Michael Lee



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Michael Lee has a broad practice, with a particular focus on employment and commercial matters. He has extensive advocacy experience and regularly appears in a range of courts and tribunals.

Michael is recommended in the employment sections of all the leading directories, which have described him as “a go-to junior for employment litigation and associated high court work” and as a “go-to counsel, who is hugely responsive and great with clients… always well prepared, never misses a trick, and his advocacy is strong”.

The directories have noted Michael’s strength in “injunctive relief and restraint of trade matters” and in “complex discrimination matters and employment issues with a commercial twist”. The most recent editions describe Michael as someone who “will give you the time, effort and insight you dream of from a real star of the employment Bar”.

> ***He is extremely thorough, very personable and good with the client***
>
> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Expertise

Public

Michael undertakes a range of public law and regulatory work.

Michael (led by Jonathan Moffett KC) acted for Surrey County Council in its defence of a challenge to its Special Educational Needs budget, heard by a Divisional Court in 2018 (**R (Hollow) v Surrey CC [2019] EWHC 618 (Admin)**. Michael also acted (led by Clive Lewis KC) in judicial review proceedings concerning a challenge to a European-wide prohibition on the sale of certain meat products (**R (Newby) v Food Standards Agency [2013] EWHC 1966 (Admin)**), including acting as sole counsel in defence of the Claimant's application for an interim injunction to dis-apply the prohibition. Michael (now led by Jason Coppell KC) represented the Food Standards Agency before the Supreme Court in that case in 2019 (**R (Newby) v Foods Standards Agency [2019] UKSC 18**).

Michael's public law practice has a particular focus on cases involving the Asserts of Community Value regime in the Localism Act 2011. He has extensive expertise in this field, having acted in a large number of appeals, such as ***Patel v Hackney* CR/2013/0005** (the first appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal under ACV regime), **Kicking Horse Ltd v Camden CR/2015/0012** (an appeal considering the extent to which individuals parts of a building should be given separate consideration under the ACV regime), and **Mendoza Ltd v Camden CR/2015/0015**) (an appeal considering the requirements that an organisation must meet to make a valid ACV nomination). Michael regularly advises on and appears in appeals to the First-Tier Tribunal in this field.

Achievements

Education

Michael graduated with a first-class degree in Law from St Catharine's College, Cambridge University.

Other

Michael is a member of the Commercial Bar Association, the Employment Lawyers Association, the Employment Law Bar Association and the Constitutional and the *Administrative Law Bar Association.*

The biggest strength is his commitment. He is intellectually top rate and he combines that with sheer hard work and attention to detail. He has been extremely well prepared for everything. He is also very responsive to queries and a team player.

LEGAL 500

Very down-to-earth and clearly very bright

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He is extremely thorough, very personable and good with the client

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Very commercial, very sensible and very user-friendly

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He is extremely hard-working, diligent and is able to pick up the facts of a case very quickly

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He provides sound and practical advice, and is one to watch

LEGAL 500

Good with clients, skilful, confident and persuasive. He is able to adapt his approach appropriately to the claimant, witness and case in hand

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Responsive, bright and enjoyable to work with. He really gets engaged with the case and makes you feel supported throughout

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He grasps complicated and complex matters easily

LEGAL 500