



## Michael Sternberg QC

'Simply superb.'  
The Legal 500 2015

### Experience

Year of Call: 1975  
Year of Silk: 2008

### Education

MA LLM (Cantab) MCI Arb  
Fellow of the International Academy of International Lawyers  
Fully Qualified Family Law Arbitrator  
Qualified Collaborative Lawyer  
Qualified Mediator  
Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts

### Appointments

Bencher of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn 2013

### Profile

Michael Sternberg's practice covers the two main areas of family work - financial remedy and child cases. He has a substantial practice in high-value financial cases and is instructed by a number of the top London firms. He regards negotiation as of great importance in getting the best result in the speediest time at the lowest cost to the client. So many of his cases settle avoiding the costs and publicity of what would otherwise be high profile contests. The financial work involves not only the latest developments in family law, but also a high degree of expertise in company law and valuation, farming divorce cases, prenuptial agreements, tax law and cases where there is a conflict of jurisdiction.

Unusually Michael also has extensive experience in difficult child cases. He was instructed consistently in the past not only by the Official Solicitor, and Cafcass Legal, but also by local authorities in highly demanding cases in the High Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords, which have raised difficult questions of fact and law.

Michael is an expert in contests between England and Wales and other jurisdictions as to which should decide the divorce - both in respect of Brussels II (revised) and generally - also in relation to injunctions to prevent a party from proceeding with divorce in a foreign jurisdiction. He has lectured on the topic.

Michael has acted as an advocate to the court in a series of reported decisions. He succeeded against the UK Government in relation to a breaches of Articles 8 and 12 of the ECHR, on behalf of a post-operative transsexual, heard by the Grand Chamber in Strasbourg (I v UK [2002] 2 FLR 518). Michael was previously listed as a leading junior in the relatively small list of practitioners in London within The Legal 500 since 2001. Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession also for many years rated him as one of the few leading juniors. Michael is a member of the Family Law Bar Association and he was the Assistant Secretary from 1986 - 1988.

Michael is also the author of two chapters in David Davidson's book "Pensions and Marriage Breakdown " 3rd Edition (published by the Law Society in 2005).

Michael was in 2009 nominated by the Chairman of the Bar to chair a joint tribunal set up by the Bar Council and the Law Society / OSS to resolve major dispute between a leading junior Barrister and a prominent firm of solicitors.

Michael was one of only 3 Leading Counsel to be invited to appear as a principal speaker on issues of spousal support after divorce, at the Butterworths Lexis Nexis Matrimonial Finance and Divorce National Conference on 28th April 2010.

On 4th February 2011 Michael chaired a day conference on advanced financial remedy topics at the RAF Club attended by over 100 solicitors at which 5 QC's spoke. He chaired a similar financial remedy day conference for the White Paper Company in January 2013 and twice in January and April 2014.

Michael is a Qualified Mediator and Collaborative lawyer. In September 2011 he attended the first course run by The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to become one of the first Family Law Arbitrators.

In March 2013 Michael chaired Lexis Nexis webinar on all aspects of ADR.

Michael is the Chair of the Trustees of the Three Faith Forum - the country's leading active interfaith charitable agency, which since 1997 has been generating understanding, goodwill and friendship between Muslims, Christians and Jews, as well as people of other faiths and in the wider society.

## Professional Memberships

Family Law Bar Association  
International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers  
Three Faiths Forum Legal Group (founder member)  
Gray's Inn  
Inner Temple  
Affiliate Member of Resolution

## Directories

An experienced silk specialising in both money work and private law children matters. His peers single him out for his "incredible attention to detail." He is also a qualified mediator and arbitrator.

**Strengths:** "His preparation for cases is second to none and he gives very, very clear advice. You know the advice you get from him is going to be listened to by clients. They can see very clearly the preparation he puts into a case."

### Chambers & Partners 2016

'Simply superb.'

### The Legal 500 2015

Highly recommended by peers for his work on both high-level matrimonial finance disputes and contentious children law matters.

**Expertise:** "He's very proactive. If you've got a case on with Michael you know all the t's will be crossed and the i's will be dotted. He's very demanding of his solicitors and he's excellent in his preparation."

### Chambers & Partners 2015

'He has a substantial practice in high-value financial remedy cases.'

### The Legal 500 2014

Comes much recommended for his broad-ranging family law practice and draws much praise for his work in both high-value ancillary relief matters and complex child cases.

Expertise: "An excellent QC to work with. He's very meticulous, provides lots of feedback and works well as part of a team."

### Chambers & Partner 2014

The "meticulous" Michael Sternberg QC has a broad family law practice and is highly rated for his work in both the children law and matrimonial finance spheres. He is regularly instructed in high-value ancillary relief cases and complex child abduction matters, and is an accredited mediator and collaborative lawyer.

### Chambers & Partners 2013

'If battle is required', Michael Sternberg QC is 'your chosen gladiator'.

### The Legal 500 2012

Michael Sternberg QC's outstanding practice continues to cover both complex international children matters and ancillary relief cases. Sources say: "He is everything one could want in a QC. Intelligent, precise and thoughtful, he is a joy to work with."

### Chambers and Partners 2012

Michael Sternberg QC 'thinks outside the box and is a great strategist'.

### The Legal 500 2011

Michael Sternberg QC now focuses primarily on matrimonial finance work and is often instructed in cases with cross-jurisdictional issues. Commentators note that "he thinks out detailed strategies and is always popular with clients."

### Chambers and Partners 2011

Michael Sternberg QC has a mixed practice but won most support from the market for his children work. His recent cases include D v D, R v R, and S v S, all of which were contested children and ancillary relief cases where millions of pounds were at stake.

## Chambers and Partners 2010

Michael Sternberg QC 'provides a first-class service and often comes up with creative solutions to difficult problems'.

### The Legal 500 2010

New silk Michael Sternberg QC is a "meticulous and detailed" barrister who carries out both ancillary relief and children-related matters. He has a particular interest in cases with an international dimension.

### Chambers & Partners 2009

Michael Sternberg QC who has 'excellent attention to detail', and is 'very good at cross-examination'.

### The Legal 500 2009

Michael Sternberg is "first choice for anything with an international dimension - be it Hague Convention, forum shopping or money matters." He is still best known for his varied work with children.

### Chambers & Partners 2008

Michael Sternberg has a more varied practice and undertakes a mixture of both children and finance work. He is "particularly supportive of clients and is extremely conscientious" managing to maintain a "delightful manner in the most difficult cases."

### Chambers & Partners 2007

Michael is also recommended as a Family Leading Junior in **The Legal 500 2006**

## Practice areas

- [Financial Remedies](#)
- [Private Law](#)

## Dispute resolution

- [Collaborative Lawyer](#)
- [Mediation](#)
- [Early Neutral Evaluator](#)
- [Arbitration](#)

## Direct Access

- [Direct Access](#)

## Cases

Re M (A Child) Sub Nom Re M (Adoption: International Adoption Trade) (2003)  
[2003] EWHC 219 (Fam)

Field v Field  
[2003] 1 FLR 376

I v United Kingdom  
[2002] 2 FLR 518

Re B (Adoption by one Natural Parent to Exclusion of other)  
[2001] 1 FLR 589

Re AGN (Adoption: Foreign Adoption)  
[2000] 2 FLR 431

Re AMR (Adoption: Procedure)  
[1999] 2 FLR 807

Re M (Sexual Abuse Allegations: Interviewing Techniques)  
[1999] 2 FLR 92

Re S (Removal from Jurisdiction)  
[1999] 1 FLR 850

S v S (Judgment in Chambers: Disclosure)  
[1997] 1 WLR 1621

Re M (Petition to European Commission of Human Rights)  
[1997] 1 FLR 755

Note H v H (Residence Order: Leave to Remove from Jurisdiction)  
[1995] 1 FLR 529

R v Plymouth Justices Ex Parte W

[1993] 2 FLR 777

Re F (A Minor) (Blood Tests: Parental Rights)

[1993] 3 WLR 369

Re F (A Minor: Paternity Test)

[1993] 1 FLR 598

H v H (Financial Provision: Capital Allowance)

[1993] 2 FLR 335