

Christopher Hames KC

'Christopher is second to none for complex family law matters. His advocacy is forceful and persuasive, underwritten by a keen eye for detail and a tactical mind.'

Legal 500, 2025

'He's been brilliant with the client, he's excellent in court and judges love him.'

Chambers and Partners, 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 1987

Year of Silk: 2015

Practice Areas

- Financial Remedies
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Collaborative Law
- Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation

Direct Access

Direct Access

Qualifications

Arbitrator – MCI Arb in both Children and Money

Education

LLB Hons (Sheffield)

Appointments

Recorder (2018)

Deputy High Court Judge section 9(1) – (2022)

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's practice involves resolving difficult international issues concerning both children and substantial financial resources, routinely tackling novel jurisdictional dilemmas in the Court of Appeal and the High Court whether this be in private or public law children, divorce or financial remedies cases.

He was 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. In February 2020 he 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 an author and contributory editor of 2 chapters of Rayden & Jackson on the Hague 1980 Convention and committal.

He regularly chairs and participates in seminars and conferences on a variety of practice areas.

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 authorised to sit as a deputy High Court Judge. He is a qualified arbitrator in both children (now including international relocation) and money work.

International Children Law

Christopher's work covers all aspects of the operation of both the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions. He has appeared in a lot of the leading appellate authorities in this area as well as appearing in the High Court at first instance. He is the author of the Chapter on the 1980 Hague Convention in Rayden and Jackson

Family Finance

His practice covers mainly HNW individuals and cases with an international element including disputes over jurisdiction and forum non conveniens. He has appeared in leading cases concerning legal service payment orders, avoidance of disposition orders and the impact of confiscation orders in financial remedy cases.

Private Children Law

His private law children work usually involves relocation or an international element. He was lead advocate in Re H-N the leading authority on domestic abuse and controlling behaviour in children cases.

Non-court dispute resolution

Christopher is an experienced arbitrator in both children and money cases. He is able to combine in one arbitral hearing both issues. He is also available to conduct pFDRs.

Public Children Law

He has advised local authorities on questions of jurisdiction and placement abroad, including international adoption. He represents parents and guardians only where there is an international element.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Inner Temple
Former 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 (CFAB)

Directories

"He is well prepared and has amazing knowledge of international cases."

"He always speaks with authority. He's able to adapt his advocacy skills to read the bench, ensure he keeps the ear of the court and ensure his submissions are always effective."

"He's been brilliant with the client, he's excellent in court and judges love him."

Chambers and Partners, 2025

'Christopher is second to none for complex family law matters. His advocacy is forceful and persuasive, underwritten by a keen eye for detail and a tactical mind.'

'Christopher is unflappable and always thoroughly prepared. He has a wonderful style of advocacy, calm but very much to the point. He very much has the ear of the court'

Legal 500, 2025

'Christopher is professional, knowledgeable, driven, confident, disciplined and able to analyse complex facts and lots of information within a limited timeframe. He is excellent at keeping the client focused.'

Chris is approachable and clearly communicates legal principles. He is quick on his feet and empathetic when dealing with clients in complicated situations. He is very client-focused and willing to go the extra mile to prepare thoroughly.'

Legal 500, 2024

"His knowledge of international children law is unsurpassable and he has garnered a loyal following. He is an expert tactician."

"Always a safe pair of hands, he can find the novel legal points."

"Chris is thoroughly prepared and gives sound advice."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Christopher Hames is excellent at cross-examination, very good on the detail and very persuasive. Very hard-working and responsive. he's available to the rest of his legal team and happy to have lots of meeting with the clients in preparation for trial."

"He's a great tactician with really great style in court."

Chambers and Partners, 2023

'Christopher is very methodical, good with client and quick on his feet.'

Legal 500 2023, Family (Including Divorce and Financial Remedy)

'Christopher is highly knowledgeable and a stellar advocate. He is a safe pair of hands.'

Legal 500 2023, Children

'He is an extremely talented advocate, and a powerhouse of knowledge concerning cross-border child law. Exceptional on his feet.'

Legal 500, 2022

"His pragmatic and intellectual approach proves to be a winning combination, and his distillation of key issues is a joy for any tribunal." "Christopher is meticulous, thorough, calm and organised when handling domestic violence cases." "He's approachable and respectful in his approach."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His 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: "Has excellent technical expertise, particularly in international children law and European regulations." "He's rapidly becoming a go-to for relocation cases as his tactical skill is superb."

"Christopher has a reassuring air of authority and gravitas. He is always approachable and willing to help at short notice."

Chambers & Partners, 2021

'Has a unique combination of fighting hard for his client, having a thoughtful and clever strategy and being extremely persuasive and beautifully articulate in court.'

'Combines a very technical and forensic approach with a healthy dollop of pragmatism and a real sense of humanity. He is always impeccably prepared and miles ahead of the game.'

Legal 500 2021, Children

'Combines a very technical and forensic approach with a healthy dollop of pragmatism and a real sense of humanity. He is always impeccably prepared and miles ahead of the game.'

Legal 500 2021, Family (Including Divorce and Financial Remedy)

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

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 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

16/12/2024	P (A Child) (Abduction: Child's Objections)	Christopher Hames KC Jacqueline Renton KC Jonathan Evans	[2024] EWCA Civ 1569
31/07/2024	A v M & Ors	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Indu Kumar Mani Singh Basi Ralph Marnham Frankie Shama Alexandra Halliday	[2024] EWHC 2020 (Fam)
31/07/2024	A v M & Ors	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Indu Kumar Mani Singh Basi Ralph Marnham Frankie Shama Alexandra Halliday	[2024] EWHC 2020 (Fam)
24/07/2024	E, F And G (Interim Child Arrangements)	Christopher Hames KC Olivia Gaunt	[2024] EWCA Civ 874
18/07/2024	A & Ors (Care Proceedings: Inherent Jurisdiction: Order for Return to Austria), Re	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC Mai-Ling Savage Harry Langford	[2024] EWFC 178
28/06/2024	London Borough of Haringey v T (1996 Hague Convention Art 7)	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Charlotte Georges Clarissa Wigoder	[2024] EWFC 151
23/05/2024	A & Ors (Case Proceedings: 1996 Hague Convention: Habitual Residence), Re	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC Mai-Ling Savage Andrew Powell	[2024] EWFC 110

19/03/2024	R v M (Hague Convention; Withdrawal of Application and Art. 16 (Parental Responsibility))	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC Jacqueline Renton KC Mani Singh Basi Frankie Shama	[2024] EWHC 720 (Fam)
30/01/2024	PF v QF	Christopher Hames KC Pippa Sanger	[2024] EWFC 10 (B)
18/12/2023	EC v BM	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC Jonathan Evans Mani Singh Basi	[2023] EWHC 3237
06/12/2023	C v M (A Child) (Abduction: Representation of Child Party)	Ruth Kirby KC Adele Cameron-Douglas Miriam Best Mark Jarman KC Mani Singh Basi Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Charlotte Baker Deirdre Fottrell KC Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	[2023] EWCA Civ 1449
27/07/2023	C v M & Anor (No 1 Hague Abduction: Application for Re-hearing)	Mark Jarman KC Mani Singh Basi Adele Cameron-Douglas Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker Teertha Gupta KC	[2023] EWHC 1482 (Fam)
31/03/2023	A (Children) (Abduction: Article 13(b))	Christopher Hames KC Paul Hepher	[2021] EWCA Civ 939
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)
08/12/2022	G v G	Christopher Hames KC	[2022] EWFC 151
05/10/2022	H-N (the rehearing)	Christopher Hames KC	[2021] EWFC B98
22/08/2022	B (Children) (Abduction: Consent: Oral Evidence) (Article 13(B))	Christopher Hames KC Paul Hepher Henry Setright KC	[2022] EWCA Civ 1171
19/08/2022	Re: X (Children)	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Jacqueline Renton KC Clarissa Wigoder	[2022] EWCA Civ 1167

27/07/2022	Re P (Inherent Jurisdiction Return: Allegations of Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Abuse: Fact Finding)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker	[2022] EWHC 1722 (Fam)
25/07/2022	A (A Child), Re (Enforcement of A Foreign Order)	Christopher Hames KC Henry Setright KC Emma Spruce	[2022] EWCA Civ 904
02/03/2022	R (A Child : Asylum And 1980 Hague Convention Application) (Rev1)	Cliona Papazian Ralph Marnham Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker	[2022] EWCA Civ 188
18/02/2022	R (A Child : Asylum And 1980 Hague Convention Application) (Rev1)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker	[2022] EWCA Civ 188
09/02/2022	RS v AM – Re C (Abduction: Article 13(b) & Child’s Objections)	Christopher Hames KC Henry Setright KC Jonathan Evans	[2022] EWHC 311 (Fam)
17/11/2021	NP v DP (Hague Convention; abducting parent refusing to return)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker	[2021] EWHC 3626 (Fam)
29/09/2021	VR v YD & Anor	Charlotte Baker Christopher Hames KC	[2021] EWHC 2642 (Fam)
10/08/2021	Re C (A Child) (Child Abduction: Parent’s refusal to return with child)	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Paul Hephner	[2021] EWCA Civ 1236
30/03/2021	Re H-N and Others (Children) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Charles Hale KC Adele Cameron-Douglas Rebecca Foulkes Miriam Best Teertha Gupta KC Matthew Persson Clarissa Wigoder Mark Jarman KC Michael Gratton KC Barbara Mills KC Joy Brereton KC Emma Spruce	[2021] EWCA Civ 448
23/02/2021	A (A Child) (1980 Hague Convention: Set Aside)	Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Teertha Gupta KC Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton KC	[2021] EWCA Civ 194

09/02/2021	Re G (Abduction: Consent/Discretion)	Christopher Hames KC Alistair G Perkins	[2021] EWCA Civ 139
15/09/2020	B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence)	Christopher Hames KC Harry Langford Jacqueline Renton KC Charlotte Baker	B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence)
18/11/2019	R v G, H v Secretary of State for the Home Department (Disclosure of Asylum Records)	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 KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker	[2019] UKSC 49
09/10/2019	Read v Panzone & Anor	Christopher Hames KC Jonathan Evans Harry Nosworthy	[2019] EWCA Civ 1662
24/07/2019	Re X (Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order) (No 2)	Christopher Hames KC Alison Grief KC	[2019] EWHC 1990 (Fam)
19/07/2019	AH v CD & Ors	Christopher Hames KC Alistair G Perkins Paul Hephher Michael Gration KC	[2018] EWHC 2322 (Fam)
16/04/2019	RE H (Abduction: retention in non-contracting state)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWCA Civ 672
01/03/2019	Re G-E (Children) (Hague Convention 1980: Repudiatory Retention & Habitual Residence)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Charlotte Baker	[2019] EWCA Civ 283
22/02/2019	Re W (Children : Abduction: Implementation of Return Order) V	Christopher Hames KC	[2019] EWHC 357 (Fam)
13/02/2019	Re E (Abduction Article 13B Deferred Return Order)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 256 (Fam)
17/10/2018	UD v XB	Teertha Gupta KC Jacqueline Renton KC Christopher Hames KC Brian Jubb Michael Gration KC	[2018] C-393/18 PPU
31/07/2018	Re X (A Child : FGMPO) (Rev 2)	Christopher Hames KC Alistair G Perkins	[2018] EWCA Civ 1825
27/03/2018	Re W	Christopher Hames KC	[2018] EWCA Civ 664

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)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Charles Hale KC Jacqueline Renton KC Michael Edwards Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC	[2018] UKSC 8
12/04/2017	Re DO & BO (Temporary Relocation to China)	Christopher Hames KC	[2017] EWHC 858 (Fam)
08/03/2017	C v D	Christopher Hames KC Private: Joanne Porter	[2017] EWHC 807 (Fam)
18/01/2017	Egeneonu v Egeneonu	Christopher Hames KC Alistair G Perkins	[2017] EWHC 43 (Fam)
07/12/2016	Re F (Children)	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 1253
08/09/2016	Re R (Children)	Alex Verdan KC Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Dorothea Gartland KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 1130
09/08/2016	Re M (Children)	Christopher Hames KC Private: Hassan Khan	[2016] EWCA Civ 942
28/06/2016	JB v D	Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWHC 1607 (Fam)
09/06/2016	Re F (Children)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 546
07/10/2015	Re J (Children)	Christopher Hames KC Private: David Williams QC Laura Morley	[2015] EWCA Civ 1019
14/07/2015	Re K (1980 Hague Convention) (Lithuania)	Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC Private: Hassan Khan	[2015] EWCA Civ 720
27/01/2015	M (Republic of Ireland) (Child's Objections) (Joinder of Children As Parties To Appeal)	Christopher Hames KC Ruth Kirby KC Dorothea Gartland KC	[2015] EWCA Civ 26
09/07/2014	Cambra v Jones & Jones [2014]	Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC Laura Morley	[2014] EWHC 2264 (Fam)
21/05/2014	B v B [2014]	Christopher Hames KC	[2014] EWHC 1804 (Fam)

16/05/2014	LC v RRL & Others [2014]	Henry Setright KC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC Jacqueline Renton KC	[2014] EWFC 8
10/04/2014	TF v PJ [2014]	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWHC 1780 (Fam)
13/03/2014	Re F (A Child) (2014)	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 275
10/03/2014	Rubin v Rubin [2014]	Christopher Hames KC	[2014] EWHC 611 (Fam)
15/01/2014	Re LC (Children) (2014)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC Jacqueline Renton KC	[2014] UKSC 1
21/08/2013	HM Solicitor General committal to prison of J. Jones for alleged contempt of Court	Christopher Hames KC	[2014] 1 FLR 852; [2013] EWHC 2579 (Fam)
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
23/05/2013	LCG v RL [2013]	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] 1 FLR 307; [2013] EWHC 1383 (Fam)
10/04/2013	CB v CB [2013]	Christopher Hames KC	[2014] 1FLR 663; [2013] EWHC 2092 (Fam)
26/11/2012	VK v JV [2012]	Christopher Hames KC Private: Hassan Khan	[2013] 2 FLR 237; [2012] EWHC 4033 (Fam)
07/11/2012	Re J (Children) [2012]	Henry Setright KC Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC	[2012] EWCA Civ 1511
16/02/2011	Re O (Children)	Christopher Hames KC	[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 KC	[2010] 1 FLR 782; [2009] EWCA Civ 986

12/02/2009	Stodgell v Stodgell (2009)	Christopher Hames KC	[2009] EWCA Civ 243; (2009) 2 FLR 244
10/12/2008	T v (1) B (2) Revenue & Customs Prosecutions Office (2008)	Christopher Hames KC	[2008] EWHC 3000 (Fam); (2009) 1 FLR 1231
04/10/2006	Re P (Children) (2006)	Christopher Hames KC	[2006] EWHC 2410 (Fam)
02/03/2005	X v X (Crown Prosecution Service Intervening)	Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC	[2005] 2 FLR 487
22/07/2002	Re MCA; HM Customs and Excise Commissioners and Long v A and A	Christopher Hames KC	
18/04/2002	(1) HM Customs & Excise (2) Richard Long v (1) MCA (2) JMA : JMA v MCA & Richard Long (Intervenor) (2002)	Christopher Hames KC	[2002] EWHC 611 (Admin); (2002) 2 FLR 274
20/07/2000	Re R (Children) (Sexual Abuse: Standard of Proof)	Christopher Hames KC Cliona Papazian	[2001] 1 FCR 86