

Michael Spencer

Call: 2017



Michael Spencer accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' work and is developing a broad practice, particularly in Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Tax, Immigration, Social Security, Public Law and Human Rights. He has appeared in courts and tribunals in a variety of civil hearings on behalf of both claimants and defendants.

Prior to coming to the bar, Michael had a career as a solicitor-advocate specialising in public law and human rights, with a particular emphasis on asylum support and social security law. He has worked at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, the Asylum Support Appeals Project, the Child Poverty Action Group, and as a Judicial Assistant to Lord Kerr at the UK Supreme Court.

Personal Injury

Michael has appeared in court and advised on liability and quantum in a variety of civil hearings on behalf of both claimants and defendants. He has particular experience of road traffic accident and public liability claims.

Immigration

Michael regularly appears in asylum and immigration proceedings before the First Tier Tribunal on behalf of both appellants and the Secretary of State. He has also represented appellants before the First-tier Tribunal (Asylum Support) and is the Chair of the Asylum Support Appeals Project, a pro bono advocacy charity for destitute asylum seekers.

Public Law

As a pupil, Michael assisted members of Chambers in a range of complex public law matters, covering freedom of information, prison law, immigration and EU law. This builds on his previous experience as a solicitor-advocate managing human rights cases.

As the former legal officer at the Child Poverty Action Group, Michael has a strong expertise in social security law. He has appeared on behalf of appellants in numerous hearings before the First-tier and Upper Tribunal.

Human Rights

As a barrister, Michael continues to build on his experience as a solicitor-advocate pursuing human rights test cases before the tribunals and higher courts. Michael is on the Equality & Human Rights Commission C panel of counsel. He is also a regular contributor to the [UK Human Rights Blog](#).

Clinical Negligence

As a pupil, Michael assisted members of Chambers in drafting pleadings and advice on liability and quantum in various clinical negligence matters. He has appeared in the County Court and High Court in a variety of applications and case management hearings.

Professional Negligence

As a pupil, Michael assisted members of Chambers in drafting pleadings and advice on liability and quantum in various clinical and professional negligence matters. He has appeared in the County Court and High Court in a variety of applications and case management hearings.

Tax

As a pupil, Michael assisted members of Chambers with complex indirect tax and regulatory matters, covering VAT, Landfill Tax and Carbon Emissions Trading.

EU Law

Michael has developed a strong expertise in EU law. Prior to joining Chambers, Michael spent twelve months as a pupil at Monckton Chambers, where he assisted in a broad range of complex commercial EU law matters, covering VAT, customs duties, indirect taxes, environmental law, competition law and the implications of Brexit. This built on Michael's exposure to EU law as a judicial assistant at the Supreme Court and as a solicitor at the Child Poverty Action Group. As a tenant, Michael has appeared in numerous immigration appeal hearings involving complex issues of EU law.

Appointments

- Equality & Human Rights Commission (C panel)

Awards

- Peter Duffy Scholar, Bar European Group (2018)
- Pegasus Scholar, American Inns of Court (2017)
- Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Awards, Finalist (social welfare category) (2015)
- Wig and Pen prize for pro bono (2009)

Education

- College of Law – Higher Rights of Audience (2012)
- Diploma in Legal Practice (Distinction) Nottingham Law School (2005-2006)
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Commendation) BPP Law School (2004-2005)
- MA in Intellectual and Cultural History, Warburg Institute (2003-2004)
- BA (Hons) in History (First Class) St Hugh's College, Oxford (2000-2003)

Memberships

- Bar European Group
- ALBA

Publications

- *Disabled Children Handbook*, LAG, 3rd Edition (currently updating welfare benefits section)
- *Benefits for Migrants Handbook*, Chapters 21-24, CPAG, 7th Edition (2015)
- Welfare Rights Bulletin, *What hope has the Court of Appeal left for human rights?* (Apr 2014)
- Contributor to the [UK Human Rights Blog](#)