
Michael White

Michael accepts instructions across all areas of Chambers' work, and particularly in the fields of public, commercial, employment, education and information law. He has appeared in the Court of Appeal, High Court, Court of Protection, County Court, Employment Tribunal (including in Scotland) and First-Tier Tribunal.

Michael has experience in:

- Acting for and advising claimants and respondents in statutory employment law claims, including claims of discrimination, whistleblowing, unfair dismissal, wrongful dismissal and equal pay.
- Acting (led) in High Court commercial employment proceedings concerning team moves, breach of confidence and restrictive covenants.
- Acting (led) both for and against central government and government agencies in judicial review claims brought on public-law and human-rights grounds.
- Acting for the Information Commissioner's Office on data protection matters, and advising a range of clients in respect of bringing and defending proceedings under the GDPR / DPA and in respect of non-contentious data protection matters.
- Acting for and advising individuals, local authorities, companies and other organisations on a range of other matters including commercial disputes, community care funding, internal disciplinary proceedings, educational disputes and equality law.

Before coming to the Bar, Michael was a trainee for six months in Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's international arbitration team in Paris, assisting mostly on English-law commercial arbitrations and investor-state disputes. He also worked on death-penalty appeals in New Orleans, and for a year in the Legal Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Rome, on contractual, constitutional and international-law matters.

Recent Cases

Some examples of Michael's recent work include:

- **A v B**: acting for the Claimant in a multi-million-pound claim against an international law firm for harassment, victimisation, sex discrimination, whistleblowing and unfair dismissal (initially, unled; led latterly by Diya Sen Gupta QC). The case (listed for a twelve-day final hearing) settled shortly before trial.
- **C v D**: acting for the Defendants in respect of interim relief sought in a High Court team-move claim brought by a bank (led initially by Chris Jeans QC, latterly by Richard Leiper QC). The case settled before the hearing of the interim relief application.
- **E v A Local Authority**: advising a local authority on its response to a threatened judicial review of its policies in respect of the DFE's new Relationships Education guidance, on grounds of discrimination and a failure to consult (unled).
- **Hacker v London Borough of Croydon**: acting for the Defendant local authority in a high-value employment (TUPE) challenge related to the reorganisation of its public health functions (led by Simon Forshaw).
- **R (Cotter) v National Institute of Health and Care Excellence** [2020] EWHC 435 (Admin); [2020] EWCA Civ 1037; (2020) 175 BMLR 89: acting for the National Institute of Health



Professional Summary

Called 2018

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and Care Excellence, before both the High Court and the Court of Appeal, in a challenge to its decision on how to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of an orphan drug (led by Daniel Stilitz QC).

- ***R (Gardner & Anor) v Secretary of State for Health & Ors***: acting for the Claimants in a challenge to the Government's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic in respect of care homes (led by Jason Coppel QC).
- ***R (Prichard) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions*** [2020] EWHC 1495 (Admin); [2020] PTSR 2255: acting for the Secretary of State in defence of a challenge to provisions of Universal Credit in respect of pensioners (led by Julian Milford QC).
- ***R (Turner) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions***: acting for the Secretary of State in defence of a challenge in connection with the much-publicised death of a benefit recipient in Nottingham in 2018 (led by Clive Sheldon QC).
- ***Zverev v Ace Group International*** [2020] EWHC 3513 (Ch): acting for the Claimant, one of the world's highest-ranked tennis players, in a High Court dispute with his former manager. The claim raised issues of restraint of trade (led by Anya Proops QC).

Education

2018: Bar Professional Training Course, BPP University (Outstanding)

2015: BA Jurisprudence, Oxford University (First Class)

Awards

Lord Justice Holker Scholarship (Gray's Inn)

Sally Ball European Law Prize (Trinity College, Oxford)



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