

Coming soon...

Times EXCLUSIVE



Rinder to take over ITV!

Judge Robert Rinder is celebrating his 1,000th case in style...

Dig out the party poppers! This week Judge Rinder, aka barrister Robert Rinder, clocks up the 1,000th case in his daytime courtroom series! *Times* met former *Strictly* contestant Robert, 39, in London for an exclusive interview to find out how he'll be celebrating...

Robert, how does it feel to have reached your 1,000th case? It's lovely. I'm genuinely proud. ITV gave me a cake and a golden gavel! I asked for a cake and a gavel and they gave me a cake and a gavel. Sweet.



We hear there are special plans afoot... I'm going to be ITV's continuity announcer for the day to celebrate [on Tue 17 April, the day the 1,000th case is shown]. I've always wanted to do it. Imagine the fun if you say what you're really thinking, 'Well, that was boring... now for something hopefully a bit more entertaining!' I'll be a mini-*Gogglebox* critic!

Tell us more about your 1,000th case... It made me chuckle so much! Three women cause havoc in a pub when they get a bit merry and perform a dance move clinging onto the bar, ballet-style. It's a kind of



Hit man: Robert received a golden gavel

drunken, overly enthusiastic version of what Darcey Bussell might do in the morning. Then a fourth woman comes along and joins in with sheer Babycham enthusiasm, and sadly the bar comes crashing down and the landlord was not happy at all!

Oh dear! Which Judge Rinder case has been the most memorable for you? The lime green mankini case, which involved a group of musicians from Manchester, a 'wardrobe malfunction' and an 80-year-old dancer, all captured on video. It will never be erased from my memory.

How has doing Judge Rinder changed your life? More people know who I am now! But people are always lovely and polite. Maybe because they worry I could send them to prison!

You also competed on Strictly in 2016. Did you enjoy it? It was amazing and I made such good friends. Even after 18 months we keep in touch.

Do you still dance at all? The dances I liked best are all from the 19th Century. Sadly, there's not much chance to break into a foxtrot or quickstep!

TESS LAMACRAFT