

 **Christopher Hames KC**  
Door tenant

 [engage@unit.law](mailto:engage@unit.law)

 03330 154 121

 4th Floor Exchange Station,  
Tithebarn Street  
Liverpool, L2 2QP

 [www.unit.law](http://www.unit.law)

#### Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Inner Temple

Chair of Child Abduction  
Lawyers Association

Member of the Chartered  
Institute of Arbitrators

Association of Lawyers for  
Children

Member and reviewer for  
Advocate

Trustee of Children and  
Families Across Borders

## Profile

Christopher is a fearless and persuasive advocate, combining formidable strategic and tactical thinking with a keen forensic insight. He is a specialist in all areas of international law, with the knowledge and experience to take on complex issues of jurisdiction, finance and movement of children.

Christopher has extensive experience in matrimonial finance with substantial assets, often with an international element or involving off-shore or domestic trusts or where criminal confiscation and restraint orders have been made. Having been involved in the leading case on Legal Service Payment Orders, he is much in demand for all types of applications for legal funding orders.

He is one of the leading lights in international child abduction in the country. His case-work involve the Hague 1980 and 1996 Conventions, Wardship and the inherent jurisdiction and the enforcement of foreign orders. He appears both at first instance and appeals: he has appeared in both the CJEU and the UKSC. He also has a considerable practice in relocation and international adoption cases.

He is sought after by solicitors in disputes over the court's jurisdiction to entertain applications for children and divorce; these may involve issues of non-marriage, habitual residence, domicile, forum non conveniens and the maintenance regulation.

He has been Chair of the CALA since 2018 and regularly participates at international conferences. As Chair, he has been involved in extensive consultations about practice and procedure following the President's Guidance and on the post Covid-19 lockdown court environment.

He is an author and contributory editor of 2 chapters of Rayden & Jackson on the Hague 1980 Convention and committal.

He regularly chairs and lectures seminars and conferences on a variety of practice areas. In 2020 topics have included:

- Conduct, Contributions and Pre-acquired Assets after *XW v XH*
- Non-marriage (*Akhter*); *parens patriae* and the inherent jurisdiction (*Re N*); and the effect of Brexit on family law

In February 2020 Christopher gave evidence to the House of Lords EU Justice Sub-Committee on behalf of the Bar Council on "Civil Justice Co-operation after Brexit. His evidence ranged over both divorce/finance and children.

He is a trustee of CFAB and reviews cases for Advocate.

He sits as Recorder on the NE Circuit and is approved for the Financial Remedies Court. He is a qualified arbitrator in both children (now including international relocation) and money work.

## Practice Areas

- Financial Remedies
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law

## Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Collaborative Law
- Early Neutral Evaluation

## Public Access

- Public Access

## Qualifications

- LLB Hons (Sheffield)

## History

2021	Appointed Family Deputy High Court Judge
2018	Recorder
2015	Year of Silk
2015	Appointed King's Counsel
1987	Call to the Bar (Inner Temple)

## Directories

"Christopher Hames is excellent at cross-examination, very good on the detail and very persuasive. Very hard-working and responsive. He's available to the rest of his legal team and happy to have lots of meeting with the clients in preparation for trial."

**Chambers and Partners, 2023**

'Christopher is very methodical, good with client and quick on his feet.'

**Legal 500 2023, Family (Including Divorce and Financial Remedy)**

'Christopher is highly knowledgeable and a stellar advocate. He is a safe pair of hands.'

**Legal 500 2023, Children**

'He is an extremely talented advocate, and a powerhouse of knowledge concerning cross-border child law. Exceptional on his feet.'

**Legal 500, 2022**

"His pragmatic and intellectual approach proves to be a winning combination, and his distillation of key issues is a joy for any tribunal." "Christopher is meticulous, thorough, calm and organised when handling domestic violence cases." "He's approachable and respectful in his approach."

**Chambers & Partners, 2022**

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings. He wins plaudits for his willingness to get fully involved with a case.

Strengths: "Has excellent technical expertise, particularly in international children law and European regulations." "He's rapidly becoming a go-to for relocation cases as his tactical skill is superb." "Christopher has a reassuring air of authority and gravitas. He is always approachable and willing to help at short notice."

**Chambers & Partners, 2021**

'Has a unique combination of fighting hard for his client, having a thoughtful and clever strategy and being extremely persuasive and beautifully articulate in court.'

'Combines a very technical and forensic approach with a healthy dollop of pragmatism and a real sense of humanity. He is always impeccably prepared and miles ahead of the game.'

**Legal 500 2021, Children**

'Combines a very technical and forensic approach with a healthy dollop of pragmatism and a real sense of humanity. He is always impeccably prepared and miles ahead of the game.'

**Legal 500 2021, Family (Including Divorce and Financial Remedy)**

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings. He wins plaudits for his willingness to get fully involved with a case.

Strengths: "Christopher is wonderful to work with. He's always incredibly well prepared and he makes sure that he absolutely understands all the peripheral details of a case." "He has the ear of the court and an excellent bedside manner with clients."

**Chambers & Partners 2020**

'His advocacy is smooth and persuasive.'

**Legal 500, 2020**

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings with international issues. He wins plaudits for his willingness to get fully involved with a case.

Strengths: "He is a rock upon which you know you can build a solid case. Nothing fazes him. When you have him on your side, you feel that added layer of confidence in the way you would if you had a sword and shield to hand."

**Chambers & Partners 2019**

'He commands real authority.'

**Legal 500, 2019**

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings with international issues. He wins plaudits for his willingness to get fully involved with a case.

Strengths: "He is prepared to go the extra mile. He works long hours and he's willing to pull out all the stops for you and the client. He makes you feel that you're working as a team and he seems genuinely interested in helping the client."

**Chambers & Partners 2018**

Has a notable international children practice and deep expertise in matters concerning the application of the Hague Convention. His growing financial practice sees him representing high net worth individuals in divorce proceedings. Strengths: "He's easy to work with, relentless in court, fearless, incredibly knowledgeable and very persuasive. A superb advocate."

Recent work: Acted in *Cambra v Jones*, a case concerning the failure to return two children to Spain under the Hague Convention.

**Chambers & Partners 2017**

Has taken silk this year as a result of his work handling international family law on both the financial and private children side. He is a lawyer who displays forcefulness and tenacity.

Strengths: "He is a master strategist, and has a great analytical mind. He's very eloquent in his advocacy, and is really formidable, ruthless."

**Chambers & Partners 2016**

Maintains a strong private law children practice, and works in cases relating to residence, relocation and abduction in both Hague and non-Hague jurisdictions.

Expertise: "Brilliant for complex, difficult cases. Great on the attention to detail, he's very thorough, good with clients and highly personable."

Recent work: Instructed before the High Court in a case pertaining to the abduction of five children by their father.

**Chambers & Partners 2015**

Maintains a fine track in cases concerning cross-jurisdictional issues, child abduction, adoption, abandoned spouses and lawful relocation.

Expertise: "Has excellent knowledge of all areas of family law matters."

Recent work: Recently handled child abduction proceedings in the High Court involving five children, three of whom were returned to Spain.

**Chambers & Partners 2014**

Christopher Hames focuses his international family law practice on cases concerning child abduction, relocation and cross-jurisdictional disputes. Commentators note that "he cuts straight through to the issues" of the most complex of cases.

**Chambers & Partners 2013**

Christopher Hames comes highly recommended for his expertise in cross-jurisdictional children expertise. Sources say: "He is a very safe pair of hands and is excellent with clients." Hames is much in demand.

**Chambers and Partners 2012**

Christopher Hames is highly regarded for cross-jurisdictional children work.

**Chambers and Partners 2011**

Christopher Hames, who is praised for his handling of Children Act matters.

**Chambers and Partners 2010**