



Deni Matthews

Call 1996

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Practice Overview

Called in 1996, Deni relocated to the South West after 12 years in chambers in Birmingham. The core of his practice is in criminal, court-martial and regulatory matters.

All areas of licensing are regularly undertaken.

Deni sits as a fee paid Judge of the Immigration and Asylum chamber.

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Qualifications and Appointments

- Fee paid Immigration Judge
- BSc (Hons) Biology
- LLB (Hons)

General Crime

All areas of serious criminal work both for prosecution and defence are undertaken. Recent cases have involved issues of automatism as a defence to murder, complex large scale drug importation matters, large scale fraud within public bodies, historic sexual abuse and the large scale production of drugs. He has been noted for an easy manner with clients together with a calm unflappable approach to advocacy.

Courts Martial

Courts Martial work is regularly undertaken. Deni has completed postgraduate studies in International law, particularly international criminal law, international law relating to the use of force in conflicts and the international law of the sea. He was a speaker at the international conference on the barbarisation of warfare organised by the Institute for Conflict Resolution, he dealt particularly with the application of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols in modern conflicts.

Regulatory Crime

Areas concerning environmental pollution are of particular interest, but all areas of health, safety and regulatory work are undertaken. Deni has completed a postgraduate certificate in environmental law. He acts for a national retail company in any regulatory disputes arising. Deni has extensive experience in all areas of marine disputes, he regularly advises a prominent international brokerage on regulatory, and compliance issues.

Care & Adoption

Deni is experienced in all aspects of local authority and private disputes relating to the well being of children. In the midlands, prior to moving to the South West, he was regularly instructed by three local authorities. His advocacy style has a calm manner, simplicity and clarity are always sought after the thorough processing of large volumes of material. Extensive Criminal experience is often useful in fact finding exercises.

Local Authority Team

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Private Child Law

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Immigration

Deni is experienced in all areas of immigration law and asylum law. He has conducted litigation and appeals at all levels, with particular experience in appeals to the upper tribunal and judicial review applications stemming from immigration and asylum issues.

Court of Protection

Court of Protection work is increasingly completed in conjunction with more general litigation based upon deprivation of liberty, discrimination, benefit entitlement and adverse interference with article 8 rights. Such work is conducted in the Court of Protection, County Court and Specialist tribunals. Instructions are regularly received from local authorities, individuals, care providers and charitable organisations.

Licensing

Deni is a member of the Institute of Licensing and is experienced in many areas of licensing, in particular alcohol, taxi enforcement, food, entertainment, gambling, animal welfare and sex establishments. Considerable advocacy experience, together with a personal experience of the hospitality trade makes Deni a persuasive and knowledgeable representative.

Instructions are regularly received from individuals, corporate bodies and public authorities. Deni is qualified and authorised to accept direct access instructions, offering a cost effective source of advice and representation.

Interesting and unusual recent cases have concerned:-

- Rehabilitation of offenders and its application to licensing provisions.
- Specific safety issues arising from a proposed entertainment venue situated close to a deep-water port.
- The lawfulness of an unusual local authority decision to seek to contest and reject an earlier recommendation by a licensing officer.