



Michael Nguyen-Kim

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Michael joined Quadrant Chambers in October 2024 following the successful completion of pupillage. He practices across all of Chambers' core areas.

Originally from Australia, Michael read for his undergraduate law degree at the University of Cambridge as a Cambridge Overseas and Commonwealth Trust Scholar, graduating with First Class Honours and obtaining the highest mark in his year for Criminal Law as well as various college prizes. He then completed a postgraduate Bachelor of Civil Law degree at the University of Oxford, graduating with a Distinction, followed by the BPTC at City, University of London.

Michael maintains an active academic interest in the areas of law relevant to his practice. His writings on the conflict of laws have been published in the Cambridge Law Journal and he served as a Teaching Fellow in Contract Law at SOAS, University of London for the 2022-23 academic year.

Since commencing practice, Michael has been instructed as a junior in a number of high-profile matters. These include a six-day Admiralty Court trial regarding the recoverability of charges under a port's standard terms (**Port of Sheerness Ltd v Swire Shipping Pte Ltd** [2025] EWHC 7 (Admlty), a week-long ad-hoc arbitration concerning a US\$15m guarantee for the purchase price of a grain supply contract, and a pending SIAC arbitration regarding the construction of a fleet of LNG carriers (worth c. US\$1b).

Michael also acts as sole counsel in smaller disputes across a wide range of practice areas, including shipping, aviation, banking and technology.

Further highlights of Michael's practice thus far include:

Aviation & Travel

- Drafted Particulars of Claim in a claim for the delivery-up of a private jet following a lessee's refusal to return the aircraft to the lessor upon termination of the relevant lease (**Fox Flight v 247 Aviation** LM-2024-000223) (with Koye Akoni).
- Acting (as sole counsel) on behalf of a balloon company against a claim by a landowner for alleged disruption caused by overflights.
- Regularly instructed as sole counsel on behalf of commercial airlines in passenger claims arising from EU Regulation 261/2004 and the Montreal/Warsaw Convention, including those involving a personal injury element.
- Assisted (as a pupil) in the Russian Aircraft Commercial Court litigation, involving claims by various aircraft lessors under insurance and re-insurance policies for losses arising out of the detention of commercial aircraft in Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.
- Drafted (as a pupil) position papers for a mediation concerning damage to an aircraft engine during delivery maintenance.

Banking

- Assisting in defending a claim by a trader against his former employer for bonuses that were allegedly due to him.
- Advising (as sole counsel) on the formality requirements of a ship mortgage.
- Assisted (as a pupil) in an application for a worldwide freezing order against the alleged perpetrator of a multi-million dollar crypto-currency fraud (**Chu v Je & Anor** [2024] EWHC 90 (Ch)).

Commodities & International Trade

- **Ad-hoc arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1996:** acted for the seller of a grain cargo in a c.US\$15m claim against the buyer's guarantor (with Ben Gardner).
- Advising (as a pupil) as to whether a seller could recover damages (worth potentially in excess of US\$100m) against a buyer in relation to breaches of a long-term coal supply contract.

International Arbitration

A significant proportion of Michael's work occurs in the context of arbitral proceedings in the UK and abroad. In addition, Michael has significant expertise in dealing with arbitration-specific issues and related court applications, including:

- Acting for the appellants in their appeal under s.69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 against an LMAA arbitration award on the question of the proper interpretation of certain clauses in the SALEFORM 2012 standard ship sale form (with Andrew Leung).
- Drafted a successful application for security for costs under s.38(3) of the Arbitration Act on behalf of a counter-claiming defendant in LMAA arbitration (with Will Mitchell).
- Assisting (as a pupil) in a challenge against a FOSFA arbitration award under s.68 of the Arbitration Act.

Shipping

- **Port of Sheerness Ltd v Swire Shipping Pte Ltd [2025] EWHC 7 (Admlty):** acted for the Port in a six-day Admiralty Court trial concerning the enforceability of a "period toll" levied against a vessel for overstaying during discharge operations. The trial raised issues of contractual interpretation, expert evidence, and the application of "triple penalty" provisions under relevant local port legislation (led by John A Kimbell KC).
- Advised (as sole counsel) on potential claims (worth up to USD 3 million) by charterers and cargo interests against owners of an oil tanker arising from the placing of the vessel on the US OFAC sanctions list.
- Advising and acting as sole counsel in various time, voyage and yacht charterparty disputes, involving issues such as agency, off-hire, demurrage, termination/cancellation and port safety.
- Advising and acting as sole counsel in various cargo disputes under the Hague/Hague-Visby Rules.
- Advising a commodity trader on the redrafting of its voyage charterparty standard terms.
- Assisting (as a pupil) in a two-week LMAA arbitration (worth up to USD 15 million) concerning an allision between a vessel and a berth. The trial concerned complex issues of fact and law and revolved around highly technical expert evidence.
- Assisting (as a pupil) in a successful application for an anti-suit injunction in the Commercial Court against Indian cargo interests
- Assisting (as a pupil) in an LCIA Arbitration concerning payments made under commodity supply contracts which had been blocked and frozen as a result of US sanctions against Russia
- Advising (as a pupil) on whether a shipowner could rely on a Himalaya clause contained within slot charterers' standard bill of lading terms to prevent claims being brought against them by cargo interests
- Advising (as a pupil) on the correct interpretation of the Shelltime 4 off-hire clause, specifically with respect to its effect in relation to delays arising out of Covid-related quarantine.

International Carriage of Goods by Road

- Acting as sole counsel in various disputes involving both international carriage under the CMR and domestic carriage under the RHA Conditions of Carriage.

Shipbuilding

- SIAC Arbitration: acting for a large shipyard in a contractual dispute (worth over US\$1 billion) concerning the construction of a fleet of LNG carriers (with Luke Parsons KC and Gemma Morgan).
- LMAA Arbitration: acting for the buyers of a super-yacht in relation to a US\$20m+ dispute against the yacht's builders in relation to substantial defects in the yacht's construction (with Robert Thomas KC and Max Davidson).
- Acting for the appellants in their appeal under s.69 of the Arbitration Act 1996 against an LMAA arbitration award on the question of the proper interpretation of certain clauses in the SALEFORM 2012 standard ship sale form (with Andrew Leung).
- Advised (as sole counsel) on the formality requirements of a ship mortgage.

Technology

Michael has a particular interest in technology-related disputes arising out of his previous experience as a freelance software developer. Accordingly, he is comfortable dealing with the technical issues and evidence that arise in such cases. His work in this

area so far includes:

- Acting for an e-commerce business in relation to a £200,000 claim against their website maintenance provider (as sole counsel).

Academic

2022 - 2023: Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Vocational Studies, City, University of London (Distinction)

2021 - 2022: Bachelor of Civil Law, Wolfson College, University of Oxford (Distinction)

2018 - 2021: BA Law, Trinity College, University of Cambridge (First Class in all Parts, highest mark in year in Criminal Law)

Awards

Sir Thomas More Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2022)

Senior Scholarship, Trinity College Cambridge (2021)

Lizette Bentwich Prize, Trinity College Cambridge (2019, 2021)

Glanville Williams Prize for best performance in Criminal Law, University of Cambridge (2019)

Clark Miller Prize for best performance in Part IA of the Law Tripos, Trinity College Cambridge (2019)

F.W. Maitland Prize for best performance in Constitutional Law, Trinity College Cambridge (2019)

Junior Scholarship, Trinity College Cambridge (2019)

Cambridge Trust Scholarship, University of Cambridge (2018)

Trinity Overseas Bursary, Trinity College Cambridge (2018)

Publications

"The Rule Against Enforcing Foreign Public Laws" [2024] CLJ 17 (case note on SKAT v Solo Capital Partners [2023]UKSC 40)

Appointments

2022 - 2023: Teaching Fellow, SOAS, University of London (taught and assessed undergraduate contract law)

Languages

English (native), Vietnamese (intermediate)

Personal

Outside of law, Michael enjoys watching cricket and hiking in the Alps. He is also an accomplished freelance software developer, with his mobile apps being downloaded over 50,000 times from the Google Play Store.