Michael Walsh KC

Call: 2006 | Silk: 2025

Michael gets to the heart of issues quickly and his pragmatic advice on tactics and procedure is second to none.

CHAMBERS UK

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Michael Walsh KC is a commercial chancery silk specialising in complex, high-value domestic and international disputes. He is recognised for his extensive trial and appellate experience, strategic judgement and incisive cross-examination. His practice spans commercial litigation, civil fraud, banking and financial services, personal and digital property, real estate, and professional liability, with a particular focus on disputes involving significant factual, legal and technical complexity.

Michael is known for getting to grips with demanding cases quickly and for delivering clear, commercial advice that clients can deploy with confidence. As one client observes: “Michael is always a pleasure to work with; he is strong on the law and excels on people skills and strategy.”

He is regularly instructed in urgent, high-value and strategically important applications, including freezing and proprietary injunctions and associated information orders, as well as in heavyweight trials and appeals. His litigation practice is both international and domestic in scope, and he continues to act for the Government in major, high-profile appellate litigation, including cases concerning the interpretation and effect of landmark legislation.

Recent and ongoing work includes a high-value dispute concerning a $1 billion online gaming business; a £100m+ group action arising from a defective tax-driven property structuring scheme; substantial disputes involving fraud and misrepresentation in investment and banking contexts; and high-value contractual and property litigation raising complex issues of securities, enforcement and asset preservation.

Expertise

Commercial Litigation

Michael advises and appears in technically demanding commercial disputes, including contractual claims, shareholder and partnership disputes, and claims involving complex issues of valuation, causation and loss. He is frequently instructed where

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commercial strategy and procedural control are as important as the legal merits, including in high-value cross-border litigation and urgent applications to preserve and recover disputed assets.

Recent Cases

- *Abramenko & Misevich v Chuprin* – Acting in DIFC proceedings in which the Court granted a midtrial proprietary injunction preserving disputed trust bank accounts in a dispute exceeding USD 1 billion arising from an international online gaming business. The matter forms part of a wider suite of proceedings and arbitrations across multiple jurisdictions, and concerns the validity and operation of a DIFC law trust (which holds companies worldwide) and the alleged dissipation of trust assets totalling hundreds of millions of dollars.
- *SKAT v Elysium & Another* – Acting in DIFC proceedings brought by the Danish tax authority seeking to recover sums said to be traceable to an alleged tax fraud. The dispute raises complex issues of jurisdiction, limitation and unjust enrichment, and involves alleged transfers through a chain of non-DIFC entities to assets located in the United States. The case is a contested, high-value piece of international commercial litigation with parallel proceedings in multiple jurisdictions.
- *Franove Holdings Limited v Rampart Capital LLP* – Acting in claims alleging fraudulent misrepresentation, negligent misstatement and breach of collateral contract arising from promoted real estate investments. The matter is listed for trial in 2027.
- *Share sale dispute* – Acting in a damages claim arising from a dispute concerning a share purchase agreement with a value of approximately £35 million.
- Claim against the Secretary of State – Acting in a £40 million claim against the Secretary of State involving allegations of negligent misstatement and other complex public and commercial law issues.
- Offshore corporate control dispute – Advising on a complex contractual dispute concerning control of a group of offshore companies holding assets across multiple jurisdictions.

Civil Fraud

Michael has an extensive civil fraud practice. He acts in disputes involving allegations of dishonesty, forged or disputed documents, and fraud in commercial and property transactions. He is regularly instructed in urgent interim relief, including freezing and proprietary injunctions and disclosure orders, to secure assets and evidence at speed.

Recent Cases

- *Abramenko & Misevich v Chuprin* – Acting in DIFC proceedings in which the Court granted a midtrial proprietary injunction restraining dealings with disputed trust bank accounts said to be worth approximately USD 28 million.
- *SKAT v Elysium and another* – Acting for a defendant in DIFC proceedings forming part of a multi-jurisdictional asset-recovery action connected with alleged tax fraud. The dispute raises complex issues of jurisdiction, limitation and unjust enrichment, and concerns attempts to trace assets through multiple entities and jurisdictions, including to property in the United States, within a contested and high-value piece of international commercial litigation with parallel proceedings elsewhere
- *Tich Limited v National Westminster Bank Plc* – Acting in a claim arising from authorised push-payment fraud, alleging failures in the bank's fraud-prevention procedures and raising important issues of limitation and pleading.
- *Franove Holdings Limited v Rampart Capital LLP* – Acting in claims alleging fraudulent misrepresentation, negligent misstatement and breach of collateral contract arising from promoted real estate investments. The matter is listed for trial in

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2027.

- *SG Kleinwort Hambros Bank v Sutton* – Acting for the claimant bank in obtaining a proprietary injunction and disclosure orders to prevent the dissipation of assets.
- *Castle Trust Capital Plc v Hockey* – Acting in urgent proceedings resulting in a freezing injunction and disclosure orders, leading to recovery of the misappropriated funds.
- *Prescott Place Freeholders Limited and others v Batin and Donovan* – Acting in proceedings in which the Court made adverse factual findings following cross-examination concerning the fraudulent execution of key documents.
- Investment fund mandate – Acting for an investment fund in a claim alleging fraudulent misrepresentation relating to the financing of real estate development projects.

Banking & Financial Services

Michael has extensive experience in domestic and cross-border banking disputes, including regulated and unregulated lending, enforcement of securities, and receivership and possession litigation. He is frequently instructed where enforcement is contested, priorities are disputed, or the underlying lending arrangements are complex.

Recent Cases

- *SG Kleinwort Hambros Bank Limited v Gill* – Acting for a private bank in possession and enforcement proceedings arising from default under secured lending. The borrowers sought to restrain enforcement by advancing a proposed redemption action, including an asserted right to redeem the loan by tendering proceeds said to derive from cryptocurrency holdings. The dispute raised issues as to the validity of tender, the bank's entitlement to refuse purported redemption, and the interaction between contractual repayment obligations and anti-money laundering requirements.
- Ultra-prime London property dispute – Advising a member of a Middle Eastern royal family in connection with the sale of an ultra-prime Central London property valued at approximately £25 million, involving contested mortgage enforcement and related applications for injunctive relief.
- *Banque Havilland v Fiorentino* – Acting for a private bank in possession and enforcement proceedings arising from default on a high-value loan secured against ultra-prime London residential property. The dispute concerned repayment of substantial mortgage arrears, proposed refinancing, and applications to delay enforcement, and resulted in the Court ordering possession of a Grade I-listed Regent's Park property.
- *Tich Limited v National Westminster Bank Plc* – Acting in a banking dispute arising from authorised push-payment fraud, involving alleged failures in fraud controls and transaction processes.
- *European bank mandate* – Acting for a European bank in the recovery of a loan of approximately £20 million secured against assets located in the United Kingdom.
- *Pitt & Others v Bodani* – Acting in complex proceedings arising from an offshore financing structure, raising issues of security enforcement, undue influence and subrogation. The case settled during the trial.
- *Menon & Menon v Pask & Goode* – Acting in a landmark receivership case addressing possession proceedings and the application of statutory protections under the Administration of Justice Act.
- *Arkin & Others v Marshall* – Acting in complex mortgage and receivership litigation involving questions of priority, regulatory classification and enforcement. The proceedings settled before final determination.

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Property

Michael has a substantial property practice spanning landlord and tenant, real estate litigation, development and development finance disputes, and cases where planning, securities and property rights intersect. He is regularly instructed in complex, high-value disputes and in appellate litigation raising important points of principle.

Recent Cases

- *URS v BDW* – Acting for the Secretary of State as intervener in Supreme Court proceedings raising significant issues concerning the operation of the Building Safety Act 2022 and its interaction with claims under the Defective Premises Act 1972.
- *Triathlon Homes LLP v Stratford Village Development Partnership & Others* – Acting in landmark Court of Appeal proceedings concerning the scope and operation of remediation contribution orders under section 124 of the Building Safety Act 2022. The Court upheld the First-tier Tribunal's decision that it was just and equitable to require the original developer and its associated entities to contribute to the costs of remedying serious fire safety defects, and confirmed that such orders may apply to costs incurred before the Act came into force. The Supreme Court is due to hear the appeal in November 2026.
- *Adriatic Land 5 Ltd v Various Leaseholders of Hippersley Point* – Acting for Government in appellate proceedings concerning the scope and application of the Building Safety Act, including issues arising from its retrospective effect. The Supreme Court is due to hear the appeal in November 2026.
- *Prescott Place Freeholders v Donovan & Others* – Acting in proceedings concerning the interpretation and operation of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987, including the nature and priority of statutory rights affecting freeholders and leaseholders.
- *Abacus Land 4 Limited v Bradley and Rhodes* – Acting in the Court of Appeal in a dispute concerning the correct construction of service charge provisions and the applicable standard of contractual reasonableness.
- *Healey v Fraine & Others* – Acting in Court of Appeal proceedings addressing adverse possession under the Land Registration Act and important issues concerning civil procedure and case management.
- *Chuan Hui & Others v K Group Holdings Inc & Others* – Acting in the Court of Appeal in a leading decision on service charges and the operation of management orders, including the allocation and recovery of liabilities following the termination of a statutory management regime.

Professional Negligence

Michael acts for claimants and defendants in professional negligence and related claims, including solicitors' negligence, public authority duty claims, and high-value disputes arising from complex transactions. He is very experienced in pre-action strategy, pleadings, and trial and appellate advocacy where causation and loss are heavily contested.

Recent Cases

- Group professional negligence action: Acting for a large group of claimants in a pre-action group claim valued in excess of £100 million arising from an allegedly defective tax-driven property structuring scheme, following challenge by HMRC and the assertion of substantial tax liabilities against participants.
- *Aurium Real Estate London Ultra Prime Ltd v Mishcon de Reya LLP*: Acting in a solicitors' negligence claim valued at approximately £68 million, involving one of the earliest applications of the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Manchester*

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Building Society v Grant Thornton to issues of scope of duty and loss.

- *Primavera Associates Ltd v Hertsmere Borough Council*: Acting in the successful defence of a negligence claim arising from the exercise of statutory planning functions.
- Claim against the Secretary of State: Acting in a £40 million claim against the Secretary of State involving allegations including negligent misstatement and other complex issues of public and commercial law.

DIFC & Middle East Litigation

Michael is Part II registered and has rights of audience in the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts. He is regularly instructed in high-value, strategically complex litigation before the DIFC Courts and in disputes connected with the Middle East, often involving cross-border asset recovery, trusts, fraud allegations and coordinated proceedings across multiple jurisdictions.

Recent Cases

- *Abramenko & Misevich v Chuprin* – Acting in extensive DIFC proceedings arising from a dispute exceeding USD 1 billion connected with an international online gaming business and a DIFC law trust holding assets and corporate interests worldwide. The litigation forms part of a wider suite of court proceedings and arbitrations in multiple jurisdictions and concerns the validity and operation of the trust and the alleged dissipation of trust assets totalling hundreds of millions of dollars.
- *SKAT v Elysium & Another* – Acting in DIFC proceedings arising out of a cross-border asset-recovery effort connected with alleged tax fraud. The case raises complex and novel issues of DIFC jurisdiction, limitation and unjust enrichment, and involves attempts to trace assets through multiple corporate structures and jurisdictions, including to assets located in the United States. The proceedings form part of a contested, high-value body of international commercial litigation conducted alongside parallel proceedings in other jurisdictions.

Testimonials

"Michael gets to the heart of issues quickly and his pragmatic advice on tactics and procedure is second to none."

Chambers UK

"Michael is always a pleasure to work with; he is strong on the law and excels on people skills and strategy."

Chambers UK 2026

"Michael provides excellent client service. He is very bright, an excellent advocate and thoroughly enjoyable to work with."

Chambers UK 2025

"Michael is a modern, commercial barrister who is a real joy to work with."

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Chambers UK 2025

"Michael is a brilliant advocate... extremely commercial."

Legal 500 2025

"Michael combines a deep knowledge of property law with real power on his feet."

Legal 500 2025

Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown (Attorney General's A Panel) (2021–2025)
- Visiting Lecturer in Law, King's College London (2008-2023)
- Registered as Advocate before the DIFC Courts

Recommendations

- Real Estate Litigation (Chambers UK)
- Professional Negligence (Legal 500)
- Property (Legal 500)
- 'Case of the Year' Award (LexisNexis Legal Awards 2026)

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Chancery Bar Association
- Property Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association

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Education & Qualifications

- LLB (Hons), King's College London

BSB Registration

Michael Patrick Walsh KC

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