

**Thomas Horton**  
**Barrister**

**Qualifications and awards**

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<b><u>Appointments:</u></b>	Sport Resolutions' Pro Bono Legal Advice Panel (since November 2021).
<b><u>Rankings:</u></b>	Legal 500, 2022 – London Bar – Sport – Rising Star <i>'Smart, able to hone into the key legal points whilst also applying a practical mindset.'</i>
<b><u>Public Access:</u></b>	Qualified to receive instructions without solicitor involvement where appropriate since August 2020.
<b><u>Call date:</u></b>	October 2015, Inner Temple.
<b><u>Postgraduate:</u></b>	2014-2015, City University London – Bar Professional Training Course – Very Competent.
<b><u>Undergraduate:</u></b>	2010-2013, University of Birmingham – LLB (Hons) – 2:1.
<b><u>Awards:</u></b>	Inner Temple: Major Scholarship. Inner Temple: Duke of Edinburgh Award. University of Birmingham: Birmingham Scholarship.

**Legal Experience**

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**Squire Patton Boggs, June 2021 – present**

**Associate - Barrister**

- Member of the sports litigation team, which is a sub-team of the wider commercial litigation team.
- Representing a football intermediary charged by the FA with a breach of the FA's Working with Intermediaries Regulations for allegedly failing to declare he acted for an FA Premier League football club *and* a football player in a player transfer.
- Representing several football intermediaries in claims for unpaid intermediary fees against football clubs.
- Representing a former EFL Championship player charged by the FA for a breach of the FA's Social Drugs Regulations for an offence committed while still registered with his former club.
- Representing an FA Premier League player in a dispute with his club in respect of non-payment of bonuses contained in the player contract with a total value of £3.5m.
- Representing an EFL Championship club in reaching an Agreed Decision with the EFL in respect of the club's breach of the EFL Regulations for failing to pay players' wages.
- Representing an EFL Championship club facing inquiries from the EFL and the FA Premier League concerning the club's corporate structure and compliance with the EFL's and the FA Premier League's respective Owners' and Directors' Tests.
- Representing an EFL Championship club in an application to FIFA seeking permission to register a football player outside of the permitted Registration Period following the transfer of the player's registration from the Federação Portuguesa de Futebol to the FA.
- Representing a former manager of an FA Premier League club in a claim for unpaid bonus payments with a total value of £500,000.

- Representing a company that provides education, training, and consultancy services to the international sporting community in a claim for breach of a joint venture agreement brought against the International Paralympic Committee.

### 3 Hare Court Chambers, October 2017 – June 2021

**Barrister**

- Sports:
  - Representing an EFL League Two football player in an appeal against a decision of an FA Regulatory Commission concerning an FA Anti-Doping Regulation violation and, in particular, [obtaining a reduced sanction](#) due to the incoming World Anti-Doping Agency's 2021 Code.
  - Representing an EFL Championship football player charged with a violation of the FA Anti-Doping Regulations and [successfully applying the \*lex mitior\* principle](#) to obtain a suspension of three months rather than between one to two years.
  - Representing an EFL League Two football player charged with an aggravated breach of the FA Rules, rule. E3.1 and, following the football player's admission of the charge, [obtaining the 'Standard Minimum' punishment for the same](#).
  - Representing a National League football player faced with an aggravated breach of the FA Rules, rule. E3.1 and successfully having the charge dismissed.
  - Representing a National League football player and successfully opposing an appeal made by a National League club against a decision of the National League Board concerning the football player's valid termination of employment.
  - Writing a letter on behalf of an FA Premier League football club's supporters' trust in respect of the FA Premier League's application of the Owners' and Directors' Test, which was sent to the relevant individuals at the FA Premier League.
  - Advising an EFL League One football club in respect of refunds due to season ticket holders following COVID-19 causing the cancellation of football matches.
  - Advising an intermediary in respect of a dispute with another intermediary concerning unpaid commission payable following the signing of a football player by an FA Premier League club.
- Commercial and Insolvency:
  - Appearing in the High Court (ChD), Insolvency and Companies List either representing creditors that have presented winding-up petitions or companies opposing a winding-up order being made.
  - Appearing as counsel before the Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge in the High Court (ChD) on behalf of a limited company disputing a debt owed to HMRC which formed the basis of a winding-up petition presented by HMRC.
  - Appearing as junior counsel to, and drafting a skeleton argument for, Simon Davenport QC acting for a respondent facing an application to revoke approval provided at a creditors' meeting for an IVA. The application was successfully dismissed and costs were awarded on the indemnity basis.
  - Regularly advising, drafting and appearing on behalf of a trade company concerning the enforcement of personal guarantees provided by company clients' directors.
- Landlord and Tenant & Property
  - Representing landlords at possession hearings.
  - Advising and assisting a public company who was the landlord of a business premises. The tenant of the business premises had fallen into administration and the

administrators had subsequently granted a licence to occupy the business premises to a third party in breach of the terms of the lease. The landlord sought to recover possession of the business premises. A settlement was ultimately reached with the administrators of the tenant and with the third party, avoiding the need of the landlord to apply to the High Court to lift the moratorium that otherwise prevented the landlord from starting legal proceedings to recover possession of the business premises.

- Appearing on behalf of leaseholders in the First Tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) opposing landlords' applications for alleged breaches of covenant and determinations of liability and reasonableness of service charges.
- Advising and assisting a limited company who was the landlord of a business premises that had been destroyed in an arson attack. The landlord sought to bring a claim against the tenant who was in occupation of the business premises at the time of the arson attack or alternatively to make a claim pursuant to an insurance policy taken out by the landlord.
- Employment:
  - Drafting Grounds of Resistance in respect of claims alleging repudiatory breach of employment contracts.
  - Advising a company on the enforcement of contractual terms relating to commission payments due to a recruitment agency.
  - Advising a sole trader on the enforcement of contractual terms relating to introductions made by the sole trader and commission payments for such introductions.
  - Attending various Employment Lawyers Association training events.
- Personal Injury and Travel
  - Regularly appearing on behalf of large and boutique tour operators at interlocutory hearings, applications and trials to defend personal injury and contractual claims brought under The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 and The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

### **3 Hare Court Chambers, October 2016 – October 2017**

### **Pupil Barrister**

- Working under the supervision of six pupil supervisors, completing various pieces of work covering a variety of practice areas and passing advocacy exercises organised by Chambers and Inner Temple.
- Notable pieces of work included:
  - Assisting with the drafting of a skeleton argument and written submissions for Aidan Casey QC and Tom Poole in *Marr v Collie* [2017] UKPC 17.
  - Drafting a claim and supporting evidence on behalf of leaseholders in a collective enfranchisement claim that resulted in a Tomlin Order granting such enfranchisement.
  - Representing various individuals and companies in fast track trials, small claims, interlocutory hearings and applications in the County Court and the High Court.

## Other Relevant Experience

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### Football Law, May 2020 – June 2021

Founder

- Creating, designing and developing the website – [www.footballlaw.co.uk](http://www.footballlaw.co.uk).
- Writing overviews of football's institutions and procedures, such as FIFA, IFAB, The FA, the FA Premier League, The FA Women's Super League, the Court of Arbitration for Sport and football discipline.
- Writing articles regularly discussing issues such as decisions of football's governing bodies and leagues, decisions of football's disciplinary bodies, and decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- Creating and implementing advertising and article-engagement strategies.  
*N.B. Website was required to be blocked to public access upon joining Squire Patton Boggs to avoid any potential conflicts of interests.*

### General business development

- Interviews with BBC radio sports shows, Sky Sports News, The Athletic and other news outlets on a range of football law issues.
- Attendance and participation in sports law conferences events.