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## Rhys Evans

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### Practice Overview

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Rhys joined Chambers in September 2011 following the successful completion of his pupillage under the supervision of Ruth Henke QC and Sarah Waters. Since joining Chambers, Rhys has developed a busy Family and Civil practice.

Prior to joining the Bar, Rhys interned as a Judicial Assistant at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Rhys is a fluent Welsh speaker.

#### Notable and Reported cases

- Re C (Children) [2016] EWCA Civ 374

Rhys was led in the Court of Appeal acting for a local authority in the widely publicised/reported appeal of a mother against the decision to permit her to name her twin babies 'Cyanide' and 'Preacher'.

- EB (A Child: Care Order and Placement Order) [2016] EWHC 887 (Fam)

Acted for the child in a widely-publicised case concerning allegations that a Romanian mother had attempted to sell/hand over her newly-born child to a family in the UK having travelled from Spain.

- Edkins v. Hopkins et. al. [2016] EWHC 2542 (Ch)

Acted for beneficiaries in a contentious probate claim exceeding £2,000,000.00. The claim concerned allegations of undue influence, incapacity and knowledge and approval as well as detailed costs arguments.

- Edkins v. Hopkins and Ors. [2017] WTLR 39.

The case, heard before His Honour Judge Jarman QC sitting as a High Court Judge, concerned a £2 million estate and allegations of undue influence, capacity and knowledge and approval.

### Chancery and Commercial

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Rhys receives regular instructions across a wide range of chancery and commercial matters. Experience includes landlord and tenant disputes allocated to the multi track; breach of contract (PPI, misrepresentation, bills of sale); professional negligence (accountancy, building and solicitors' advice); and disputes of land (easements across property). Rhys has been instructed as junior counsel in a very complex million pound land and contract dispute before the High Court. In addition, Rhys has experience of acting in cases involving applications for freezing injunctions as well as media injunctions against social networks before the High Court. Rhys is happy to accept instructions to advise across a broad range of chancery and commercial disputes as he seeks to expand his practice further. Rhys has a developing practice in Wills, Probate, Contentious Probate, Trusts and also Land and Property disputes. This includes relief under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996. Rhys has advised in a variety of circumstances, with notable examples involving repeated advice as to the impact of agricultural tenancies on estates, TLATA and easements disputes (to trial) and most recently, Rhys acted in a contentious probate matter (circa £2 million) before the High Court (reported).

## Cohabitee & Matrimonial Finance

Rhys has a developing matrimonial finance practice and has received instructions at all stages of proceedings. Recent cases have concerned sales of farms (with generational arguments); and high net worth cases (in excess of £1,000,000.00).

## Family & Child Care

Rhys has an established Public and Private Law Children Act practice and is regularly instructed to act on behalf of local authorities, parents and children. He has experience (both on his own and being led) of cases involving the most serious allegations (such as sexual abuse, rape, fabricated illness and non-accidental injury). Owing to his experience of acting for local authorities, Rhys is instructed in disclosure applications before the Crown Court where issues of Public Interest Immunity arise.

Rhys also advises local authority on other aspects of child care, such as adoption, fostering and special guardianship provisions.

## Mental Health, Vulnerable Adults & Community Care

Rhys has a developing Court of Protection practice and is happy to accept instructions in this area.

## Public Access

Rhys has undertaken a number of cases which have been suitable for Public Access achieving favourable and cost-effective outcomes for clients.

## Personal Injury & Civil Actions Against the Police

Rhys has a very busy personal injury practice with regular instructions in matters allocated to both the fast and multi tracks. Rhys is happy to advise in respect of future losses and has had involvement in cases involving very serious injuries and consequential losses. Rhys is happy to accept instructions on a Conditional Fee Agreement basis as well as instructions to attend at inquests. Rhys is also regularly instructed to advise and settle particulars on behalf of claimants pursuing actions against police authorities. Rhys has most recently been instructed on behalf of a government agency in a significant malicious prosecution claim pursued against it.

## Regulatory, Inquiries & Inquests

Rhys has experience of Coroners' Inquests and is happy to accept instructions in respect of the same, particularly in cases involving children (including those in care) and local authorities.

Rhys has experience before the General Dental Council having successfully resisted interim orders for suspension and at a contested final hearing having successfully defended allegations of dishonesty where "erasure" was sought by the prosecuting body.

## Appointments



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- Young Barristers' Committee Wales and Chester Circuit Representative (2014 and 2015).
  - Member of the Bar Council's Law Reform Committee (2014).
  - Part of a Working Group on Paid McKenzie Friends (2014 and 2015).
  - Interviewed for The Times Legal Section (November 2014).
  - Member of the Family Law Bar Association.

## Career

- Trial Judge Intern, United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague (2008).

## Education & Qualification

- Brecon High School (2004)
- Cardiff Law School (2007) LL.B Law (Hons); 2.i
- Cardiff Law School (2008) Bar Vocational Course; Very Competent