

Christopher Hames QC

“Christopher is wonderful to work with. He’s always incredibly well prepared and he makes sure that he absolutely understands all the peripheral details of a case.”

“He has the ear of the court and an excellent bedside manner with clients.”

Chambers & Partners 2020



Experience

Year of Call: 1987

Year of Silk: 2015

Practice Areas

- Financial Remedies
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Collaborative Law
- Early Neutral Evaluation

Direct Access

Direct Access

Education

LLB Hons (Sheffield)

Appointments

Recorder (2018)

Profile

Christopher is a fearless and persuasive advocate, combining formidable strategic and tactical thinking with a keen forensic insight. He is a specialist in all areas of international law, with the knowledge and experience to take on complex issues of jurisdiction, finance and movement of children.

Christopher has extensive experience in matrimonial finance with substantial assets, often with an

international element or involving off-shore or domestic trusts or where criminal confiscation and restraint orders have been made. Having been involved in the leading case on Legal Service Payment Orders, he is much in demand for all types of applications for legal funding orders.

He is one of the leading lights in international child abduction in the country. His case-work involve the Hague 1980 and 1996 Conventions, Wardship and the inherent jurisdiction and the enforcement of foreign orders. He appears both at first instance and appeals: he has appeared in both the CJEU and the UKSC. He also has a considerable practice in relocation and international adoption cases.

He is sought after by solicitors in disputes over the court's jurisdiction to entertain applications for children and divorce; these may involve issues of non-marriage, habitual residence, domicile, forum non conveniens and the maintenance regulation

He has been Chair of the CALA since 2018 and regularly participates at international conferences. As Chair, he has been involved in extensive consultations about practice and procedure following the President's Guidance and on the post Covid-19 lockdown court environment.

He is an author and contributory editor of 2 chapters of Rayden & Jackson on the Hague 1980 Convention and committal.

He regularly chairs and lectures seminars and conferences on a variety of practice areas. In 2020 topics have included:

- Conduct, Contributions and Pre-acquired Assets after XW v XH
- Non-marriage (Akhter); parens patriae and the inherent jurisdiction (Re N); and the effect of Brexit on family law

In February 2020 Christopher gave evidence to the House of Lords EU Justice Sub-Committee on behalf of the Bar Council on "Civil Justice Co-operation after Brexit. His evidence ranged over both divorce/finance and children.

He is a trustee of CFAB and reviews cases for Advocate.

He sits as Recorder on the NE Circuit and is approved for the Financial Remedies Court. He is a qualified arbitrator in both children (now including international relocation) and money work.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Inner Temple

Chair of Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Association of Lawyers for Children

Member and reviewer for Advocate

Trustee of Children and Families Across Borders

Directories

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings. He wins plaudits for his willingness to get fully involved with a case.

Strengths: "Christopher is wonderful to work with. He's always incredibly well prepared and he makes

sure that he absolutely understands all the peripheral details of a case.” “He has the ear of the court and an excellent bedside manner with clients.”

Chambers & Partners 2020

‘His advocacy is smooth and persuasive.’

Legal 500, 2020

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Strengths: “He is a rock upon which you know you can build a solid case. Nothing fazes him. When you have him on your side, you feel that added layer of confidence in the way you would if you had a sword and shield to hand.”

Chambers& Partners 2019

‘He commands real authority.’

Legal 500, 2019

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings with international issues. He wins plaudits for his willingness to get fully involved with a case.

Strengths: “He is prepared to go the extra mile. He works long hours and he’s willing to pull out all the stops for you and the client. He makes you feel that you’re working as a team and he seems genuinely interested in helping the client.”

Chambers& Partners 2018

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings.

Strengths: “He’s easy to work with, relentless in court, fearless, incredibly knowledgeable and very persuasive. A superb advocate.”

Recent work: Acted in *Cambra v Jones*, a case concerning the failure to return two children to Spain under the Hague Convention.

Chambers & Partners 2017

Has taken silk this year as a result of his work handling international family law on both the financial and private children side. He is a lawyer who displays forcefulness and tenacity.

Strengths: “He is a master strategist, and has a great analytical mind. He’s very eloquent in his advocacy, and is really formidable, ruthless.”

Chambers & Partners 2016

Maintains a strong private law children practice, and works in cases relating to residence, relocation and abduction in both Hague and non-Hague jurisdictions.

Expertise: “Brilliant for complex, difficult cases. Great on the attention to detail, he’s very thorough, good

with clients and highly personable.”

Recent work: Instructed before the High Court in a case pertaining to the abduction of five children by their father.

Chambers & Partners 2015

Maintains a fine track in cases concerning cross-jurisdictional issues, child abduction, adoption, abandoned spouses and lawful relocation.

Expertise: “Has excellent knowledge of all areas of family law matters.”

Recent work: Recently handled child abduction proceedings in the High Court involving five children, three of whom were returned to Spain.

Chambers & Partners 2014

Christopher Hames focuses his international family law practice on cases concerning child abduction, relocation and cross-jurisdictional disputes. Commentators note that “he cuts straight through to the issues” of the most complex of cases.

Chambers & Partners 2013

Christopher Hames comes highly recommended for his expertise in cross-jurisdictional children expertise. Sources say: “He is a very safe pair of hands and is excellent with clients.” Hames is much in demand.

Chambers and Partners 2012

Christopher Hames is highly regarded for cross-jurisdictional children work.

Chambers and Partners 2011

Christopher Hames, who is praised for his handling of Children Act matters.

Chambers and Partners 2010

Cases

| | | | |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 15/09/2020 | B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence) | Christopher Hames QC Harry Langford Jacqueline Renton Charlotte Baker | B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence) |
| 18/11/2019 | R v G, H v Secretary of State for the Home Department | Christopher Hames QC Michael Edwards | [2019] EWHC 3147 (Fam) |
| 30/10/2019 | Re NY (A Child) | Henry Setright QC Mark Jarman Michael Gration Teertha Gupta QC Jacqueline Renton Christopher Hames QC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker | [2019] UKSC 49 |
| 09/10/2019 | Read v Panzone & Anor | Christopher Hames QC Jonathan Evans Harry Nosworthy | [2019] EWCA Civ 1662 |

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| 24/07/2019 | Re X (Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order) (No 2) | Christopher Hames QC Alison Grief QC | [2019] EWHC 1990 (Fam) |
| 19/07/2019 | AH v CD & Ors (2018) | Christopher Hames QC Alistair G Perkins Paul Hepher Michael Gration | [2018] EWHC 2322 (Fam) |
| 16/04/2019 | RE H (Abduction: retention in non-contracting state) (2019) | Christopher Hames QC Michael Edwards | [2019] EWCA Civ 672 |
| 01/03/2019 | Re G-E (Children) (Hague Convention 1980: Repudiatory Retention & Habitual Residence) (2019) | Christopher Hames QC Mark Jarman Charlotte Baker | [2019] EWCA Civ 283 |
| 22/02/2019 | Re W (Children) (Abduction: Implementatioon of Return Order) (2019) | Christopher Hames QC | [2019] EWHC 357 (Fam) |
| 13/02/2019 | Re E (Abduction Article 13B Deferred Return Order) (2019) | Christopher Hames QC Mark Jarman Michael Edwards | [2019] EWHC 256 (Fam) |
| 17/10/2018 | UD v XB | Teertha Gupta QC Jacqueline Renton Christopher Hames QC Brian Jubb Michael Gration | C-393/18 PPU |
| 31/07/2018 | Re X (A Child) (Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order) (2018) | Christopher Hames QC Alistair G Perkins | [2018] EWCA Civ 1825 |
| 27/03/2018 | Re W (2018) | Christopher Hames QC | [2018] EWCA Civ 664 |
| 28/02/2018 | Re I (Children) | Christopher Hames QC Mark Jarman Michael Edwards | [2018] EWCA Civ 580 |
| 14/02/2018 | In the matter of C (Children) (2018) | Henry Setright QC Michael Gration Charles Hale QC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards Christopher Hames QC Mark Jarman | [2018] UKSC 8 |
| 12/04/2017 | Re DO and BO (2017) | Christopher Hames QC | [2017] EWHC 858 (Fam) |
| 08/03/2017 | C v D (2017) | Christopher Hames QC Joanne Porter | [2017] EWHC 807 (Fam) |
| 18/01/2017 | Egeneonu v Egeneonu | Christopher Hames QC Alistair G Perkins | [2017] EWHC 43 (Fam) |
| 07/12/2016 | Re F (Children) (2016) | Teertha Gupta QC Christopher Hames QC | [2016] EWCA Civ 1253 |

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| 08/09/2016 | Re R (Children) (2016) | Alex Verdan QC Teertha Gupta QC Christopher Hames QC Dorothea Gartland | [2016] EWCA Civ 1130 |
| 09/08/2016 | Re M (Children) (2016) | Christopher Hames QC Hassan Khan | [2016] EWCA Civ 942 |
| 28/06/2016 | JB v D (2016) | Christopher Hames QC | [2016] EWHC 1607 (Fam) |
| 09/06/2016 | Re F (Children) (2016) | Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Christopher Hames QC | [2016] EWCA Civ 546 |
| 10/03/2016 | Re G (A Child) (2016) | Christopher Hames QC | [2016] EWCA Civ 297 |
| 07/10/2015 | Re J (Children) (2015) | Christopher Hames QC Private: David Williams QC Laura Morley | [2015] EWCA Civ 1019 |
| 14/07/2015 | Re K (1980 Hague Convention) (Lithuania) (2015) | Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC Hassan Khan | [2015] EWCA Civ 720 |
| 27/01/2015 | Re M (Republic of Ireland) (Child's Objections) (Joinder of Children as Parties to Appeal) [2015] | Christopher Hames QC Ruth Kirby Dorothea Gartland | [2015] 2 FLR 1074; [2015] EWCA Civ 26 |
| 09/07/2014 | Cambra v Jones & Jones [2014] | Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC Laura Morley | [2014] EWHC 2264 (Fam) |
| 21/05/2014 | B v B [2014] | Christopher Hames QC | [2014] EWHC 1804 (Fam) |
| 16/05/2014 | LC v RRL & Others [2014] | Henry Setright QC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC Jacqueline Renton | [2014] EWFC 8 |
| 10/04/2014 | TF v PJ [2014] | Henry Setright QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Gratton | [2014] EWHC 1780 (Fam) |
| 13/03/2014 | Re F (A Child) (2014) | Henry Setright QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Gratton | [2014] EWCA Civ 275 |
| 10/03/2014 | Rubin v Rubin [2014] | Christopher Hames QC | [2014] EWHC 611 (Fam) |
| 15/01/2014 | Re LC (Children) (2014) | Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC Jacqueline Renton | [2014] UKSC 1 |

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| 21/08/2013 | HM Solicitor General committal to prison of J. Jones for alleged contempt of Court | Christopher Hames QC | [2014] 1 FLR 852; [2013] EWHC 2579 (Fam) |
| 15/08/2013 | Re LC (Children) (2013) | Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Edwards | [2013] EWCA Civ 1058 |
| 23/05/2013 | LCG v RL [2013] | Henry Setright QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Gratton | [2014] 1 FLR 307; [2013] EWHC 1383 (Fam) |
| 10/04/2013 | CB v CB [2013] | Christopher Hames QC | [2014] 1FLR 663; [2013] EWHC 2092 (Fam) |
| 26/11/2012 | VK v JV [2012] | Christopher Hames QC Hassan Khan | [2013] 2 FLR 237; [2012] EWHC 4033 (Fam) |
| 07/11/2012 | Re J (Children) [2012] | Henry Setright QC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC | [2012] EWCA Civ 1511 |
| 16/02/2011 | Re O (Children) | Christopher Hames QC | [2011] 2 FLR 1307 : [2011] 1 FCR 363 : [2011] Fam Law 452 : (2011) 108(9) LSG 19; [2011] EWCA Civ 128 |
| 24/06/2009 | Re K (Children) (2009) | Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Christopher Hames QC | [2010] 1 FLR 782; [2009] EWCA Civ 986 |
| 12/02/2009 | Stodgell v Stodgell (2009) | Christopher Hames QC | [2009] EWCA Civ 243; (2009) 2 FLR 244 |
| 10/12/2008 | T v (1) B (2) Revenue & Customs Prosecutions Office (2008) | Christopher Hames QC | [2008] EWHC 3000 (Fam); (2009) 1 FLR 1231 |
| 04/10/2006 | Re P (Children) (2006) | Christopher Hames QC | [2006] EWHC 2410 (Fam) |
| 02/03/2005 | X v X (Crown Prosecution Service Intervening) | Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames QC | [2005] 2 FLR 487 |
| 22/07/2002 | Re MCA; HM Customs and Excise Commissioners and Long v A and A | Christopher Hames QC | |
| 18/04/2002 | (1) HM Customs & Excise (2) Richard Long v (1) MCA (2) JMA : JMA v MCA & Richard Long (Intervenor) (2002) | Christopher Hames QC | [2002] EWHC 611 (Admin); (2002) 2 FLR 274 |

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| 20/07/2000 | Re R (Children) (Sexual Abuse: Standard of Proof) | Christopher Hames QC Cliona Papazian | [2001] 1 FCR 86 |
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