

Michael Gouriet

PARTNER | LONDON

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Michael is a partner in the [divorce and family](#) team.

Michael advises on all aspects of family law (including prenuptial agreements) with particular emphasis on the resolution of financial issues for wealthy individuals, whether married or unmarried and often with international interests. Michael has acted in numerous divorce cases involving trusts and businesses. Michael also has extensive experience of children law matters, including international relocation.

Michael's breadth of work involves close liaison with many other specialist practice areas at Withers including the contentious trusts and estates team and the wealth planning teams in London, US, Switzerland and Asia.

Clients include city professionals, entrepreneurs and business people, owners of landed estates, sports and music stars, politicians, and their spouses/partners.

Michael is a certified family law arbitrator, and a trained collaborative lawyer. He has been a member of Resolution's Cohabitation Committee since its inception in 1995.

Michael has for several years been listed as a leading family lawyer in the legal directories (including Chambers & Partners, Legal 500, Spears, and Citywealth) in which he has variously been described in recent years as 'a real class act'; 'measured, sensible and knows his law'; 'highly intelligent, very efficient and a pleasure to deal with - a really strong practitioner'; 'is just excellent and often sought after by high net worth individuals'; and a 'first-class lawyer'.

SECRETARY **LAURA HALL**

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TRACK RECORD

D v D [2015] - a case involving allegations of non-disclosure, and sharing of future income from offshore contracts entered into during marriage.

Tchenguiz-Imerman v Imerman [CA 2010], which changed the law on disclosure and confidentiality of documents between spouses in divorce proceedings.

Two further reported decisions of *Tchenguiz-Imerman v Imerman* [2013] relating to the joinder of trust beneficiaries to financial proceedings on divorce and consequential disclosure.

Acting for the father in the ground breaking children's case of *C v C International Relocation* [2011], successfully opposing the mother's application to move with the children to live in the US. This case preceded the similar decision by the Court of Appeal in the landmark case of *K v K* later that year (in which Withers also acted for the successful father).

OS v DS [2004] creating a new precedent for asset-tracing.

ADMISSIONS

- England and Wales, 1995

PUBLICATIONS

'Tax Planning for Farm and Land Diversification', LexisNexis, divorce chapter

'Resolution handbook on cohabitation law', contributor

Family law piece, *FT Weekend Magazine* - November 2010

MEMBERSHIPS

- International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) - current treasurer of the European chapter
- Chartered Institute of Arbitration
- Resolution
- Collaborative Family Law

TALKS

Resolution National Conference, Newcastle, April 2016 – panellist on 'Cohabitation Compared and Contrasted in England and Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland'

IBC Conference on International Cross Border Estate Planning for Divorce, London, January 2016 – speaking on 'Third Party Rights: How Does the Divorce Court Deal With Them'

STEP (in partnership with IAML) conference in London, December 2014 on the Family Business and Family Law – speaking on trusts and divorce

Legal Week Trust and Estates Litigation Forum, Provence, 2014 – chaired focus group on trust and divorce issues following UK Supreme Court decision in *Prest v Petrodel Resources Limited*

American Bar Association RPTe Spring Symposia, New York, 2012 – speaking on 'When a Marriage Goes Global – International Estate Planning Aspects of Marital Planning and Dissolution'

Butterworths Lexis Nexis Matrimonial Finance and Divorce Proceedings conference, London, April 2010 and May 2011 – chair and speaker

IBC Family Law and Divorce for Private Clients conference, London, November 2010 – chairing the conference, and speaking on 'Protection Against Cohabitants Financial Claims'

EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh, M.A. (Hons)
College of Law, Guildford (CPE and Law Society Finals)

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

DATES

JOINED: 1993
PARTNER: 2002

RECOGNITION

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| Spears Recommended | Private Client Elite 2017 | Chambers UK 2018 - Top ranked - Michael Gouriet | 2020 Top ranked in Chambers UK |
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| 2020 Legal 500 UK recommended lawyer | 2020 Legal 500 UK Leading Individual | 2019 Legal 500 UK Leading Individual | 2019 Chambers Top Ranked UK Michael Gouriet |
| 2018 Chambers HNW Top Ranked | 2017 Spears500 TopRecommended | 2017 Legal 500 UK Leading Individual | 2017 Chambers Michael Gouriet |
| 2017 Chambers HNW Top Ranked | 2017 Chambers HNW Leading Individual - James Brockway | 2016 City Wealth Leaders List - Recommended | 2016 ChambersHNW personalised leading individual |
| 2016 Chambers UK - Leading individual | 2016 Chambers HNW - Ranked In | 2015 Chambers UK - Ranked In Leading Individual | 2015 Citywealth Leaders List - Recommended |

London

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