BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Brick Court Chambers
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Michael Quayle

YEAR OF CALL: 2022

"Intellectually very agile"; "very creative and a good team player"; "tirelessly hard working and passionate"

Chambers & Partners 2026; Legal 500 2026

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Practice Overview

Michael practises in competition, public and commercial law. His current and recent work includes:

1. JLP A&A v Amazon and Apple - acting for Apple in collective proceedings concerning sales of its products on the Amazon marketplace
2. Mark McLaren Class Representative v MOL (Europe Africa) & Others – acting for MOL in its defence of the "RoRo" collective proceedings regarding delivery charges paid by purchasers of new cars (one of The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases of 2025").
3. Christine Riefa Class Representative v Apple & Amazon – acting for Apple in its successful opposition to proposed collective proceedings (the CAT's first outright refusal to certify).
4. Which? v Apple – acting for Apple in its ongoing defence of collective proceedings concerning iCloud.
5. Acting for the FCA in its defence of challenges to its £9bn motor finance consumer redress scheme.
6. Advising clients in the energy, water and healthcare sectors on a variety of regulatory proceedings.

Prior to joining Brick Court, Michael qualified as a solicitor at Freshfields and spent eight years in its disputes department, where he was a Senior Associate and solicitor advocate. During his time at Freshfields, he worked on multiple high-profile disputes, including acting for Eurotunnel in the Brexit Ferries litigation, for Meta in the Facebook Data General Court challenge, for Southeastern Railway in the Boundary Fares collective proceedings, for JD Sports in a successful merger challenge in the CAT, and for the AIRE Centre in the Dubs Amendment judicial review.

Michael studied law at the University of Oxford, spent a year as the judicial assistant to Lady Justice Asplin in the Court of Appeal and is a trustee of fundamental rights charity the AIRE Centre.

Competition

Michael accepts instructions across all areas of competition law. He has extensive experience advising clients across a range of sectors on competition disputes and related issues, both as a solicitor and since transferring to the Bar.

His recent work includes:

- *Christine Riefa Class Representative v Apple and Amazon* – acting for Apple in proposed collective proceedings regarding the pricing of Apple products on the Amazon marketplace, which culminated in the CAT's first outright refusal to certify
- *Mark McLaren Class Representative v MOL (Europe Africa) & Others* – Acting for MOL in its defence of the "RoRo" collective proceedings regarding the delivery charge paid by purchasers of new cars (one of The Lawyer's "Top 20 Cases of 2025")
- *McLaren/CSAV collective settlement* – jointly instructed by the non-settling defendants in the first ever application for the approval of a collective settlement
- Advising clients in the energy and water sectors on regulatory proceedings before the CMA and sectoral regulators
- *Hunter v Amazon* – proposed collective proceedings alleging an abuse of dominance concerning the Amazon 'Buy Box' (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Love)
- *Kelkoo v Google* – an abuse of dominance claim concerning Google Shopping and AdSense (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Love)
- *Apple v Optis* – FRAND litigation concerning standard essential patents in which abuse of dominance is alleged (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Love)
- *Meta Platforms v Commission ('Facebook Data')* – acting for Meta in its EU General Court challenge to RFIs issued by the European Commission
- *Gutmann v London & Southeast Railway ('Boundary Fares')* – acting for Southeastern in its defence of the first standalone abuse of dominance claim brought under the competition collective actions regime
- *Trucks* – acting for Volvo/Renault in follow-on damages litigation arising from the European Commission's *Trucks* cartel decision
- *JD Sports v CMA* – acting for JD Sports in its successful challenge to a CMA decision blocking its merger with Footasylum
- *Brake Systems* – advising Continental AG on follow-on damages litigation arising from the European Commission's *Brake Systems* cartel decision
- *BT v Ofcom ('Pay TV')* – acting for BT in litigation concerning a 'wholesale must offer' obligation for Sky Sports channels

- Advising BT on various competition and regulatory matters, including its deal with Ofcom regarding the enhanced functional separation of its Openreach network business
- Acting for a tech multinational, a financial institution and a private healthcare provider in competition investigations carried out by the European Commission and CMA
- Advising a financial institution on complex competition law issues concerning information sharing and abuse of dominance

Public Law

Michael has experience advising commercial parties, government departments and NGOs on a range of public law and regulatory matters, both as a solicitor and since transferring to the Bar.

His recent work includes:

- Advising clients in the energy and water sectors on judicial review challenges and regulatory proceedings before the CMA and sectoral regulators
- Advising a global pharmaceuticals client on regulatory proceedings by a UK healthcare authority
- *R (Elliot & Jane Street) v London Metals Exchange* – a claim for judicial review and Human Rights Act damages concerning regulation of the nickel market (as a pupil, assisting James McClelland KC)
- *Greenpeace v Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero* – a claim for judicial review of a decision to approve licensing of oil & gas exploration in the North Sea (as a pupil, assisting James McClelland KC)
- Advising a generic pharmaceuticals manufacturer on potential challenges to market authorisation decisions in the UK and EU (as a pupil, assisting Sarah Love)
- *Eurotunnel v Secretary of State for Transport ('Brexit Ferries')* – acting for Eurotunnel in its high-profile judicial review/public procurement challenge to a decision to award no-deal Brexit freight contracts to three ferry companies, culminating in a £33m settlement
- *R (Help Refugees) v Secretary of State for the Home Department ('Dubs Amendment')* – acting for the AIRE Centre in its intervention in a successful challenge to the Home Office's assessments of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- *Group M v Cabinet Office* – acting for Group M in a public procurement challenge concerning media planning and buying services

Michael has been a volunteer advocate for the Asylum Support Appeals Project since 2015, and has represented more than 50 asylum seekers in appeals against Home Office decisions

concerning accommodation and support before the First-Tier Tribunal.

Since 2018 Michael has been a trustee and board member of the AIRE Centre, a specialist legal charity which works to protect fundamental rights under the European Convention and EU law.

Commercial

Michael accepts instructions across all areas of commercial litigation and arbitration.

His recent experience includes:

- *Azima v Dechert* and *Stokoe v Dechert* – defending claims arising out of alleged hacking (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC)
- Advising a renewable energy company on a contractual claim brought by a former consultant (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC)
- Advising a tech multinational on a contractual dispute with an Indian counterparty which raised issues under the Hague Service Convention (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC)
- A confidential matter regarding potential fraud claims, including advising on a possible freezing injunction (as a pupil, assisting Craig Morrison KC)
- Acting for a multinational beverage company on an urgent injunction in the Commercial Court regarding the regulatory obligations of a merger counterparty
- Acting for a global consumer goods company in an expert determination concerning a price adjustment mechanism in the disposal of an $11bn business
- Advising a global automotive company in an arbitration under DIS Rules arising from its acquisition of a former JV company
- Advising a tech multinational on a contractual claim arising from the acquisition of a software start-up

International/EU

Michael has experience advising on a range of international law issues, particularly in matters concerning human rights and modern slavery.

His recent experience includes:

- Advising a human rights defender on a potential complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee regarding unlawful detention and deportation (as a pupil, assisting Jennifer

MacLeod)

- *Henry & Edwards v Jamaica* – acting for the complainants in a successful challenge to Jamaican laws criminalising homosexual activity before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Advising multinationals in the extractives, food, apparel, professional services and technology sectors on compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including advising on emerging forms of litigation risk.

PUBLICATIONS

Michael has published on a variety of topics in competition, EU and public law, including:

- *Prevention or Cure? Damages in Private Antitrust Claims in the US and the EU* [2020] G.C.L.R. 13(1) 1-8 (with James Langenfeld and Mark Sansom)
- *Hybrid settlements: a sting in the tail?* [2019] G.C.L.R. 12(1) 16-27
- A chapter on appellate court practice across the EU in *Reforming the ECtHR: would closer co-operation with national supreme courts help?* (BIICL, 2019)
- Co-author of *To Assist the Court: Third Party Interventions in the Public Interest* (JUSTICE, 2016)

Michael also has a long-standing interest in the field of business and human rights. He has spoken on corporate liability for human rights violations at a range of civil society events and academic conferences, including at the United Nations, World Economic Forum, University of Oxford and Innovation Forum. He has contributed to various publications in this area, including *Business and Human Rights: Navigating the Legal Landscape* (UN Global Compact, 2020). During his time at Freshfields, Michael edited, and regularly contributed to, the Freshfields Sustainability and Human Rights blog, which publishes updates on developments in national and international human rights law relevant to multinational businesses.

CAREER & QUALIFICATIONS

2023-present – Tenant, Brick Court Chambers

2022-2023 – Pupil, Brick Court Chambers

2018-present – Trustee, the AIRE Centre

2020-2021 – Judicial Assistant to Lady Justice Asplin, Court of Appeal of England & Wales

2014-2022 – Associate and Senior Associate, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

2012-2014 – Trainee Solicitor, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

2012 – Accelerated Legal Practice Course, BPP University

2011 – Caseworker, Office of Capital Defense Counsel in Jackson, Mississippi (Amicus ALJ internship)

2008-2011 – BA Law (Jurisprudence), Lincoln College (University of Oxford)

2000-2007 – Durham Johnston Comprehensive School

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"Michael is really at the top of his game in legal analysis." (Competition, Chambers & Partners, 2027)

"Michael is very enthusiastic. He is hot on technical points and very hard-working." (Competition, Chambers & Partners, 2027)

"Michael Quayle is a rising star in competition litigation. He is extremely bright and highly knowledgeable, with excellent written advocacy skills and an excellent grasp of economics. He has gained valuable experience on some of the leading cases in this area and is fast establishing himself as a junior to watch in the competition space." (Competition, Legal 500, 2027)

"Michael's written advocacy is outstanding. His written submissions are clear and persuasive and he presents complex legal arguments with admirable simplicity. Michael is tirelessly hard working and passionate." (Competition, Legal 500, 2026)

"Michael Quayle is a junior building a notable competition practice, particularly in high-profile class action proceedings. His previous experience as a solicitor benefits his advisory work for clients in the energy, water and pharmaceutical industries in complex regulatory proceedings." (Competition Law, Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"Michael is incredibly knowledgeable, has deep technical expertise and is extremely analytical. I would absolutely recommend him." (Competition Law, Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"His drafting is absolutely fantastic - clear, eloquent and gets to point while still being persuasive and thoughtful. He has a background as a solicitor, so he is very user-friendly and responsive." (Competition Law, Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"He is intellectually very agile, quick to come to grips with the salient points of law and fact, and not afraid to really roll up his sleeves and get to grips with the evidence." (Competition Law, Chambers

& Partners, 2026)

"He is an extremely able competition junior. He has a terrific understanding of competition law and economics, and has a very analytical approach to each." (Competition Law, Chambers & Partners, 2026)

"Michael is absolutely terrific. He's very creative and a good team player. He's also very commercial and has a good idea of what clients' objectives are." (Competition Law, Chambers & Partners, 2026)