

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

Direct Access

Education

University of Bristol, History (BA Hons) (First Class, placed first in year)

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

Arbitration:

2022: Child Law Arbitrator

Sports law:

2018: Swim England Judicial Panel

2022: The FA Judicial Appeal Panel

2024: Swim England Judicial Appeal Panel

Pro bono family

2023: Trustee, Temple Legal Advice Centre (provider of pro bono family law advice)

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. He also specialises in private law cases, including leave to remove and cases with allegations of domestic and sexual abuse. He is also a child law arbitrator.

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 is the head of the Public Inquiries and Inquests team at 4pb. He is currently instructed in the Afghanistan Inquiry, the Covid Inquiry and the Omagh Bombing Inquiry. He is currently a member of the AG's B Panel, having previously been a member of the C Panel for 5-years.

Michael has been a Special Advocate since 2018, which enables him to appear in cases of national security.

Michael has judicial experience, as a Deputy District Judge since 2021 and Recorder since 2024. He has also been appointed to a 3-member judicial panel to review the asylum claims of Sri Lankan Tamils present on British Indian Ocean Territory.

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

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|------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 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 | 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 |
| 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) (2022) | Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards Charlotte Baker | [2022] EWHC 1722 (Fam) |
| 27/10/2021 | A (A Child), Re (Rev1) (2021) | Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards | [2021] EWHC 3467 (Fam) |
| 05/03/2021 | AB v CD | Michael Edwards Jacqueline Renton Sam King KC | [2021] EWFC 38 |
| 03/08/2020 | RE M (A Child) (2020) | 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 | Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards | [2019] EWHC 3147 (Fam) |

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| 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 |
| 02/07/2019 | AB v CD & C (2019) | Alex Verdan KC Sam King KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards | [2019] EWHC 1695 (Fam) |
| 16/04/2019 | RE H (Abduction: retention in non-contracting state) (2019) | Christopher Hames KC Michael Edwards | [2019] EWCA Civ 672 |
| 13/02/2019 | Re E (Abduction Article 13B Deferred Return Order) (2019) | Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards | [2019] EWHC 256 (Fam) |
| 03/08/2018 | F v M (2018) | Henry Setright KC Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards | [2018] EWHC 2106 (Fam) |
| 18/07/2018 | Williams v Hackney [2018] (UKSC 37) | Alex Verdan KC Michael Edwards Indu Kumar | [2018] (UKSC 37) |
| 10/05/2018 | Re J (Children) (2018) | 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) (2018) | Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Charles Hale KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC | [2018] UKSC 8 |
| 24/01/2017 | RE N (Hague Convention : Habitual Residence) (2017) | Michael Edwards | [2017] EWHC 63 (Fam) |
| 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 |

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| 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 |
| 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 |
| 19/02/2015 | AB v TB (Temporary Removal to Jordan) [2014] | 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 (Interveners) (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 |

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| 14/07/2011 | Re C (Children) (2011) | Mark Jarman KC Michael Edwards | [2011] EWCA Civ 1230 |
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