitive impairment. Notwithstanding restrictions on how cross examination could take place, Brynmor was able to satisfy the Court that the defendant was not telling the truth.

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.

Beyond the Bar

Brynmor teaches advocacy to pupils and new practitioners for Lincoln's Inn. He is also a mentor for the Lincoln's Inn Pupillage Foundation Scheme.

He is secretary of his local cycle club and at weekends can be found cycling up hills in the Peak District.

Memberships

Property Bar Association (PBA)
Manchester BPC Property Sub-Foru
Northern Chancery Bar Association (NChBA)
Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)
Social Housing Law Association (SHLA)
Lincoln's Inn European Law Group