

Michael Jones

2008 , 2023 Kings Counsel, jones@deanscourt.co.uk



Education	Professional Associations	Appointments
BA (Hons) History: University of Leeds, 2005.	Family Law Bar Association	Head of the Court of Protection team
MA History: University of Manchester, 2006.	Amnesty International	
Graduate Diploma in Law: College of Law, Chester (Distinction), 2007.	Northern Circuit	
Bar Vocational Course: Manchester Metropolitan University (Very Competent), 2008.		

Areas of Specialism
Family Law
Public and Private Children Act Proceedings
Adoption
International children
Court of Protection
Children
Mental Health & Community Care Law

Michael's Children Act practice incorporates cases involving international issues such as that of jurisdiction, child abduction, and the placement of children outside of the United Kingdom. He also has experience of undertaking work in the Oversea Territories, having previously been instructed in a case before the Supreme Court of St Helena. In terms of Michael's regular practice, he is instructed in public law proceedings where issues relate to serious injuries to children and involve complex medical issues including abusive head trauma/brain injury to infants, and fabricated and induced illness. Michael has also appeared in a number of cases involving child death, where concurrent criminal proceedings have received national media attention.

Michael is the author of the practitioner's textbook '*Children: the Inherent Jurisdiction and Wardship*' and has advised and represented various parties within wardship proceedings relating to matters such as abduction, medical treatment and alleged radicalisation. He has a particular interest in the use of the inherent jurisdiction in the context of medical treatment cases relating to children and has extensive experience in cases involving the deprivation of liberty of children in proceedings brought within the Court of Protection and under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court.

In relation to proceedings within the Court of Protection, Michael is experienced in dealing with applications relating to complex welfare issues, including serious medical treatment in cases heard before Judges of the Family Division. He represents both public authorities and litigation friends. He is also currently, the head of the Court of Protection team.

In 2015 Michael was awarded a Pegasus Scholarship from Middle Temple. He undertook a 10-week placement in New Zealand, working in the capacity as junior Crown Counsel for the initial part of the placement, where he acted in an advisory capacity to various government departments; he worked on cases involving issues in relation to international jurisdiction and judicial review. He also spent time working in

the Ministry of Social Development, the government body responsible for child protection within the New Zealand Court system.

Michael served a 3 year term as an elected member of the Bar Council and has been involved in various committees on a national as well as a regional level. He has published articles for a number of well known publications including the Family Law Journal, Counsel Magazine and Community Care.

Publications

Articles

"To assess or not to assess: Section 38(6)" (Family Law Journal, October 2011)

"Section 20 v Private Fostering" (Family Law Journal, May 2012)

"The Inherent Jurisdiction: what place does it have in the future of family justice?" (Family Law Journal, November 2015)

"Deprivation of a child's liberty: Section 25 and the need for legislative reform" (Family Law Journal, June 2017)

"Secure Accommodation: Problems and Solutions" (Family Law Journal, September 2020)

Michael has also contributed to Family Law Week online, in respect of both case summaries and topical legal articles and contributed to other publications such as Counsel Magazine.

Books

"Children: the Inherent Jurisdiction and Wardship" (Jordan's Publishing, 2016)

Interests

Michael enjoys endurance sports, in particular running and cycling, both of which are usually undertaken with his trusty companion, Lucy the Doberman (he is a committed 'dog dad'). He practices martial arts and has represented England at an amateur level at the WKC world championships in 2009. He also has a keen interest in cinema, music and cooking (often with mixed results).

Notable Cases

Re T (A Child)(S9(6) Children Act 1989 Orders: Exceptional Circumstances: Parental Alienation) [2024] EWHC 59 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Lancashire County Council v M & Ors [2023] EWHC 3097 (Fam)

Practice Area:

A Local Authority v X & Ors (Need for Finding of Fact Hearing) [2023] EWFC 121

Practice Area:

Mr and Mrs C v D & Ors [2023] EWFC 10

Practice Area:

Lancashire County Council v PX & Ors [2022] EWHC 2379 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Re G (Child Post-Mortem Report: Delays) [2022] EWFC 55

Practice Area:

A Borough Council v E (Unavailability of Regulated Placement) [2021] EWHC 183 (Fam)

Practice Area:

A Borough Council v E & Ors (No. 2) (Refusal of Secure Accommodation Order) [2021] EWHC 2699 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Wigan BC v Y (Refusal to Authorise Deprivation of Liberty) [2021] EWHC 1982 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Cumbria County Council v AT & Ors [2020] EWHC 3107 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Cumbria County Council v T (Discharge of Intervenors) (Rev 1) [2020] EWFC 58

Practice Area:

Lancashire County Council v G (Unavailability of Secure Accommodation) [2020] EWHC 2828 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Cumbria County Council v AT & Ors [2020] EWHC 3107 (Fam)W (A Child: Leave to Oppose Adoption) [2020] EWCA Civ 16

Practice Area:

B-P (Children: adoption Or Fostering) [2018] EWCA Civ 204

Practice Area:

J (Child Refugees) (Rev 2) [2017] EWFC 44 (Fam)

Practice Area:

X (A Child : No 2) [2017] EWHC 1585 (Fam)

Practice Area:

X (A Child) (No 3) [2017] EWHC 2036 (Fam)

Practice Area:

X (A Child) and Y (A Child) [2016] EWHC 2271 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Derby City Council v SK & Ors [2015] EWFC 57

Practice Area:

What the Directories say

"Michael Jones's wealth of knowledge in family matters is second to none, with the ability to provide clear advice and excellent advocacy."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"He has an incredible legal mind and he is so knowledgeable."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Michael has a fantastic understanding of the law."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

Michael is an excellent advocate, he is incredibly knowledgeable around all areas that he is dealing with, and that is abundantly clear. He is always happy to help and provide guidance, and he is patient and approachable.

Legal 500, 2024

Michael is an outstanding advocate as well as the standard of his written pleadings being superb.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

Michael is phenomenally bright; he lives and breathes the complexities of children law, his knowledge of the law and relevant case law is second-to-none, and his written advocacy, particularly case summaries and skeleton arguments, are of the highest quality. He is also well received by the judiciary and opponents alike.

Legal 500, 2023

Michael is just a fountain of knowledge. Whether he's got a complex case or a High Court jurisdictional issue, he's just been amazing. He's almost in KC territory in the breadth of his knowledge.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

Michael Jones is supremely bright, an incredible lawyer. He seems to relish in complexity and just hoovers it up.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

Mr Jones' strength is his encyclopaedic knowledge of case law and statute. He instantly puts clients at ease and is extremely down-to-earth and meticulous in his case preparation and drafting.

He is very intellectual and great on the technical and educational side of the case.

Chambers and Partners, 2022

He is excellent. He does quality protection work. He is an exceptional and hard-working advocate, but also one of the most helpful and obliging barristers I've ever come across.

Chambers and Partners, 2021

Michael is incredibly intelligent with an encyclopaedic knowledge of case law, his cases are always well presented, and his written advocacy is a particular strength, case summaries and skeleton arguments are clear, thorough and expertly set out the issues and case law to be considered. He is also a very pleasant, humble and helpful advocate. Always good company in and out of court.

Legal 500, 2021

An exceptionally intelligent lawyer with an encyclopaedic knowledge of case law.

Legal 500, 2020

Hardworking, conscientious and very bright.

Legal 500

Deans Court Chambers: 24 St. John Street, Manchester, Greater Manchester M3 4DF

Telephone: 0161 214 6000 Email: clerks@deanscourt.co.uk