

Michael Crystal QC

QC 1984, called to the Bar 1970

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Michael Crystal QC is one of the leading advocates at the English Bar.

He has been involved as counsel, adviser or expert witness in most of the best known international insolvencies and restructurings in the UK and overseas in the last four decades.

Michael has represented or advised on an ad hoc basis most of the major international financial services institutions, funds and accountancy firms operating in the mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy and restructuring fields.

He receives instructions from leading law firms in London, New York and in many offshore jurisdictions including the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, Hong Kong and Singapore.

In addition to his well-recognised advocacy skills, Michael is particularly in demand for his strategic overview and experience in cases involving international litigation, cross border bankruptcy, and restructuring.

Many of Michael's instructions remain confidential. His publicly reported cases in the UK and elsewhere run to over 100 and include all Appellate levels and trial courts in the UK and many overseas jurisdictions.

Areas of Practice

- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Banking and Finance
- Commercial Litigation and Arbitration
- Company
- Civil Fraud and Asset Recovery
- International and Offshore
- Insurance
- Professional Negligence
- Trusts and Property

Awards and Recommendations

1996 Hon Fellow Queen Mary, University of London

1997 Hon Fellow, Society for Advanced Legal Studies

2006 International Fellow, American College of Bankruptcy

2017 International Insolvency Institute Outstanding Contributions Award
2018 Global Restructuring Review Lifetime Achievement Award

Comments in recent legal directories include the following:

“He is a great silk, absolutely brilliant”

“He has vast experience and is a force to be reckoned with”

“He appears in some of the biggest offshore cases”

“An absolute whizz on complex schemes of arrangement.”

“A potent performer in court.”

“Able to cross-examine someone to death.”

“An excellent litigator with brilliant courtroom craft.”

“Regularly receives instructions in the biggest offshore insolvency cases.”

Career

1970	Called to the Bar, Middle Temple
1972	In practice as junior barrister
1984	Appointed Queen’s Counsel
1993	Elected Master of the Bench, Middle Temple
1995 - 2018	Deputy Judge, Chancery Division, High Court of Justice
2012	Autumn Reader, Middle Temple

Admitted to the Bars of the Bahamas, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong and the Isle of Man ad hoc. Called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands in 1991

Appointments

1988-1989	Department of Trade and Industry Inspector into County Nat West Limited and County Nat West Securities Limited
1992	Department of Trade and Industry Inspector into National Westminster Bank
1993-1998	Chairman, Banking Appeal Tribunal
1996	Chairman, Insolvency Practitioners Tribunal
2002	Visiting Professor, Department of Laws, University College London
2004	FA (soccer) Premier League Panel for Insolvency Matters

Memberships

Insolvency Rules Advisory Committee (1993-1997)
Financial Law Panel (1996-2002)
The International Arbitration Institute, Paris (2002-)
Member, International Insolvency Institute (2005-)
Member, Board of Directors of International Insolvency Institute (2010-2014)

Education and Qualifications

1969 Queen Mary College, University of London, LLB Hons
1971 Magdalen College, Oxford University, BCL