



Michael Crane KC

Call 1975 | Silk 1994

"One of the best. Superb intellect, resourceful thinker, charming, polite, a delight as an arbitrator."

The Legal 500

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Michael Crane KC has over twenty years' experience as an international arbitrator until recently combining appointments as arbitrator with practice as a leading silk at the Commercial Bar.

In addition to many *ad hoc* appointments, Michael has been appointed under most of the world's leading institutional rules including those of the ICC, LCIA, CIArb, LMAA, UNCITRAL, ARIAS, AAA, SIAC and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce. His appointments to date divide roughly equally between those as sole or presiding arbitrator and party appointments.

Michael is currently ranked by *Chambers & Partners* as an international arbitrator with a Band 1 listing, and also by *The Legal 500*. In practice at the Bar he achieved *Chambers & Partners* Band 1 listings in Commercial Dispute Resolution, Insurance, International Arbitration (Commercial) and Transport law and was ranked the *"Star Individual"* in Aviation.

He recently acted for the respondent in the UK Supreme Court in the leading case on apparent bias and arbitrators' obligations of disclosure (*Halliburton v Chubb* [2020] 3 W.L.R. 1474) and for insurers in the Supreme Court in the FCA's test case on business interruption coverage for the COVID-19 pandemic (*Financial Conduct Authority v Arch Ins. (UK) & Ors.*[2021] A.C. 649). Previous examples of his work include acting for the UK airport slots authority following the collapse of Monarch Airlines ([2018] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 549) and for the Czech Republic in its successful defence of issue estoppel against enforcement of an arbitration award under the New York Convention (*Diag Human SE v The Czech Republic* [2014] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 283).

Michael has particular expertise in disputes involving interpretation of complex commercial instruments and issues of jurisdiction and conflicts of law. He is experienced in and is comfortable in applying, foreign as well as English law and has also provided expert evidence on English law for courts in the USA, Italy, Denmark, Ireland and Australia.

Michael is currently Chairman of the UK Takeover Panel.

Directory Quotes

"He is calmness and efficiency personified." "He has an exceptionally charming manner and he is very hard-working and very effective."

Chambers & Partners

"Michael Crane QC is a highly respected arbitrator with an impressive practice, showcasing expertise across a range of jurisdictions."

Chambers & Partners

"Utterly charming and a pleasure to appear in front of as a tribunal member. Incredibly intelligent. Razor sharp-intellect, wit and charm."

The Legal 500

"An absolutely charming arbitrator."

Chambers & Partners

"His relaxed and friendly manner masks the fact that he is an exceptionally, hard-working, sensible and able lawyer, with an excellent sense of fairness and commercial sense."

The Legal 500

"He's superb, very understated."

Chambers & Partners

"Michael Crane is inquisitive, charming and curious."

Chambers & Partners

Directory Rankings

Chambers & Partners

- International Arbitration: Arbitrators – Band 1

The Legal 500

- International Arbitration: Arbitrators

Education

- MA (English Lit.), Balliol College, Oxford
- BA (Law), Balliol College, Oxford

Appointments, Memberships and Prizes

- Chairman of the UK Takeover Panel (2016-date)
- Elected Bencher of the Middle Temple (2002)
- Authorised to sit as a Deputy Judge of the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, Commercial Court (2002)

Awards

