



JAMES THORNDYKE

PARTNER

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James Thorndyke is a partner at Armstrong Teasdale who focuses his practice in sport, intellectual property and general commercial disputes.

As well as running a busy general commercial litigation practice, which includes advising on contractual claims, shareholder disputes and negligence actions, James has extensive experience in resolving disputes in a variety of sports including motorsport, football, tennis, athletics, cricket and rugby union.

James also has particular experience in advising on regulatory and disciplinary issues. He has acted for clients in proceedings involving the Football Association, the British Horseracing Authority, the Motor Sports Association and the Football League. James also acts for event organisers such as the All England Lawn Tennis Club as well as governing bodies such as UEFA in enforcing ticket terms and conditions to major sporting events.

James' IP practice concerns the protection, exploitation and enforcement of a range of intellectual property rights, but specifically trade marks and copyright. He advises and acts for companies in a number of different industry sectors including retail, publishing, technology and media and entertainment.

A keen advocate of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), James has settled many cases through a proactive approach to mediation and other ADR processes.

James is a frequent lecturer on topics including reputation management and has written extensively on legal issues in sport, including co-authoring a chapter in Football and the Law on ticketing issues.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, James was a partner on the litigation team at Kerman & Co., where he worked for over eight years. He joined Armstrong Teasdale when the firm combined with Kerman & Co. in early 2021. Before that, he spent 10 years as a sports and commercial litigation solicitor at another London law firm.

EDUCATION

- Cardiff University (LL.B., 2000)
 - Law and Politics
- University of West England, Bristol (LPC, 2001)

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Litigation

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property Litigation

Ethics and Professional

Responsibility

Trademark

Copyright

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Complex Commercial

Litigation

Sports, Media and

Entertainment

ADMISSIONS

England and Wales

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- British Association of Sport and Law
- LawInSport

ACCOLADES

- The Legal 500, Recommended Lawyer, Sport and Commercial Litigation (2021)
- The Legal 500, Leading Individual, Sport (2020-present)

EXPERIENCE

Acted for International Beauty Pageant Following Discrimination Allegations

Acted for international beauty pageant following allegations that the rules of the pageant are discriminatory.

Acted in Proceedings Involving the Unlawful Sale and Distribution of Tickets for a Major English Tennis Club

Acted for a grand slam tennis club in proceedings against event management companies and their directors in connection with the unlawful sale and distribution of the club's tickets to its annual championships.

High Court Proceedings for Premier League Football Club Relating to Ticket Terms and Conditions

Acted for a premier league football club in various High Court proceedings in enforcing the club's ticket terms and conditions against third party resellers.

Intellectual Property Litigation Dispute

Advised a grand slam tennis club on the protection and enforcement of its intellectual property rights following the advertisement and sale of a branded champagne using the club's intellectual property.

Multi-jurisdictional Trademark Dispute for Worldwide Hotel and Entertainment Chain

Acted for a worldwide hotel and entertainment chain in a multi-jurisdiction trademark dispute.

Advised on the Public Takeover of an AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Company

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas exploration company in connection with the acquisition of all its outstanding securities by way of a scheme of arrangement under English law.

Trademark Portfolio Advice for U.K.'s Largest Independent Wholesaler

Advised one of the U.K.'s largest independent wholesale businesses on their trademark portfolio, including brand protection and subsequent litigation flowing from that.

Intellectual Property Litigation Dispute for World-Renowned Music Legend

Acted for a world-renowned global recording artist who instructed AT to take action in the U.K. to protect the artist's intellectual property rights. The case concerned a claim against an individual who was committing a number of infringements against the recording artist's intellectual property, including infringing the artist's copyright and trade mark rights. Dispute was successfully resolved at an early stage on confidential terms.

Obtained Judgment in Landmark Case for London Marathon

Acted on behalf of London Marathon Events Limited in a landmark case brought against a Russian athlete who earned a marathon title but was later suspended by the Russian Athletic Federation following abnormalities detected in her biological passport.

£17.5 Million Return of Cash for AIM-Quoted Oil and Gas Exploration Company

Advised AIM-quoted oil and gas exploration company on the return of cash (approx. £17.5 million) to shareholders following a sale of its flagship Sugarloaf asset in Texas.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

August 25, 2021

The Sex Pistols and the Doctrine of Estoppel

July 29, 2020

Marex Financial Ltd v Sevilleja – The Supreme Court’s decision on the “Reflective Loss” principle

Kerman & Co. website

February 17, 2020

The importance of brand protection ...as told by Greta Thunberg

Kerman & Co. website

May 2018

Ticketing

Football and the Law – Bloomsbury Professional

April 18, 2017

How to recover prize money from doping athletes: Lessons for event organisers from the Shobukhova case

Law In Sport