

Michael Coburn KC

SILK: 2010 | CALL: 1990

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Overview

Michael practises in all aspects of commercial law, usually with an international dimension, with particular emphasis on shipping, international sale of goods, and commodities.

He is a specialist in a broad cross-section of shipping and international trade issues including disputes arising out of charterparties, general average, commodities and shipbuilding contracts. He has acted in precedent setting cases such as *Spar v GCL* heard in the Court of Appeal concerning the obligation to pay hire.

Michael acts in English court and arbitration proceedings. He has acted as arbitrator in a number of references.

Professional memberships

- LMAA: Supporting Member

Education

- City University: Diploma in Law (1989)
- University of Oxford, Worcester College: *Literae Humaniores* (1988)

Example cases

- *Spar Shipping AS v Grand China Logistics Holding (Group) Co Ltd* [2015] EWHC 718 (Comm): shipping; whether obligation to pay hire a condition; guarantees; measure of damages.
- *Griffon Shipping LLC v Firodi Shipping Ltd (The Griffon)* [2013] EWCA Civ 1567; [2014] 1 All E.R. (Comm) 593; [2014] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 471: contract terms; deposits; interpretation; repudiation; sale of ships; shipping contracts; standard forms of contract.

- *Polestar Maritime Ltd v YHM Shipping Co Ltd (The Rewa)*[2012] EWCA Civ 153; [2012] 2 All ER (Comm) 447; [2012] 1 Lloyd's Rep 510; [2012] 1 CLC 381: bills of sale; certificates; contracts of sale; contract terms; detention; sale of ships.

Recommendations

Michael is a highly erudite barrister who thinks meticulously about his cases. He has a calm style of advocacy that allows him to develop detailed points whilst maintaining the court's attention. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2024](#)

He is a profound thinker with a charming court manner. [Chambers UK Bar 2024](#)

Michael grasps complex legal issues quickly and communicates the salient points effectively. [Chambers UK Bar 2024](#)

Michael is very experienced, clear thinking, user-friendly, calm and composed. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2024](#)

Michael is highly responsive and takes a proactive and hands-on approach. [Chambers UK Bar 2024](#)

Very competent, well prepared, most helpful, and a deep thinker. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2023](#)

Michael is exceptionally knowledgeable, even on areas of law that are not commonly encountered. [Chambers UK Bar 2022](#)

A very pleasant person to work with, he knows his commodities law extremely well and has a very strong intellect. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2023](#)

Michael is phenomenally clever. [Chambers UK Bar 2023](#)

Michael is phenomenally clever. [Chambers UK Bar 2022](#)

A very clever and a very effective advocate. He gives careful thought to presenting his written arguments. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2022](#)

Michael is exceptionally knowledgeable, even on areas of law that are not commonly encountered. [Chambers UK Bar 2022](#)

Calm, considered, patient and very thorough on the law, he gives realistic advice. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2022](#)

He has a persuasive written style and is very eloquent orally. [Chambers UK Bar 2021](#)

A very commercial silk who always gets straight to the point. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2021](#)

A very strategic thinker. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2021](#)

He's top of my list to go to with more complex and difficult cases. He is second to none in cross-examination, very astute, user-friendly and responsive. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

One of the best silks - very commercial and always to the point, he doesn't beat around the bush. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2020](#)

A good all-rounder and a fantastic silk who is highly recommended for commodities cases. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2018](#)

Mike is able, gifted and charming. You always know it will be a tough but fair fight. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

Very commercial and always to the point. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2020](#)

He will always pick up the phone and answer your query. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

He is highly-rated. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2018](#)

A very polished and smooth performer. [Chambers UK Bar 2019](#)

He's able and conscientious and gives you the feeling that he really cares. [Chambers UK 2018](#)

A strong advocate, who stays calm and clear throughout a case. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2017](#)