

Michael Gratton

“He’s just your perfect barrister really. He’s really easy to work with, great with clients and adored by judges. His written and oral advocacy is exceptional and you would be quite comfortable with him going up against most silks without a leader.”

Chambers & Partners 2018
Band 1



Experience

Year of Call: 2007

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law

Awards



Family Law
Awards 2012

YOUNG BARRISTER
OF THE YEAR

Shortlisted for the
CHAMBERS
UK BAR
AWARDS

2015

Education

Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law 2006-2007
LLB (Hons) Brunel University, 2005

Profile

Michael specialises in cases involving the international movement of children, appearing regularly in the High Court and the Court of Appeal in cases involving (but not limited to) Hague and non-Hague abduction, jurisdictional disputes, the recognition and enforcement of orders (pursuant to Brussels II revised and the 1996 Hague Convention), relocation (both internal and external) and forced marriage.

Over the past four years Michael has appeared in most of the leading cases in the field of international

family law. He has represented parties (including parents, children and non-Governmental organisations) in the Court of Appeal and the UK Supreme Court in cases involving a diverse range of issues from the human rights implications of government immigration policy (R (on the application of Quila and another) and R (on the application of Bibi and another v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] UKSC 45) to jurisdictional issues concerning children and the application of the 1980 Hague Convention (In the matter of A (Children) (AP) [2013] UKSC 60, In the Matter of KL (A Child) [2013] UKSC 75, In the matter of LC (Children) [2014] UKSC 1 and Re K (A Child) [2014] UKSC 29).

In addition to his domestic practice, Michael has appeared before the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union. His cases before those courts include:

- Ferrari v Romania (Application No. 1714/10), in which Michael appeared on behalf of the applicant, successfully arguing that in failing to enforce an order made pursuant to the 1980 Hague Convention the Romanian authorities had breached the father's Article 8 rights.
- X v. LATVIA (Application no. 27853/09), where Michael was one of a team instructed by the reunite International Child Abduction Centre to intervene in the proceedings.
- E-v-B; Case C-436/13, in which Michael represented the father in the leading case on prorogation of jurisdiction pursuant to Brussels IIa

He has also been part of a team representing an intervening party before the United States Supreme Court (Lozano v Alvarez – appeal judgment at 697 F.3d 41 (2d Cir. 2012)).

A full list of Michael's reported cases can be accessed via the link at the top of the page.

Memberships

FLBA
ALC

Directories

Family junior establishing a strong children practice with a focus on complex cases involving the cross-border movement of children. He is experienced in Hague Convention matters, including international abductions and the summary return of children. He is also proficient in jurisdictional disputes and the recognition of foreign orders.

Strengths: "A walking encyclopaedia of law and brilliant technically. He has this gravitas about him that clients really like and he can hold his own with anybody. His position papers are always really excellent and well drafted." "He is thoughtful and thorough and has an excellent knowledge of the law."

Recent work: Acted for a child who had been abducted from Spain to England by his mother.

Chambers & Partners 2020

Band 1

'Is an extremely able advocate who is able to win cases with his authoritative and persuasive advocacy '

Legal 500, 2020

Top Tier

Family junior establishing a strong children practice with a focus on complex cases involving the international movement of children. He is experienced in Hague Convention matters, including international abductions and the summary return of children. He is also proficient in jurisdictional disputes and the recognition of foreign orders.

Strengths: “He is already established as a leading junior for international children work despite his relatively junior level of call. His client care is impeccable and he has a very appealing style of advocacy. If he’s on the other side, you have to up your game, even if you feel that your case is watertight.”

Recent work: Defended a mother who had removed her child to Australia against Hague Convention proceedings from the child’s father, who sought its return. Graton successfully argued that she had lost her habitual residence in Australia, resulting in the claim’s dismissal.

Chambers & Partners 2019

Band 1

‘A match for any silk.’

Legal 500, 2019

Top Tier

Family junior fast developing a strong children practice with a focus on complex cases involving the international movement of children. He has appeared before the Supreme Court and the ECHR despite his relatively junior level of call. His experience includes the Hague Convention, jurisdictional disputes and the recognition of foreign orders.

Strengths: “He’s just your perfect barrister really. He’s really easy to work with, great with clients and adored by judges. His written and oral advocacy is exceptional and you would be quite comfortable with him going up against most silks without a leader.”

Recent work: Appeared in the Supreme Court on behalf of the successful appellant children in re N (Children) (Adoption: Jurisdiction). Graton argued that the English courts had previously considered the welfare of children too narrowly with regard to Article 15 of Brussels II revised.

Chambers & Partners 2018

Band 1

‘Clever and modest.’

Legal 500, 2017

Family junior fast developing a strong children practice with a focus on complex abduction cases. He has appeared before the Supreme Court and the ECHR despite his relatively junior level of call.

Strengths: “Unflappable and brilliant with clients and judges alike, he has knowledge, subtlety and a highly persuasive style of advocacy. Truly an expert within a highly specialised field, he knows how to pitch a case in a way that is far above his year of call.”

Recent work: Represented an appellant father who had sought the summary return of his child to Morocco.

Chambers & Partners 2017

Band 1

‘His written work is outstanding and his oral advocacy skills appear effortless; an undoubted silk in the making.’

Legal 500, 2016

Sources are quick to point out his “encyclopaedic knowledge” and sharp legal mind. He specialises in international children matters and is “undoubtedly a junior of choice for cross-border work.”

Strengths: “He is a very, very talented junior. He’s like a computer as he remembers absolutely everything. Judges love him because he’s a very, very good advocate and he knows the law inside out.”

Chambers & Partners 2016

A rising presence among juniors at the Family Bar who handles complex international children law cases, including those concerning abductions, relocations and forced marriages in Hague and non-Hague jurisdictions.

Expertise: "He is a towering presence, both literally and figuratively, who is very strong on jurisdictional points and has a very good client manner."

Chambers & Partners 2015

Continues to go from strength to strength in the children law arena and is being increasingly sought after to handle cases concerning international abduction, international and domestic relocation, and forced marriage.

Expertise: "He has a quality of practice that is well beyond his call. He is loved by judges, is a delightful opponent and is forensically really mature."

Recent work: Acted for the biological mother in connection with a case concerning two children conceived by insemination by an anonymous donor during the parties' lesbian relationship. During the course of the proceedings that followed, the shared residence order previously granted to the non-biological mother had been discharged. The mother appealed, and the order was overturned.

Chambers & Partners 2014

Michael Gration has an increasing profile in the children law arena, handling international cases including Hague and non-Hague abduction and complex forced marriage cases. Sources suggest that he is "a star in the making."

Chambers & Partners 2013

Cases

16/09/2020	G (A Child: Child Abduction) [2020]	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration Sam King QC Charlotte Baker	[2020] EWCA Civ 1185
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
19/07/2019	AH v CD & Ors (2018)	Christopher Hames QC Alistair G Perkins Paul Hopher Michael Gration	[2018] EWHC 2322 (Fam)

18/06/2019	Re NY (A Child) (2019)	Teertha Gupta QC Mark Jarman Jacqueline Renton Michael Gration	[2019] EWCA Civ 1065
08/02/2019	L v M (Rev 1) (2019)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2019] EWHC 219 (Fam)
01/02/2019	Re A (Children) (2019)	Cliona Papazian Michael Gration	[2019] EWCA Civ 74
17/10/2018	UD v XB	Teertha Gupta QC Jacqueline Renton Christopher Hames QC Brian Jubb Michael Gration	C-393/18 PPU
15/08/2018	W (A Child) (2018)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2018] EWCA Civ 1904
03/08/2018	F v M (2018)	Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Michael Gration Michael Edwards	[2018] EWHC 2106 (Fam)
25/05/2018	Y (Children) (2018)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2018] EWCA Civ 1208
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
12/07/2017	Re C (Children) (2017)	Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2017] EWCA Civ 980
03/03/2017	R v P (2017)	Alistair G Perkins Michael Gration	[2017] EWHC 1804 (Fam)
05/12/2016	Z (A Child) (Egyptian fostering UK adoption) (2016)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2016] EWHC 2963 (Fam)
24/08/2016	B (A Minor: Habitual Residence) [2016]	Michael Gration	[2016] EWHC 2174 (Fam)
03/08/2016	Al-Jeffery v Al-Jeffery (Vulnerable adult; British citizen) [2016]	Henry Setright QC Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Michael Gration	[2016] EWHC 2151 (Fam)
27/06/2016	In the Matter of D (A Child) (2016)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2016] UKSC 34

13/04/2016	In the matter of N (Children) [2016]	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards	[2016] UKSC 15
08/04/2016	Re Z (Recognition of Foreign Judgments) [2016]	Henry Setright QC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration	[2016] EWHC 784 (Fam)
21/03/2016	Ciccione v Ritchie (No 2) [2016]	Alex Verdan QC Henry Setright QC Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton Michael Gration	Ciccione v Ritchie (No 2) [2016] EWHC 616 (Fam)
04/02/2016	In the matter of B (A child) [2016]	Private: David Williams QC Henry Setright QC Alistair G Perkins Michael Gration Dorothea Gartland Michael Edwards Hassan Khan	[2016] UKSC 4
03/02/2016	Ciccione v Ritchie (No 1) [2016]	Henry Setright QC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration Jacqueline Renton	[2016] EWHC 608 (Fam)
03/02/2016	D (A Child) (International Recognition) [2016]	Henry Setright QC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration Jacqueline Renton	[2016] EWCA Civ 12
04/12/2015	In the matter of J (a child)	Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards	[2015] UKSC 70
03/07/2015	AB v AB (2015)	Michael Gration	[2015] EWHC 2422 (Fam)
22/03/2015	AR v RN (Scotland) [2015]	Teertha Gupta QC Michael Gration	[2015] UKSC 35; [2015] 2 FLR 503
12/02/2015	Sanchez v Oboz and Oboz [2015]	Michael Gration	[2015] EWHC 235 (Fam)

04/12/2014	Re S (A Child) (Abduction: Hearing The Child) sub nom AM v AS (2014)	Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Francesca Dowse Michael Gration	[2014] EWCA Civ 1557
13/11/2014	SB v MB (Costs) [2014]	Henry Setright QC Charles Hale QC Michael Gration	[2014] EWHC 3721 (Fam)
16/10/2014	AA v TT (2014)	Mark Jarman Michael Gration	[2014] EWHC 3488 (Fam)
19/08/2014	Re M-D (A Child) (2014)	Paul Hepher Michael Gration	[2014] EWCA Civ 1363
15/05/2014	In the Matter of K (A Child) (Northern Ireland) [2014]	Michael Gration	[2014] UKSC 29
05/05/2014	Re K (A Child) (2014)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2014] UKSC 29
10/04/2014	TF v PJ [2014]	Henry Setright QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Gration	[2014] EWHC 1780 (Fam)
25/03/2014	MD v CT (2014)	Michael Gration	[2014] EWHC 871 (Fam)
13/03/2014	Re F (A Child) (2014)	Henry Setright QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Gration	[2014] EWCA Civ 275
04/12/2013	Re KL (A Child) [2013]	Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Michael Gration Michael Edwards	[2013] UKSC 75
09/09/2013	In the matter of A (Children) (2013)	Alex Verdan QC Baroness Scotland QC Alistair G Perkins Hassan Khan Michael Gration Jacqueline Renton Rachel Chisholm	[2013] UKSC 60
16/07/2013	DL (Appellant) v EL (Respondent) & (1) Reunite International Child Abduction Centre (2) Centre for family law and practice (Interveners) (2013)	Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration Michael Edwards	[2013] EWCA Civ 865
23/05/2013	LCG v RL [2013]	Henry Setright QC Christopher Hames QC Michael Gration	[2014] 1 FLR 307; [2013] EWHC 1383 (Fam)

23/01/2013	DL v EL (Hague Abduction Convention – Effect of Reversal of Return Order on Appeal) [2012]	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2013] EWHC 49 (Fam)
07/11/2012	Re G (Children) (2012)	Joy Brereton Michael Gration	[2012] EWCA Civ 1434
11/07/2012	Re C (A Child) (2012)	Michael Gration	[2012] EWCA Civ 1144
02/12/2011	AJ (Appellant) v JJ (First Respondent) & (1) KK (2) JAJ (3) JUJ (By Their Solicitor NH) (Intervenors) (2011)	Private: David Williams QC Mark Jarman Michael Gration	[2011] EWCA Civ 1448
28/11/2011	J v J (Relinquishment of Jurisdiction) (2011)	Henry Setright QC Ruth Kirby Michael Gration	[2012] 1 FLR 1259 : [2012] Fam Law 399; [2011] EWHC 3255 (Fam)
12/10/2011	(1) Diego Andres Aguilar Quila & Amber Aguilar (2) Shakira Bibi & Suhyal Mohammed (Appellants) v Secretary of State for the home department (Respondent) & (1) Advice on individual rights in Europe (Aire Centre) (2) Southall Black Sisters & Henna Foundation (Intervenors) (2011)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2011] UKSC 45; [2012] 1 AC 621 : [2011] 3 WLR 836 : [2012] 1 All ER 1011 : [2012] 1 FLR 788 : [2011] 3 FCR 575 : [2012] HRLR 2 : [2011] UKHRR 1347 : 33 BHRC 381 : [2012] Imm AR 135 : [2011] INLR 698 : [2012] Fam Law 21 : (2011) 108(41) LSG 15 : (2011) 155(39) SJLB 31 : Times, October 20, 2011
21/12/2010	Aguilar Quila and Amber Aguilar (2) Bibi and Mohammed (Appellants) V Secretary of State for The Home Department (Respondent) & (1) Advice on individual rights in Europe (Aire Centre) (2) Southall Black Sisters and Henna Foundation (Intervenors) (2010)	Henry Setright QC Michael Gration	[2010] EWCA Civ 1482
06/10/2010	Chief Constable and AA v YK & 5 ORS	Henry Setright QC Teertha Gupta QC Michael Gration	[2010] EWHC 2438 (Fam)
23/11/2009	B v I (Forced Marriage)	Michael Gration	[2010] 1 FLR 1721 : [2010] Fam Law 348
05/03/2009	C v H (Abduction: Consent) (2009)	Michael Gration	[2009] EWHC 2660 (Fam) (2010) 1 FLR 225