

Michael Edwards

"Michael is an astonishing tactician. He is measured and thoughtful, thorough and knowledgeable. He does not need to be aggressive because he is always one step ahead of the other side. He is kind, sensible and straight talking. Clients and judges love him."

Legal 500, 2024

Experience

Year of Call: 2010

Practice Areas

- Inquests and Inquiries
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation

Direct Access

Direct Access

Education

University of Bristol, History (BA Hons) (First Class, placed first in year overall)
City University, GDL (Distinction)
BPP Law School, BVC (Very Competent)
Exhibition Award and Poland Prize (Inner Temple)

Appointments

2016-21: Attorney General's C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown (the only family practitioner appointed to the C Panel)

2018: Special Advocate (this enables him to appear in the most serious cases involving issues of national security).

2021 onwards: Attorney General's B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown.

2021: Deputy District Judge, South Eastern Circuit

2022: The FA Judicial Appeal Panel



Profile

Michael specialises in a range of areas across international family justice and beyond. This includes:

- Cross-border Children
- Private Law / Arbitration
- Public Inquiries / Inquests
- Judicial / Immigration
- Validity of Marriage
- Sports Law

Cross-border Children

Specialist in child abduction, leave to remove and jurisdictional disputes. He regularly appears in the High Court and has appeared in many of the leading cases in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court (see full case list via the link above).

Co-Editor of International Family Law, the leading journal on international family justice.

As a member of the Attorney General's B Panel, Michael regularly advises government departments on international family law / immigration issues.

Private Law

Appears regularly in leave to remove applications (domestic and international), cases involving allegations of domestic and sexual abuse and parental alienation.

Michael also sits as an arbitrator and regularly hears private law cases.

Public Inquiries / Inquests

Michael is head of the public inquiries / inquests team at 4PB.

Currently instructed by the MOD in the Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan, investigating alleged war crimes committed by British forces in Afghanistan.

Other Experience:

- IICSA – investigation into sexual abuse allegations against Lord Janner
- Ellie Butler inquest
- Inquests on behalf of the Government Legal Department

Judicial / Immigration

Michael sits as a Deputy District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit. In 2022, Michael was appointed to a 3-member judicial panel to review the asylum claims of Sri Lankan Tamils present on British Indian Ocean Territory.

Validity of Marriage

Acted for the wife in the Court of Appeal in the leading case on validity of marriage, *Akhter v Khan* [2020] EWCA Civ 122.

Represents and advises the King's Proctor on the regulation of divorce case in England and Wales

Sports Law

Advises regulatory bodies on child protection in sport and sits on judicial panels for The FA, British Swimming and Swim England.

Other experience

In 2014, Michael was awarded a Pegasus Scholarship from the Inner Temple to work in Sarajevo, Bosnia, for the human rights charity, TRIAL, on war crimes trials with a particular focus on sexual violence cases.

Michael previously worked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Michael is a Trustee of the Temple Legal Centre.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association
Association of Lawyers for Children
Inner Temple
Resolution (Affiliate Member)

Directories

"He's not afraid to challenge the judge and advocate for his clients."

"Michael Edwards is meticulous in his preparation and understanding of his client's concerns."

"Michael Edwards is a hard-working and dedicated member of the Bar. He has full command of the papers and of the factual and legal issues in each case. He is a most effective and persuasive advocate."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Michael is an astonishing tactician. He is measured and thoughtful, thorough and knowledgeable. He does not need to be aggressive because he is always one step ahead of the other side. He is kind, sensible and straight talking. Clients and judges love him."

Legal 500, 2024

"Michael Edwards' knowledge and depth of understanding of international family law is immense, and he goes above and beyond to make sure he provides a gold standard of service for his clients. He works collaboratively with his instructing solicitors to ensure a seamless and unified service for the client."

"Michael gives thoughtful and considered advice which is invariably not only sensible but accurate. He has a calm, charming manner and is ferociously bright."

Chambers and Partners, 2023

'Michael is a polished advocate giving the impression that he approaches everything with ease. His calm and pragmatic approach puts him top of his game for the extremely complex area in which he specialises.'

Legal 500, 2023

"Michael's calm, focused demeanour in court and his forensic cross-examination are a pleasure to watch. His broad legal knowledge is self-evident and his recent reported cases, which saw him appear in the High Court and Court of Appeal, show that he can hold his own against QCs and senior juniors." "He knows the law inside-out and has a calm nature which reassures the client." "Michael is committed, and this is demonstrated in the way that he interacts with clients. He gives clear and sensible advice from the outset."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

‘The private children and child abduction guru. Dispenses sage advice calmly and very persuasive in court. Always well-prepared.’

Legal 500, 2022

Children law junior with an international practice, who has handled a number of highly complex abduction cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. His practice spans a broad range of private and public law proceedings involving international issues.

Strengths: “He has an intellectual grasp of complex legal issues and a great manner with clients and opponents alike.” “Diligent and well organised with great forensic ability.” “Hugely knowledgeable, especially in the area of international law, he always knows the answer.”

Chambers & Partners, 2021

‘Michael’s calm and focused demeanour in court and his forensic cross-examination is a pleasure to watch.’

Legal 500, 2021

Children law junior with a growing international practice, who has handled a number of highly complex abduction cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. His practice spans a broad range of private and public law proceedings involving international issues.

Strengths: “Very pleasant to deal with and can make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear. He’s able to find positives in any case and he’s got a relaxed style that helps keep people calm and measured. Michael is good at keeping the temperature down and coming up with a constructive way forward. Clients always have confidence in him because he argues their cases as well.” “He’s intelligent and effective as an oral advocate.”

Recent work: Appeared before the Supreme Court in a case concerning the voluntary accommodation of children by local authorities.

Chambers & Partners 2020

‘An incredible advocate; his ability to analyse the evidence and present his client’s case in the most forensic way is outstanding.’

Legal 500, 2020

Children law junior with a growing international practice, who has handled a number of highly complex abduction cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. His practice spans a broad range of private and public law proceedings involving international issues.

Strengths: “A very persuasive advocate. He has an enormous breadth of experience for a barrister of his seniority, and puts that experience to extremely good use in a number of different cases.”

Recent work: Led by Alex Verdan QC for the London Borough of Sutton in the widely publicised inquest into the death of Ellie Butler.

Chambers & Partners 2019

‘A walking encyclopaedia.’

Legal 500, 2019

Children law junior with a growing international practice, who has handled a number of highly complex abduction cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. His practice spans a broad range of

private and public law proceedings involving international issues.

Strengths: "He's fabulous. His client care is brilliant for somebody of his call and his knowledge is outstanding."

Recent work: Led by Alex Verdan QC in an independent inquiry into child sexual abuse on behalf of Leicestershire. The matters centred on allegations made against Lord Janner relating to care homes in Leicestershire in the 1970s.

Chambers & Partners 2018

Children law junior with a growing practice, who has handled a number of highly complex abduction cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. His public law practice consists of the most sensitive and severe cases concerning matters such as infant death and abuse.

Strengths: "A rising star with a packed diary of complicated children cases. He's a bright, well prepared and thoughtful advocate."

Chambers & Partners 2017

Draws glowing reports from peers, who regard him as someone with "a bright future." He has a broad-based practice that takes in private and public children law proceedings, including those with an international element.

Strengths: "It is unusual for such a young advocate to be instructed in cases so complex. He is instructed because he can be trusted, has a very strong intellect, and has a capacity for compassion."

Chambers & Partners 2016

Cases

15/09/2023	D (A Child), Re (Abduction: Child's Objections: Representation of Child Party)	Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards Deirdre Fottrell KC Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	EWCA Civ 1047 (14 September 2023)
14/09/2023	Re D (A Child) (Abduction: Child's Objections: Representation of Child Party)	Henry Setright KC Deirdre Fottrell KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards Harry Langford	[2023] EWCA Civ 1047
20/02/2023	Re P (Inherent Jurisdiction Return: Return Order: Welfare Analysis)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker Michael Edwards	[2023] EWHC 225 (Fam)
20/02/2023	Re P (Inherent Jurisdiction Return: Allegations of Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Abuse: Fact Finding)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker Michael Edwards	[2022] EWHC 1722 (Fam)
27/07/2022	Re P (Inherent Jurisdiction Return: Allegations of Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Abuse: Fact Finding) (2022)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker	[2022] EWHC 1722 (Fam)
27/10/2021	A (A Child), Re (Rev1) (2021)	Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2021] EWHC 3467 (Fam)

05/03/2021	AB v CD	Michael Edwards Jacqueline Renton Sam King KC	[2021] EWFC 38
03/08/2020	RE M (A Child) (2020)	Teertha Gupta KC Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards Ralph Marnham	[2020] EWCA Civ 922
18/11/2019	R v G, H v Secretary of State for the Home Department	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 3147 (Fam)
30/10/2019	Re NY (A Child)	Henry Setright KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC Teertha Gupta KC Jacqueline Renton Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker	[2019] UKSC 49
02/07/2019	AB v CD & C (2019)	Alex Verdan KC Sam King KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 1695 (Fam)
16/04/2019	RE H (Abduction: retention in non-contracting state) (2019)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWCA Civ 672
13/02/2019	Re E (Abduction Article 13B Deferred Return Order) (2019)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 256 (Fam)
03/08/2018	F v M (2018)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWHC 2106 (Fam)
18/07/2018	Williams v Hackney [2018] (UKSC 37)	Alex Verdan KC Michael Edwards Indu Kumar	[2018] (UKSC 37)
10/05/2018	Re J (Children) (2018)	Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWCA Civ 1372
28/02/2018	Re I (Children)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWCA Civ 580
14/02/2018	In the matter of C (Children) (2018)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Charles Hale KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC	[2018] UKSC 8

24/01/2017	RE N (Hague Convention : Habitual Residence) (2017)	Michael Edwards	[2017] EWHC 63 (Fam)
13/04/2016	In the matter of N (Children) [2016]	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards	[2016] UKSC 15
04/02/2016	In the matter of B (A child) [2016]	Private: David Williams QC Henry Setright KC Alistair G Perkins Michael Gration KC Dorothea Gartland KC Deirdre Fottrell KC Michael Edwards Private: Hassan Khan	[2016] UKSC 4
04/12/2015	In the matter of J (a child)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards	[2015] UKSC 70
19/02/2015	AB v TB (Temporary Removal to Jordan) [2014]	Michael Edwards	[2014] EWHC 4663 (Fam)
01/05/2014	Re KP (A Child) (2014)	Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2014] EWCA Civ 554
06/12/2013	A Local Authority v DB & Others [2013]	Alison Grief KC Cyrus Larizadeh KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWHC 4066 (Fam)
04/12/2013	Re KL (A Child) [2013]	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2013] UKSC 75
15/08/2013	Re LC (Children) (2013)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWCA Civ 1058
26/07/2013	NN v ZZ & Ors [2013]	Teertha Gupta KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWHC 2261 (Fam)

16/07/2013	DL (Appellant) v EL (Respondent) & (1) Reunite International Child Abduction Centre (2) Centre for family law and practice (Intervenors) (2013)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWCA Civ 865
13/10/2011	C (Care: Contact)	Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards	[2012] 2 FCR 325; [2011] EWCA Civ 1774
14/07/2011	Re C (Children) (2011)	Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2011] EWCA Civ 1230