

## TIMOTHY ATKINSON

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**Call:** 1988

### SPECIALISATION

- Defamation
- Malicious Falsehood/Trade libel
- Privacy and Confidence
- Harassment
- Data Protection
- Freedom of Information
- Pre-publication Advice
- Obscenity laws & Censorship
- Human Rights Law, particularly articles 8 and 10 of the ECHR

Timothy is a highly experienced practitioner who acts for both claimants and defendants across the spectrum of defamation and media law. He has acted for, among others, high profile US corporations and prominent individuals from all walks of life as well as foreign, national and local government and many other public authorities. Among his clients have been politicians, successful financial and business persons, trades unions, police officers, senior figures in health and education, high ranking members of the Armed Forces and the Churches, and media organisations both here and abroad. He is retained by the Law Society Gazette to provide pre-publication advice and advises the Law Society itself. He has also advised recently on high profile enquiry reports. He also has a significant international practice. He has advised and appeared as an advocate in Gibraltar (including in its Court of Appeal) for several leading politicians and has advised in relation to matters in Singapore (again including appellate matters), Hong Kong, the Caymans and the Channel Islands. He has advised political and business clients from (among other places) India, the Middle East, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Australia and the United States. Timothy is a well-recognised expert in the area of data protection. In particular, he has emerged as one of the leading contributors to and commentators on the newly-passed General Data Protection Regulation, a piece of European legislation that will have a profound impact on European and domestic data protection law. By way of example, he addressed a European Commission Conference in Amsterdam as part of the consultation process with experts on the drafting of the Regulation. More recently, he was invited to give a leading address on the Regulation and Cybercrime at the Annual Conference of the prestigious Society for Computer Law. Afterwards, he was judged a stand-out speaker by Lexis Nexis. In addition, he has attended as an invited expert EC funded meetings in London, Rome, The Hague and Lausanne. He has recently been instructed in the high-profile multi-million pound information law case: Construction Industry Vetting Information Litigation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Consistently recommended as a leading junior in Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

Highly experienced practitioner who is adept at acting for both claimants and defendants in defamation and media law cases. He is noted for his representation of high profile US corporations and individuals, as well as local government and other public authorities. He also has a thriving international practice, and has acted for clients in India, Gibraltar and Hong Kong. "He provides highly responsive advice," and has "encyclopaedic knowledge." **Chambers and Partners 2017**

*"Highly knowledgeable and user friendly"* **Legal 500 2016**

Impressive track record of acting on behalf of claimants and defendants in media and reputation management cases. He has particular expertise in cases concerning public authorities and has acted on several particularly sensitive matters involving the Church of England. **Chambers and Partners 2016**

'Gives very clear and focused advice, and thinks outside the box.' **The Legal 500 2015**

*"He's very good with clients, and is conscientious, sensitive and also very open about the pros and cons of a case."* **Chambers and Partners 2015**

30/03/2017

*He shows clear expertise in media and libel law.'* **The Legal 500 2014**

*"He's a hard worker who is scrupulously careful and considered about the advice that he gives."* **Chambers and Partners 2014**

The articulate and knowledgeable Timothy Atkinson attracts praise for his 'clear expertise in the area of media and libel' **The Legal 500 2013/14**

Timothy Atkinson is a "fearsomely bright" and highly regarded Junior. **Chambers and Partners 2013**

Well-regarded junior Timothy Atkinson. **Chambers and Partners 2012**

The "hardworking" Timothy Atkinson is singled out. **The Legal 500 2011/12**

Timothy Atkinson undertakes a variety of work in his busy practice. **Chambers and Partners 2011**

Timothy Atkinson receives praise for his ability to "be tough in a polite way, and to remain quietly persistent."  
**Chambers and Partners 2010**

Timothy Atkinson is "a top-draw name" for libel and privacy law issues. **Chambers and Partners 2009**

"Displaying a great deal of good sense," Timothy Atkinson is "an exceptionally gifted advocate," whose key draw for clients is that "he's not one to shy away from the truth."  
**Chambers and Partners 2008**

"Polished and decisive."  
**Chambers and Partners 2007**

"Accessible" Timothy Atkinson is "user friendly and awfully bright."  
**Chambers and Partners 2006**

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

St Paul's School, London

Balliol College, Oxford, (Brackenbury Scholar) BA (Hons)

Winner of Prize Postgraduate Fellowship to study in New York

City University, London. Dip Law

## **REPRESENTATIVE CASES OF INTEREST**

- *The Construction Industry Vetting Information Group Litigation* - Timothy was instructed in the very well-known multi-million pound information law case concerning alleged 'blacklisting' in the construction industry, which included claims for alleged breach of the workers' data protection rights and defamation. Timothy acted for one of the main Defendants, Cleveland Bridge UK.
- *Re Kharazzi* - a data protection matter leading to Google agreeing to block access to websites containing inaccurate information concerning the complainant, represented by Timothy
- *Congregation Sainte Famille v Harper Collins* - a data protection matter leading to confirmation by the publisher not to re-publish personal data concerning individuals involved in the work of Timothy's client.
- *ADG v IKH* - in this High Court claim Timothy was successful in obtaining protection for the Claimant's private information

- *Diocese of Canterbury Re: AH* – Acted for the Archbishop of Canterbury in successfully securing the dismissal of a claim for libel and misuse of private information
- *Cammish v Hughes* – Acted for Claimant in this defamation claim which was the subject of a significant decision on the Jameel jurisdiction in the Court of Appeal
- *McLaughlin v Lambeth Borough Council* – Acted for Defendants (led by Richard Rampton QC) in this high-profile reported defamation and Article 8 claim
- *Theobald v Lincolnshire Media Ltd* – Acted for successful Claimant, a local councillor and former pop star agent
- *NMT Medical Inc. -v- Wilmshurst* – Acted for Claimant (led by Richard Rampton QC) in this high-profile litigation
- *McFadden v News Group Newspapers* – Recovered substantial compensation for a police officer against a national tabloid
- *Schofield v Neish* – Represented the Chairman of the Bar Council of Gibraltar in a libel claim by the wife of the Chief Justice
- *Dressell v Guardian Newspapers* – Appeared for the Observer Newspaper in successful defence of a contractual claim by a source
- *Ramis -v- Cutting Edge Press* - Secured libel damages against a book publishing company (Cutting Edge) for a prominent businessman
- *Billany -v- Martin* - Successfully resisted defamation claim against High Master of Manchester Grammar and a subsequent data protection application against the school
- *Olafsson -v- Gisurarson* - Appeared for Claimant, an Icelandic entrepreneur, who was awarded £65,000 for defamation. Involved consideration of Lugano Convention
- *Hamill -v- Manchester Evening News* - Instructed by the newspaper in relation to Rehabilitation of Offenders Act
- *Kearns -v- General Council of the Bar* - Important Court of Appeal decision on Qualified Privilege in regard to publication between those with a pre-existing relationship
- *Al-Fagih -v- H.H Saudi* - Acted for the newspaper in the Court of Appeal – important extension of Reynolds privilege to cover an account of a political dispute
- *Multigroup Bulgaria -v- Oxford Analytica* - Decision concerning the capacity of a holding company to sue in libel
- *Austin -v- Newcastle Chronicle & Journal* - Successful in the Court of Appeal in relation to the issue of extending time for service of the Particulars of Claim
- *Cunningham/Follett -v- Times Newspapers Ltd* - Acted for the newspaper in regard to a libel arbitration in relation to a claim by two MPs
- *Rakhimov -v- Jennings* - Early application of the Alexander approach as regards the summary determination of the issue of meaning
- *Maneka Gandhi -v- Harper Collins* - Acted for the Indian Minister who received substantial damages for a serious libel in a biography of Indira Gandhi
- *Alexander -v- Arts Council of Wales* - Acted for the Defendant in an important Court of Appeal case on (i) summary disposal in the context of defamation/consideration of Safeway Stores -v- Tate (ii) the circumstances in which permissible to remove malice from a jury. Had earlier acted at the trial which the Defendant won.
- *Cornelius -v- de Taranto* - Acted for the Claimant – the first case in which damages for hurt feelings were awarded in a breach of confidence context
- *Garfoot -v- Walker* - Acted for Mr Garfoot who was awarded £400,000 by a jury for false allegations of rape
- *Isola -v- Vox* - Acted in Gibraltar for the former leader of Opposition both at first instance and in the Court of Appeal
- *Waple -v- Surrey CC* - Successful in the Court of Appeal in overturning a ruling that the publication was absolutely privileged
- *McDonald's Corp -v- Steel & Morris* - Instructed by McDonald's in the longest English civil trial ever and the subsequent appeal as well as various interim appeals to the Court of Appeal
- *Ashby -v- Times Newspapers* - Drafted successful defence of justification for the newspaper concerning allegations that an MP was gay

## **PUBLICATIONS AND SEMINARS**

One of the editors of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Duncan & Neill together with Sir Brian Neill, Richard Rampton QC, Heather Rogers QC and Aidan Eardley.

An editor of Atkin's Court forms on Libel & Slander

30/03/2017

A contributor to Arlidge & Eady on Contempt

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Member of the Human Rights Lawyers Association