

## Christopher Hames KC

'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.'  
Legal 500, 2024



### 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

### Education

LLB Hons (Sheffield)

### Appointments

Recorder (2018)

### 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 has extensive experience in matrimonial finance with substantial assets, often with an international element or involving off-shore or domestic trusts or where criminal confiscation and

restraint orders have been made. Having been involved in the leading case on Legal Service Payment Orders, he is much in demand for all types of applications for legal funding orders.

He is one of the leading lights in international child abduction in the country. His case-work involve the Hague 1980 and 1996 Conventions, Wardship and the inherent jurisdiction and the enforcement of foreign orders. He appears both at first instance and appeals: he has appeared in both the CJEU and the UKSC. He also has a considerable practice in relocation and international adoption cases.

He is sought after by solicitors in disputes over the court's jurisdiction to entertain applications for children and divorce; these may involve issues of non-marriage, habitual residence, domicile, forum non conveniens and the maintenance regulation

He has been 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.

He is an author and contributory editor of 2 chapters of Rayden & Jackson on the Hague 1980 Convention and committal.

He regularly chairs and lectures seminars and conferences on a variety of practice areas. In 2020 topics have included:

- Conduct, Contributions and Pre-acquired Assets after XW v XH
- Non-marriage (Akhter); parens patriae and the inherent jurisdiction (Re N); and the effect of Brexit on family law

In February 2020 Christopher 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 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 a qualified arbitrator in both children (now including international relocation) and money work.

## **Memberships**

Family Law Bar Association

Inner Temple

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

## **Directories**

'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**

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 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)
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 [2022]	Christopher Hames KC	[2022] EWFC 151
05/10/2022	H-N (the rehearing) [2021] EWFC B98 (05 October 2021)	Christopher Hames KC	[2021] EWFC B98 (05 October 2021)
22/08/2022	B (Children) (Abduction: Consent: Oral Evidence) (Article 13(B)) (2022)	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 Clarissa Wigoder	[2022] EWCA Civ 1167
27/07/2022	Re P (Inherent Jurisdiction Return: Allegations of Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Abuse: Fact Finding) (2022)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker	[2022] EWHC 1722 (Fam)
25/07/2022	A (A Child), Re (Enforcement of A Foreign Order) (2022)	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) (2022)	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) (2022)	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	12. NP v DP (Hague Convention; abducting parent refusing to return) (2021)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker	[2021] EWHC 3626 (Fam)
29/09/2021	VR v YD & Anor (2021)	Charlotte Baker Christopher Hames KC	[2021] EWHC 2642 (Fam)
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
23/02/2021	A (A Child) (1980 Hague Convention: Set Aside)	Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Teertha Gupta KC Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton	[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 Charlotte Baker	B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence)
18/11/2019	R v G, H v Secretary of State for the Home Department	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 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 (2018)	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) (2019)	Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWCA Civ 672
01/03/2019	Re G-E (Children) (Hague Convention 1980: Repudiatory Retention & Habitual Residence) (2019)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Charlotte Baker	[2019] EWCA Civ 283
22/02/2019	Re W (Children) (Abduction: Implementatioon of Return Order) (2019)	Christopher Hames KC	[2019] EWHC 357 (Fam)
13/02/2019	Re E (Abduction Article 13B Deferred Return Order) (2019)	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 256 (Fam)
17/10/2018	UD v XB	Teertha Gupta KC Jacqueline Renton Christopher Hames KC Brian Jubb Michael Gration KC	C-393/18 PPU
31/07/2018	Re X (A Child) (Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order) (2018)	Christopher Hames KC Alistair G Perkins	[2018] EWCA Civ 1825
27/03/2018	Re W (2018)	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) (2018)	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Charles Hale KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC	[2018] UKSC 8
12/04/2017	Re DO and BO (2017)	Christopher Hames KC	[2017] EWHC 858 (Fam)
08/03/2017	C v D (2017)	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) (2016)	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 1253
08/09/2016	Re R (Children) (2016)	Alex Verdan KC Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Dorothea Gartland KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 1130
09/08/2016	Re M (Children) (2016)	Christopher Hames KC Private: Hassan Khan	[2016] EWCA Civ 942
28/06/2016	JB v D (2016)	Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWHC 1607 (Fam)
09/06/2016	Re F (Children) (2016)	Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 546
10/03/2016	Re G (A Child) (2016)	Christopher Hames KC	[2016] EWCA Civ 297
07/10/2015	Re J (Children) (2015)	Christopher Hames KC Private: David Williams QC Laura Morley	[2015] EWCA Civ 1019
14/07/2015	Re K (1980 Hague Convention) (Lithuania) (2015)	Private: David Williams QC Christopher Hames KC Private: Hassan Khan	[2015] EWCA Civ 720
27/01/2015	Re M (Republic of Ireland) (Child's Objections) (Joinder of Children as Parties to Appeal) [2015]	Christopher Hames KC Ruth Kirby KC Dorothea Gartland KC	[2015] 2 FLR 1074; [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	[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	[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