

## Michael Gration KC

Michael is an exceptional barrister who marries natural talent with industry. He is highly respected by the judiciary as he knows his subject inside out. He is able to guide the court on the law. He is also extremely persuasive in the manner that he presents his cases. He very often makes the outcome that he is seeking appear to be the attractive, logical outcome.'

Legal 500, 2024



### Experience

Year of Call: 2007

Year of Silk: 2022

### Practice Areas

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



**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 public law cases with international or other jurisdictional issues.

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 the matter of C (Children) [2018] UKSC 8, Re NY (A Child) [2019] UKSC 49 and G v G [2021] UKSC 9).

He also has experienced of cases involving serious medical issues both under the inherent jurisdiction and in the Court of Protection (e.g. Raqeeb (by her litigation friend) v Barts Health NHS Trust [2020] 1 FLR 1376, Re D (A Child) (Residence Order: Deprivation of Liberty) [2019] UKSC 42).

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

UD v XB; Case C-393/18 PPU, in which Michael represented the UK Government on a referral to the CJEU regarding whether a child could be habitually resident in a country in which they had never been physically present.

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

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## Legal 500, 2024

"He blew me away with how effortlessly calm and confident he was; he presented beautifully."

"Michael is really smart. He doesn't let setbacks get to him and he is lightning-quick on his feet."

"Michael is the sort of barrister everyone looks up to – knows his subject area inside out, is able to effectively advise and has brilliant judgement."

**Chambers and Partners, 2024**

"Michael Gration provides an exceptional level of knowledge, commitment and expertise."

"He's a brilliant and sophisticated advocate who has no trouble charming the court. Technically excellent, he's extremely knowledgeable on case law and he excels in highly complex international children work."

**Chambers and Partners, 2023**

'Michael is a brilliant advocate who uses his vast knowledge of the law to great effect – he is meticulous and empathetic.'

**Legal 500, 2023**

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: "His knowledge of complex international children law is exemplary. He is incredibly persuasive with judges and is deservedly well respected by them." "Michael is one of the most respected barristers of his call. He gives well-reasoned and realistic advice based upon his considerable experience and knowledge in international children's law. His written work is always precise, well reasoned and persuasive, and his advocacy is second to none."

**Chambers & Partners, 2022**

**Band 1**

'A junior with remarkable gravitas, who is a calming presence for the client and the court.'

Top Tier

**Legal 500, 2022**

**Top Tier**

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: "One of the leading lights in international children's law." "His advocacy and cross-examination achieve fantastic results." "Terrifyingly knowledgeable and can be relied upon in the most complex of cases because of his dazzling intellect."

Recent work: Represented a four-year-old child who had sustained severe and incurable brain damage. The NHS trust appealed to the court to determine that the removal of artificial ventilation was lawful. The child's parents wanted permission to take her to Italy for further treatment.

**Chambers & Partners, 2021**

**Band 1**

'Has a formidable intellect and is one of the leading barristers in his field. He consistently delivers a strong performance and is respected by judges and opponents.'

**Legal 500, 2021****Top Tier**

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 Gratton 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.”

## Cases

18/12/2023	EC v BM	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC Jonathan Evans Mani Singh Basi	[2023] EWHC 3237
17/11/2023	Re X (Child Abduction: Habitual Residence)	Cliona Papazian Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC	[2022] EWCA Civ 1423
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
27/07/2023	Re S (Children: Parentage and Jurisdiction)	Michael Gration KC Jacqueline Renton Nadia Campbell Brunton	[2023] EWCA Civ 897
08/03/2023	W v Z	Jacqueline Renton Michael Gration KC	[2023] EWHC 469 (Fam)
28/02/2023	B v C	Julia Townend Michael Gration KC	[2023] EWHC 291 (Fam)
08/02/2023	Re T (A Child: Application to Permanently Relocate)	Mani Singh Basi Michael Gration KC	[2023] EWHC 545 (Fam)
16/12/2022	A, Re (A Child : Findings of Fact) (2022)	Michael Gration KC Joanne Brown KC	[2022] EWCA Civ 1652
02/12/2022	Q V 2 (2022) EWHC 2961	Michael Gration KC Adele Cameron-Douglas	[2022] EWHC 2961 (Fam)
22/11/2022	Re P (Service on Parent in a Refuge)	Michael Gration KC Matthew Persson	[2023] EWHC 471 (Fam)
25/02/2022	IK (A Child), Re (Hague Convention: Evidence Consent) (2022)	Michael Gration KC	[2022] EWHC 396 (Fam)
19/12/2021	Re Z (No 2 Welfare)	Dorothea Gartland KC Michael Gration KC	[2021] EWHC 3840 (Fam)
27/10/2021	A (A Child), Re (Rev1) (2021)	Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2021] EWHC 3467 (Fam)

28/07/2021	Re P (A Child) (Abduction: Inherent Jurisdiction) (2021)	Michael Gration KC Paul Hepher	[2021] EWCA Civ 1171
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 Gration KC Barbara Mills KC Joy Brereton KC Emma Spruce	[2021] EWCA Civ 448
27/03/2021	A (Child Abduction: Article 13b) (2021)	Michael Gration KC Teertha Gupta KC	[2021] EWCA Civ 328
27/03/2021	AB v CD & Anor [2021]	Michael Gration KC Paul Hepher	[2021] EWHC 2673 (Fam)
19/03/2021	G (Appellant) v G (Respondent)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2021] UKSC 9
27/01/2021	EM v BK (2021) EWHC 108 (Fam)	Michael Gration KC Alistair G Perkins	[2021] EWHC 108 (Fam)
16/09/2020	G (A Child: Child Abduction) [2020]	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Sam King KC Charlotte Baker	[2020] EWCA Civ 1185
25/08/2020	M (Children : Habitual Residence : 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention) (2020)	Michael Gration KC Henry Setright KC	[2020] 4 WLR 137, [2020] WLR(D) 481, [2020] EWCA Civ 1105, [2021] 2 All ER 1227, [2021] 1 FCR 155, [2021] 2 FLR 69
11/08/2020	B (A Child) (Abduction: Article 13(b))	Teertha Gupta KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC	[2020] EWCA Civ 1057
30/06/2020	Z (A Child : Hague Convention application) (2020)	Michael Gration KC	[2020] EWHC 1901 (Fam)
17/06/2020	JK v LM (Rev 1) (2020)	Michael Gration KC Paul Hepher	[2020] EWHC 1566 (Fam)
27/05/2020	Local Authority B v X (Mother) & Ors (2020)	Michael Gration KC	[2020] EWFC 37

27/12/2019	Raqeeb v Barts Health NHS Trust (Costs) [2019]	Michael Gration KC	[2020] ACD 20, [2019] Costs LR 2143, [2020] Med LR 17, [2020] 1 FLR 1376, [2019] EWHC 3320 (Admin)
27/12/2019	D (A Child) (Rev2) [2019]	Michael Gration KC Henry Setright KC	[2020] COPLR 73, [2019] 3 FCR 631, [2020] 2 All ER 399, [2019] 1 WLR 5403, [2020] MHLR 135, [2019] UKSC 42, [2019] WLR(D) 587, [2019] HRLR 18, [2020] 1 FLR 549, (2020) 171 BMLR 51, (2019) 22 CCL Rep 475, [2019] PTSR 1816, [2019] WLR 5403
31/10/2019	KJC v GRC (Hague Convention) (2019)	Michael Gration KC	[2019] EWHC 3170 (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
19/07/2019	AH v CD & Ors (2018)	Christopher Hames KC Alistair G Perkins Paul Hepher Michael Gration KC	[2018] EWHC 2322 (Fam)
18/06/2019	Re NY (A Child) (2019)	Teertha Gupta KC Mark Jarman KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Gration KC	[2019] EWCA Civ 1065
27/03/2019	RJ v Tigipko (2019)	Michael Gration KC Sam King KC Ruth Kirby KC Mark Jarman KC	[2019] EWHC 448 (Fam)
08/02/2019	L v M (Rev 1) (2019)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2019] EWHC 219 (Fam)
01/02/2019	Re A (Children) (2019)	Cliona Papazian Michael Gration KC	[2019] EWCA Civ 74
17/10/2018	UD v XB	Teertha Gupta KC Jacqueline Renton Christopher Hames KC Brian Jubb Michael Gration KC	C-393/18 PPU



15/08/2018	W (A Child) (2018)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2018] EWCA Civ 1904
03/08/2018	F v M (2018)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWHC 2106 (Fam)
25/05/2018	Y (Children) (2018)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2018] EWCA Civ 1208
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
12/07/2017	Re C (Children) (2017)	Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2017] EWCA Civ 980
03/03/2017	R v P (2017)	Alistair G Perkins Michael Gration KC	[2017] EWHC 1804 (Fam)
05/12/2016	Z (A Child) (Egyptian fostering UK adoption) (2016)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2016] EWHC 2963 (Fam)
24/08/2016	B (A Minor: Habitual Residence) [2016]	Michael Gration KC	[2016] EWHC 2174 (Fam)
03/08/2016	Al-Jeffery v Al-Jeffery (Vulnerable adult; British citizen) [2016]	Henry Setright KC Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Michael Gration KC	[2016] EWHC 2151 (Fam)
27/06/2016	In the Matter of D (A Child) (2016)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2016] UKSC 34
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
08/04/2016	Re Z (Recognition of Foreign Judgments) [2016]	Henry Setright KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC	[2016] EWHC 784 (Fam)

21/03/2016	Ciccone v Ritchie (No 2) [2016]	Alex Verdan KC Henry Setright KC Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton Michael Gration KC	Ciccone 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 KC Alistair G Perkins Michael Gration KC Dorothea Gartland KC Deirdre Fottrell KC Michael Edwards Private: Hassan Khan	[2016] UKSC 4
03/02/2016	Ciccone v Ritchie (No 1) [2016]	Henry Setright KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC Jacqueline Renton	[2016] EWHC 608 (Fam)
03/02/2016	D (A Child) (International Recognition) [2016]	Henry Setright KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC Jacqueline Renton	[2016] EWCA Civ 12
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
03/07/2015	AB v AB (2015)	Michael Gration KC	[2015] EWHC 2422 (Fam)
22/03/2015	AR v RN (Scotland) [2015]	Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC	[2015] UKSC 35; [2015] 2 FLR 503
12/02/2015	Sanchez v Oboz and Oboz [2015]	Michael Gration KC	[2015] EWHC 235 (Fam)
04/12/2014	Re S (A Child) (Abduction: Hearing The Child) sub nom AM v AS (2014)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Francesca Dowse Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 1557
13/11/2014	SB v MB (Costs) [2014]	Henry Setright KC Charles Hale KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWHC 3721 (Fam)
16/10/2014	AA v TT (2014)	Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWHC 3488 (Fam)

19/08/2014	Re M-D (A Child) (2014)	Paul Hopher Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 1363
15/05/2014	In the Matter of K (A Child) (Northern Ireland) [2014]	Michael Gration KC	[2014] UKSC 29
05/05/2014	Re K (A Child) (2014)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] UKSC 29
10/04/2014	TF v PJ [2014]	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWHC 1780 (Fam)
25/03/2014	MD v CT (2014)	Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWHC 871 (Fam)
13/03/2014	Re F (A Child) (2014)	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 275
04/12/2013	Re KL (A Child) [2013]	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2013] UKSC 75
09/09/2013	In the matter of A (Children) (2013)	Alex Verdan KC Baroness Scotland KC Alistair G Perkins Private: Hassan Khan Michael Gration KC 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 KC Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWCA Civ 865
23/05/2013	LCG v RL [2013]	Henry Setright KC Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC	[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 KC Michael Gration KC	[2013] EWHC 49 (Fam)
07/11/2012	Re G (Children) (2012)	Joy Brereton KC Michael Gration KC	[2012] EWCA Civ 1434
11/07/2012	Re C (A Child) (2012)	Michael Gration KC	[2012] EWCA Civ 1144
02/12/2011	AJ (Appellant) v JJ (First Respondent) & (1) KK (2) JAJ (3) JUJ (By Their Solicitor NH) (Interveners) (2011)	Private: David Williams QC Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC	[2011] EWCA Civ 1448

28/11/2011	J v J (Relinquishment of Jurisdiction) (2011)	Henry Setright KC Ruth Kirby KC Michael Gration KC	[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 (Interveners) (2011)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[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 (Interveners) (2010)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC	[2010] EWCA Civ 1482
06/10/2010	Chief Constable and AA v YK & 5 ORS	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC	[2010] EWHC 2438 (Fam)
23/11/2009	B v I (Forced Marriage)	Michael Gration KC	[2010] 1 FLR 1721 : [2010] Fam Law 348
05/03/2009	C v H (Abduction: Consent) (2009)	Michael Gration KC	[2009] EWHC 2660 (Fam) (2010) 1 FLR 225