

## Michael Sternberg OBE KC

“Has a very keen commercial sense and is always exceptionally well prepared.”

Chambers & Partners 2018

### Experience

Year of Call: 1975

Year of Silk: 2008

### Practice Areas

- Financial Remedies
- Private Children Law

### Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Collaborative Law
- Mediation

### Education

MA LLM (Cantab) MCI Arb

Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers

Fully Qualified Family Law Arbitrator

Qualified Collaborative Lawyer

Qualified Mediator

Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts

### Appointments

Benchers of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn 2013

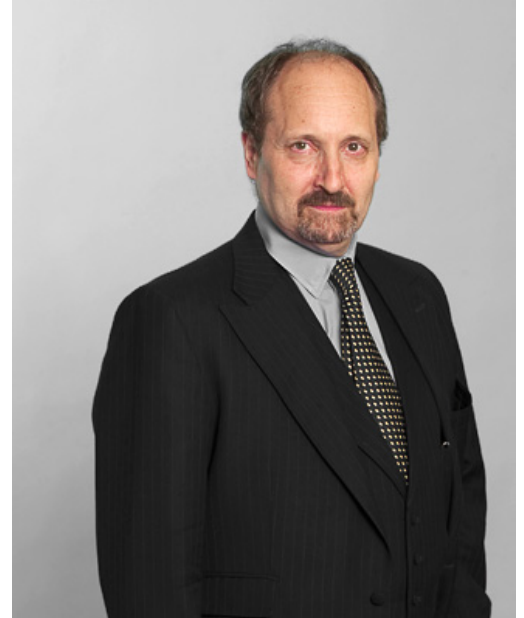
Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany 2019

Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Francis I (Italy) 2019

Officer of the Order of the British Empire 2024

### Profile

Michael Sternberg's practice covers the two main areas of family work – financial remedy and child cases. He has a substantial practice in high-value financial cases and is instructed by a number of the top London firms. He regards negotiation as of great importance in getting the best result in the speediest time at the lowest cost to the client. So many of his cases settle avoiding the costs and publicity of what would otherwise be high profile contests. The financial work involves not only the latest developments in family law, but also a high degree of expertise in company law and valuation, farming divorce cases, prenuptial agreements, tax law and cases where there is a conflict of jurisdiction. Michael is currently only accepting instructions in matters where advice is required.



Unusually Michael also has extensive experience in difficult child cases. He was instructed consistently in the past not only by the Official Solicitor, and Cafcass Legal, but also by local authorities in highly demanding cases in the High Court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords, which have raised difficult questions of fact and law.

Michael is an expert in contests between England and Wales and other jurisdictions as to which should decide the divorce – both in respect of Brussels II (revised) and generally – also in relation to injunctions to prevent a party from proceeding with divorce in a foreign jurisdiction. He has lectured on the topic.

Michael has acted as an advocate to the court in a series of reported decisions. He succeeded against the UK Government in relation to a breaches of Articles 8 and 12 of the ECHR, on behalf of a post-operative transsexual, heard by the Grand Chamber in Strasbourg (I v UK [2002] 2 FLR 518). Michael was previously listed as a leading junior in the relatively small list of practitioners in London within The Legal 500 since 2001. Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession also for many years rated him as one of the few leading juniors. Michael is a member of the Family Law Bar Association and he was the Assistant Secretary from 1986 – 1988.

Michael is also the author of two chapters in David Davidson's book "Pensions and Marriage Breakdown " 3rd Edition (published by the Law Society in 2005).

Michael was in 2009 nominated by the Chairman of the Bar to chair a joint tribunal set up by the Bar Council and the Law Society / OSS to resolve major dispute between a leading junior Barrister and a prominent firm of solicitors.

Michael was one of only 3 Leading Counsel to be invited to appear as a principal speaker on issues of spousal support after divorce, at the Butterworths Lexis Nexis Matrimonial Finance and Divorce National Conference on 28th April 2010.

On 4th February 2011 Michael chaired a day conference on advanced financial remedy topics at the RAF Club attended by over 100 solicitors at which 5 QC's spoke. He chaired a similar financial remedy day conference for the White Paper Company in January 2013 and twice in January and April 2014.

Michael is a Qualified Mediator and Collaborative lawyer. In September 2011 he attended the first course run by The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to become one of the first Family Law Arbitrators.

In March 2013 Michael chaired Lexis Nexis webinar on all aspects of ADR.

Michael is the Chair of the Trustees of the Three Faith Forum – the country's leading active interfaith charitable agency, which since 1997 has been generating understanding, goodwill and friendship between Muslims, Christians and Jews, as well as people of other faiths and in the wider society.

## **Memberships**

Family Law Bar Association  
International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers  
Three Faiths Forum Legal Group (founder member)  
Gray's Inn  
Inner Temple  
Affiliate Member of Resolution

## **Directories**

'A highly regarded silk.'

## **Legal 500, 2020**

‘Highly regarded.’

## **Legal 500, 2019**

Extremely experienced family practitioner who focuses on complex ancillary relief proceedings for high net worth individuals. He is additionally noted for his specialism in matters relating to pensions.

Strengths: “Has a very keen commercial sense and is always exceptionally well prepared.”

## **Chambers & Partners 2018**

‘Highly recommended.’

## **Legal 500, 2017**

Extremely experienced family practitioner who focuses on complex ancillary relief proceedings for high net worth individuals. He is additionally noted for his specialism in matters relating to pensions.

Strengths: “He’s very thorough and meticulous in his preparation. He’s a thoughtful strategist who focuses on the best interests of the client.”

## **Chambers & Partners 2017**

‘A high-value financial remedy expert.’

## **The Legal 500, 2016**

An experienced silk specialising in both money work and private law children matters. His peers single him out for his “incredible attention to detail.” He is also a qualified mediator and arbitrator.

Strengths: “His preparation for cases is second to none and he gives very, very clear advice. You know the advice you get from him is going to be listened to by clients. They can see very clearly the preparation he puts into a case.”

## **Chambers & Partners 2016**

‘Simply superb.’

## **The Legal 500, 2015**

Highly recommended by peers for his work on both high-level matrimonial finance disputes and contentious children law matters.

**Expertise:** “He’s very proactive. If you’ve got a case on with Michael you know all the t’s will be crossed and the i’s will be dotted. He’s very demanding of his solicitors and he’s excellent in his preparation.”

## **Chambers & Partners 2015**

‘He has a substantial practice in high-value financial remedy cases.’

## **The Legal 500, 2014**

Comes much recommended for his broad-ranging family law practice and draws much praise for his work in both high-value ancillary relief matters and complex child cases.

**Expertise:** “An excellent QC to work with. He’s very meticulous, provides lots of feedback and works well as part of a team.”

## **Chambers & Partner 2014**

The “meticulous” Michael Sternberg QC has a broad family law practice and is highly rated for his work in both the children law and matrimonial finance spheres. He is regularly instructed in high-value ancillary

relief cases and complex child abduction matters, and is an accredited mediator and collaborative lawyer.

### **Chambers & Partners 2013**

'If battle is required', Michael Sternberg QC is 'your chosen gladiator'.

### **The Legal 500, 2012**

Michael Sternberg QC's outstanding practice continues to cover both complex international children matters and ancillary relief cases. Sources say: "He is everything one could want in a QC. Intelligent, precise and thoughtful, he is a joy to work with."

### **Chambers and Partners 2012**

Michael Sternberg QC 'thinks outside the box and is a great strategist'.

### **The Legal 500, 2011**

Michael Sternberg QC now focuses primarily on matrimonial finance work and is often instructed in cases with cross-jurisdictional issues. Commentators note that "he thinks out detailed strategies and is always popular with clients."

### **Chambers and Partners 2011**

Michael Sternberg QC has a mixed practice but won most support from the market for his children work. His recent cases include D v D, R v R, and S v S, all of which were contested children and ancillary relief cases where millions of pounds were at stake.

### **Chambers and Partners 2010**

Michael Sternberg QC 'provides a first-class service and often comes up with creative solutions to difficult problems'.

### **The Legal 500, 2010**

New silk Michael Sternberg QC is a "meticulous and detailed" barrister who carries out both ancillary relief and children-related matters. He has a particular interest in cases with an international dimension.

### **Chambers & Partners 2009**

Michael Sternberg QC who has 'excellent attention to detail', and is 'very good at cross-examination'.

### **The Legal 500, 2009**

Michael Sternberg is "first choice for anything with an international dimension – be it Hague Convention, forum shopping or money matters." He is still best known for his varied work with children.

### **Chambers & Partners 2008**

Michael Sternberg has a more varied practice and undertakes a mixture of both children and finance work. He is "particularly supportive of clients and is extremely conscientious" managing to maintain a "delightful manner in the most difficult cases."

### **Chambers & Partners 2007**

Michael is also recommended as a Family Leading Junior in **The Legal 500, 2006**

## **Cases**

07/03/2003	Re M (A Child) Sub Nom Re M (Adoption: International Adoption Trade) (2003)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[2003] EWHC 219 (Fam)
28/10/2002	Field v Field	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[2003] 1 FLR 376
11/07/2002	I v United Kingdom	Michael Sternberg OBE KC Private: David Williams QC	[2002] 2 FLR 518
20/12/2000	Re B (Adoption by one Natural Parent to Exclusion of other)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[2001] 1 FLR 589
09/06/2000	Re AGN (Adoption: Foreign Adoption)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[2000] 2 FLR 431
25/03/1999	Re AMR (Adoption: Procedure)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1999] 2 FLR 807
16/03/1999	Re M (Sexual Abuse Allegations: Interviewing Techniques)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1999] 2 FLR 92
25/11/1998	Re S (Removal from Jurisdiction)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1999] 1 FLR 850
18/04/1997	S v S (Judgment in Chambers: Disclosure)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1997] 1 WLR 1621
22/08/1996	Re M (Petition to European Commission of Human Rights)	Henry Setright KC Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1997] 1 FLR 755
08/07/1994	Note H v H (Residence Order: Leave to Remove from Jurisdiction)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1995] 1 FLR 529
18/05/1993	R v Plymouth Justices Ex Parte W	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1993] 2 FLR 777
28/02/1993	Re F (A Minor) (Blood Tests: Parental Rights)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1993] 3 WLR 369
05/02/1993	Re F (A Minor: Paternity Test)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1993] 1 FLR 598
30/01/1992	H v H (Financial Provision: Capital Allowance)	Michael Sternberg OBE KC	[1993] 2 FLR 335