



Michael Ford QC



Call: 1992
Silk: 2013
Clerk: William Meade
Email clerk: wmeade@oldsquare.co.uk
Tel: 020 7269 0300
Email: clerks@oldsquare.co.uk

Profile

Michael's principal area of practice is labour law, both individual and collective, including areas such as equal pay, industrial action, working time and trade union law. His work also includes judicial review, human rights, data protection, health and safety and public inquiries. He specialises in appellate cases, mainly acting for claimants and unions, and has appeared five times in the European Court of Justice, as well as in the European Court of Human Rights, the House of Lords, the Supreme Court and Public Inquiries. He has almost 50 reported cases.

Michael became a QC in 2013. He was awarded **Employment Silk of the Year** at the *Chambers Bar Awards* in 2015 and he was Employment Junior of the Year at the *Chambers Bar Awards* in 2012. He has been listed in all the main directories, such as the *Legal 500* and *Chambers & Partners*, for many years.

Michael was formerly the editor of *Redgrave's Health and Safety* and has many publications on employment law and human rights law. Before starting at the Bar, he was a solicitor with Slaughter and May and a Lecturer at the Universities of Manchester and London. He is currently a fee-paid Employment Tribunal Judge.

He was once a member of the Great Britain cycling road squad (1982-3), and raced in Belgium, France, Holland, Germany and Poland (e.g. 5th Ronde de L'Oise; 1st Tour of Surrey, 1st Jock Wadley Memorial). He has First Class degrees in Law (1983-86) and Biology (2007-2010) and is a fluent French speaker. For nine years he was a Trustee of the Bats Conversation Trust, assisting it with issues on wildlife law. He now spends his spare time cycling, learning Spanish and trying to deal with his two boys.

Recent and current work

- Instructed by Equalities and Human Rights Commission as Intervener in judicial review challenging the introduction of tribunal fees (*R (Unison) v Lord Chancellor*);
- Appeared in European Court of Justice in *Lock v. British Gas* in November 2013 on whether commission payments must be included in payment for annual leave;
- Submitted application to European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Unite, challenging the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board;
- Instructed on behalf of unions in many strike injunctions, both reported (e.g. *Balfour Beatty v Unite*) and unreported;
- Acted for tens of thousands of airline workers bringing claims under Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations, and currently acting in appeal cases on holiday pay for many thousands of workers covered by Working Time Regulations (*Neal v. Freightliner; Bears v. Fulton*, to be heard in EAT in July 2014).