

Michael Edwards

'Michael has a forensic eye for detail. He is highly strategic and gains the confidence of the most difficult clients.'

Legal 500, 2025

'An absolutely fantastic advocate who works well with clients and solicitors. He's incredibly knowledgeable and approachable.'

Chambers and Partners, 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 2010

Practice Areas

- Inquests and Inquiries
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation

Direct Access

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Education

University of Bristol, History (BA Hons) (First Class)

City University, GDL (Distinction)

BPP Law School, BVC (Very Competent)

Appointments

Panel appointments:

2016: Attorney General's C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown

2018: Special Advocate

2021: Attorney General's B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown

Judicial:

2021: Deputy District Judge



2024: Recorder (Family, South Eastern Circuit)

Arbitration:

2022: Child Law Arbitrator

Sports law:

2018: Swim England Judicial Panel

2022: The FA Judicial Appeal Panel

2024: Swim England Judicial Appeal Panel

Profile

Michael has a broad practice ranging from international children law to public inquiries and cases involving national security.

Michael has appeared in many of the leading international children cases over the past 5-10 years. In private law, Michael specialises in leave to remove and cases with allegations of domestic and sexual abuse.

Michael is the head of the Public Inquiries and Inquests team at 4pb. He is currently instructed in the Afghanistan Inquiry (for the MOD), the Covid Inquiry (for UKHSA) and the Omagh Bombing Inquiry (for the Intelligence and Security Committee). Michael is a member of the AG's B Panel (previously a member of the C Panel for 5-years).

Michael also has judicial experience. He is a Recorder of the Family Court and child law arbitrator. In 2022, he was appointed to a 3-member judicial panel to determine the asylum claims of Sri Lankan Tamils present on British Indian Ocean Territory.

Michael is a Special Advocate and acts in cases of national security in Closed Material Proceedings.

Michael has also appeared in many of the leading cases on the validity of marriage, including Akhter v Khan [2020] EWCA Civ 122 and AP and JP v Secretary of State for Justice [2024] EWHC 1197 Fam

Michael has developed a practice in sports law and sits on disciplinary panels for Swim England and The FA.

International Children Law

Specialist in child abduction and jurisdiction disputes. Michael regularly appears in the High Court and has appeared in many of the leading cases in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court (see full case list below).

As a member of the AG's B Panel, Michael regularly advises and represents government departments on international family law matters.

Private Children Law

Appears regularly in leave to remove applications, cases involving allegations of domestic and sexual abuse and parental alienation.

Non-court dispute resolution

Appointed as a child law arbitrator in 2022. Michael has conducted numerous children arbitrations since his appointment and has given seminars and lectures of the subject.

Michael brings his judicial experience to his role as an arbitrator, having been a Deputy District Judge since 2021 and a Recorder since 2024.

Public Inquiries and Inquests

Head of the Public Inquiries and Inquests team at 4pb.

Current instructions:

- Afghanistan Inquiry; representing the MOD
- Covid Inquiry: representing UKHSA
- Omagh Bombing Inquiry: representing the Intelligence and Security Committee

Previous instructions:

- Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse; representing Leicestershire County Council
- Ellie Bulter Inquest; high profile inquest following the murder of Ellie by her father; instructed by the local authority

Sports law

Michael has lectured on child protection in sport, including to the British Association of Sports Lawyers.

He has been appointed to a number of disciplinary tribunals:

- 2018: Swim England Judicial Panel
- 2022: The FA Judicial Appeal Panel
- 2024: Swim England Judicial Appeal Panel

Publications/Training

Michael is the Co-Editor of International Family Law, the leading journal on international family justice.

Memberships

FLBA
Association of Lawyers for Children
Resolution
Chartered institute of Arbitrators
Inner Temple

Directories

"Michael is a fantastic individual to work with. He holds his own against more senior opponents and works methodically to pave the best way forward for his clients."

"An absolutely fantastic advocate who works well with clients and solicitors. He's incredibly knowledgeable and approachable."

"He is extremely calm, he is decisive, he's very good with the clients and diplomatic but will stand their ground. A very safe pair of hands for the most tricky children cases."

Chambers and Partners, 2025

'Michael has a forensic eye for detail. He is highly strategic and gains the confidence of the most difficult clients.'

Legal 500, 2025

"He's not afraid to challenge the judge and advocate for his clients."

“Michael Edwards is meticulous in his preparation and understanding of his client’s concerns.”

“Michael Edwards is a hard-working and dedicated member of the Bar. He has full command of the papers and of the factual and legal issues in each case. He is a most effective and persuasive advocate.”

Chambers and Partners, 2024

“Michael is an astonishing tactician. He is measured and thoughtful, thorough and knowledgeable. He does not need to be aggressive because he is always one step ahead of the other side. He is kind, sensible and straight talking. Clients and judges love him.”

Legal 500, 2024

“Michael Edwards’ knowledge and depth of understanding of international family law is immense, and he goes above and beyond to make sure he provides a gold standard of service for his clients. He works collaboratively with his instructing solicitors to ensure a seamless and unified service for the client.”

“Michael gives thoughtful and considered advice which is invariably not only sensible but accurate. He has a calm, charming manner and is ferociously bright.”

Chambers and Partners, 2023

‘Michael is a polished advocate giving the impression that he approaches everything with ease. His calm and pragmatic approach puts him top of his game for the extremely complex area in which he specialises.’

Legal 500, 2023

“Michael’s calm, focused demeanour in court and his forensic cross-examination are a pleasure to watch. His broad legal knowledge is self-evident and his recent reported cases, which saw him appear in the High Court and Court of Appeal, show that he can hold his own against QCs and senior juniors.” “He knows the law inside-out and has a calm nature which reassures the client.” “Michael is committed, and this is demonstrated in the way that he interacts with clients. He gives clear and sensible advice from the outset.”

Chambers & Partners, 2022

‘The private children and child abduction guru. Dispenses sage advice calmly and very persuasive in court. Always well-prepared.’

Legal 500, 2022

Children law junior with an international practice, who has handled a number of highly complex abduction cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. His practice spans a broad range of private and public law proceedings involving international issues.

Strengths: “He has an intellectual grasp of complex legal issues and a great manner with clients and opponents alike.” “Diligent and well organised with great forensic ability.” “Hugely knowledgeable, especially in the area of international law, he always knows the answer.”

Chambers & Partners, 2021

‘Michael’s calm and focused demeanour in court and his forensic cross-examination is a pleasure to watch.’

Legal 500, 2021

Cases

18/03/2025	DE v TE	Michael Edwards Ralph Marnham	[2025] EWHC 687 (Fam)
21/05/2024	P v P (Transgender Applicant for Decree of Nullity: Human Rights) (Rev1)	Charles Hale KC Michael Edwards	[2024] EWHC 1197 (Fam)
21/05/2024	P v P (Transgender Applicant for Decree of Nullity: Human Rights)	Charles Hale KC Michael Edwards	[2024] EWHC 1197 (Fam)
15/09/2023	Re D (A Child) (Abduction: Child's Objections: Representation of Child Party)	Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards Deirdre Fottrell KC Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	2023] EWCA Civ 1047
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)
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)
27/10/2021	A (A Child), Re (Rev1)	Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2021] EWHC 3467 (Fam)
05/03/2021	AB v CD	Michael Edwards Jacqueline Renton KC Sam King KC	[2021] EWFC 38
03/08/2020	RE M (A Child)	Teertha Gupta KC Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards Ralph Marnham	[2020] EWCA Civ 922
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

02/07/2019	AB v CD (No 1)	Alex Verdan KC Sam King KC Jacqueline Renton KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 1695 (Fam)
16/04/2019	RE H (Abduction: retention in non-contracting state)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWCA Civ 672
13/02/2019	Re E (Abduction Article 13B Deferred Return Order)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 256 (Fam)
03/08/2018	F v M	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWHC 2106 (Fam)
18/07/2018	Williams and another v London Borough of Hackney	Alex Verdan KC Michael Edwards Indu Kumar	[2018] UKSC 37
10/05/2018	Re J (Children: Relocation)	Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWCA Civ 1372
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
24/01/2017	RE N (Hague Convention : Habitual Residence)	Michael Edwards	[2017] EWHC 63 (Fam)
13/04/2016	In the matter of N (Children)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Private: David Williams QC Jacqueline Renton KC Michael Edwards	[2016] UKSC 15
04/02/2016	In the matter of B (A child)	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

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 KC Michael Edwards	[2015] UKSC 70
19/02/2015	AB v TB (Temporary Removal to Jordan)	Michael Edwards	[2014] EWHC 4663 (Fam)
01/05/2014	Re KP (A Child) (2014)	Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2014] EWCA Civ 554
06/12/2013	A Local Authority v DB & Others [2013]	Alison Grief KC Cyrus Larizadeh KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWHC 4066 (Fam)
04/12/2013	Re KL (A Child) [2013]	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2013] UKSC 75
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
26/07/2013	NN v ZZ & Ors [2013]	Teertha Gupta KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWHC 2261 (Fam)
16/07/2013	DL (Appellant) v EL (Respondent) & (1) Reunite International Child Abduction Centre (2) Centre for family law and practice (Intervenors) (2013)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Private: David Williams QC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards	[2013] EWCA Civ 865
13/10/2011	C (Care: Contact)	Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards	[2012] 2 FCR 325; [2011] EWCA Civ 1774
14/07/2011	Re C (Children) (2011)	Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2011] EWCA Civ 1230