

### **Thomas & Thomas Partners Successfully Defend Hyde Park Licence Review**

Licensing law firm **Thomas and Thomas Partners** successfully defended a premises licence review for its client, **The Royal Parks** – a review which had threatened the licence for a series of major annual concerts being held in London's **Hyde Park**.

The review application, which was instigated by Westminster's Environmental Health consultation team following increased complaints from local residents in 2011, seriously compromised the future of Hyde Park's concerts, including **The Proms**, **Hard Rock Calling** and the **Wireless Festival**.

Also at stake was the **'Live Sites' programme**, which is financially dependent upon the 2012 summer concerts and the existing Licence.

The Royal Parks instructed its licensing solicitors, Thomas and Thomas Partners to defend the application, which was decided last Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

Prior to the hearing, The Royal Parks offered to:

- Reduce the number of concerts from 13 to 9 (from 2013)
- Reduce capacity to 65,000 from 80,000 (from 2013)
- Formalise arrangements for cleansing and sanitary provision after events
- Additional sound monitoring in quieter locations where residents were more likely to be affected
- Introduce new limits on bass-beat frequency

However, the Council and local residents wanted to further restrict:

- The sound level to 73dB(A) from 75dB(A)
- The number of concerts from 13 to 6

The Council also wanted all the new conditions to take immediate effect, which would have detrimentally impacted the 2012 programme.

The Royal Parks' position was supported by a number of high profile individuals, including **Boris Johnson**, **John Giddings** (who manages Madonna and other well known artists), **Trudie Styler** and her husband **Sting**.

After hearing all the evidence, the Council's licensing sub-committee took the view that the additional steps of reducing the music level and/or the number of concerts and/or making any changes immediately was not necessary.

This case represented a great success for Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP, a new boutique licensing law firm established by principals **Alun Thomas** and **Thomas O'Maoileoin** last year. The firm is based in Covent Garden and is already recognised as a top ranked firm by Chambers UK, with its partners ranked as leading individuals by Legal 500. The firm acts for many of London's iconic restaurants and bars and has also recently obtained over fifty licences for restaurants and 2012 hospitality uses at Westfield Stratford.

Lead Partner Alun Thomas said: *“This was a fascinating case, involving expert consideration of a reduction in sound level and the impact that would have. The Council had a difficult balancing act to carry out. However, sometimes, finding balance is not easy and takes a while but found it was in this case.”*

**Adam Farrar** on behalf of The Royal Parks said: *“The Royal Parks is delighted with the outcome. Whilst we understand the concerns of residents and indeed sought to address those concerns, we are pleased the Council came to a balanced view, the result of which is that the concert season will proceed for this summer and beyond as planned”.*

**For further information, please contact Alun Thomas - [athomas@tandtp.com](mailto:athomas@tandtp.com), tel: 020 7042 0412**