SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Michael Davar

Partner

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Languages spoken
English | Georgian | Russian



About Michael

Michael Davar is a partner in our International Dispute Resolution and Litigation practices in London. He is a disputes specialist, advising on an extensive book of cases covering energy, mining, commodities, shipping and infrastructure disputes.

Michael is ranked as one of the 500 leading global litigators by *Lawdragon 500* 2026, as a Next Generation Partner for both international arbitration and commercial litigation (mid-market), as well as a key lawyer for oil and gas, and commodities disputes by *Legal 500* 2027 and for Shipping by *Chambers UK* 2027. He also received significant client testimonials for contentious construction.

Legal 500 UK and *Chambers UK* 2027 directories highlight Michale as: "destined to be among the elite", "truly exceptional" and one whose "ability to navigate and interpret highly complex technical and commercial matters is truly outstanding. He combines deep legal expertise with a strong strategic mindset and consistently delivers innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to challenging legal issues, providing clients with insight and value that are difficult to match."

Legal 500 2026 highlights Michael as "everything that clients could want from an international arbitration lawyer" and "always on the ball, and always thinking ahead with seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm. Among the very best – a model international arbitration lawyer. Quite brilliant."

Legal 500 2025 highlights Michael as "excellent in his field", a practitioner who is "known for his meticulous attention to detail", and one who "embodies the team's commitment to excellence".

Legal 500 2024 highlights Michael as a key lawyer for both international arbitration and commercial litigation: mid-market. It highlights Michael as a practitioner that "really cares about his cases and clients … is keen to identify all the points that might help them, and is always looking for an innovative angle".

Legal 500 2023 and 2022 also highlight Michael as a key lawyer, describing him as "extremely diligent, helpful, courteous and professional", and "a rising star".

Miachael's cases have set English legal precedent. He is a named arbitrator in the Georgian International Arbitration Centre's list of arbitrators, a supporting member of the London Maritime Arbitration Association (LMAA) and on the panel of arbitrators of AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre.

He regularly speaks at conferences and for industry groups, and is the co-author of several legal volumes, including *International Commercial Arbitration: 21st Century Perspectives* (2016 and 2020), *Oil and Gas Decommissioning: Law Policy and Comparative Practice* (2016) and *The Regulation of Decommissioning and Abandonment and Reuse Initiatives in the Oil and Gas Industry* (2020).

Michael's recent experience includes handling various high-value commercial cases in the English and Hong Kong courts, and in arbitrations under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), LMAA and Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) arbitral rules.

Prior to entering the legal industry, Michael worked as a foreign exchange (FX) and fixed income trader at a hedge fund. He holds degrees in law and economic history and speaks several languages, including Russian and Georgian.

Experience

Energy, Oil and Gas, and Infrastructure

- US$500 million ICC arbitration acting for an oil and gas operator in a dispute against a state arising from the unlawful termination of a production sharing agreement.
- US$500 million ICC arbitration acting for an oil and gas operator in a dispute with its co-venturer arising from the repudiation of a joint operating agreement.
- US$350 million ICC arbitration acting for a natural gas trader in a dispute arising from the termination of a long-term gas supply agreement.
- £320 million English High Court proceedings acting for a contractor in a waste to energy power plant construction dispute arising from allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation and willful breach of contract.
- US$120 million multiparty ICC arbitration acting for an oil and gas operator against a state and its co-venturers arising from the confiscation of oil and the termination of a production sharing agreement and corresponding counterclaims covering decommissioning, well-integrity, environmental and tax claims.
- US$85 million dispute board proceedings acting for the employer in defending numerous claims and pursuing counterclaims relating to the construction of a highway.
- US$82 million Australian High Court claim acting for an offshore contractor arising from an oil and gas operator's renunciation of a long-term offshore drilling contract.
- US$30 million ICC arbitration acting for the employer in a hydropower dam arbitration with numerous claims and counterclaims arising from the termination of a construction contract.
- US$20 million SIAC arbitration acting for a Philippine oil and gas operator in a dispute against a Malaysian drilling contractor arising from the repudiation of an offshore drilling contract.
- US$14 million ICC arbitration acting for an Indian drilling contractor in matters arising from a partial arbitral award against an oil and gas technical service provider regarding the provision of technical management services for a semi-submersible oil and gas platform.
- US$10 million ICC arbitration (including emergency arbitration proceedings) acting for a consortium of construction contractors against a state arising from, among other things, pollution found on the project site, as well as delay, defect and damages claims.
- Acting for a sub-contractor in a dispute involving claims arising from an integrated telecommunication package on a central processing facility and FPSO.
- Acting for an offshore oil and gas contractor in contesting issues arising from an ICC partial award.
- *Essar Oilfields Services Limited v. Norscot Rig Management PVT Limited* [2016] EQHC 2361 (Comm) – Acted for an offshore oil and gas contractor in challenging an ICC Arbitral Award for Third Party Litigation Funding. The case set English legal precedent for the recovery of third-party funding under the English Arbitration Act 1996.

Shipping and Shipbuilding

- US$300 million dispute acting for an international ship management company concerning the repudiation of five long-term charterparties.
- US$137 million dispute acting for charterers concerning three long-term charterparties.
- US$43 million LMAA arbitration acting for a shipbuilder in a dispute with a shipping consortium concerning the repudiation of a shipbuilding contract, and alleged technical building defects.

- US$20 million LMAA arbitration acting for a Norwegian ship owner concerning an offshore AHTS purchase option dispute.
- US$15.8 million London High Court claim acting for a high-net-worth individual against a superyacht builder concerning construction defects and warranty breaches.
- US$10 million London High Court claim acting for a high-net-worth individual against a superyacht distributor and builder concerning construction defects and warranty breaches.
- US$3.5 million dispute acting for a mining company concerning a vessel's collision with a quay during dredging activities.
- US$1 million LMAA arbitration acting for charterers concerning a high-value demurrage claim involving issues of *force majeure*.
- US$600,000 LMAA arbitration acting for a global telecommunications provider concerning damage caused to a submarine cable system by a vessel's anchor.
- US$500,000 dispute acting for a shipowner concerning numerous competing bunker supply claims.
- US$400,000 chain arbitration under LMAA terms acting for disponent owners concerning claims of overconsumption and underperformance and breach of warranty.

International Trade

- US$80 million advising on potential claims and losses arising from a terrorist attack jeopardizing 150,000 metric tonnes of crude oil.
- US$20 million negotiation of a contract of affreightment on behalf of a chemical manufacturer.
- US$4 million Commercial Court proceedings acting for a large European listed entity and relating to the sale of bitumen.
- US$3 million GAFTA arbitration acting for a Korean commodity corporation in a dispute against an Argentinian grain trader concerning the sale of genetically modified wheat.
- US$1 million Commercial Court proceedings relating to the delivery of various fuel oils under numerous sale contracts.
- GAFTA arbitration acting for a wheat trader in claims concerning the description and quality terms under an international sale contract.
- Defended a purchaser in claims concerning the sale and supply for cyclohexane in bulk.
- GAFTA arbitration appeal against award in favour of buyers for soybean sale and purchase agreements.
- Acting for an iron and steel conglomerate in a dispute concerning contracts of affreightment and agency agreements for the carriage and sale of iron ore.
- Assisting in the negotiation of various contracts of affreightment for an international chemical conglomerate.
- Acting for the producers of sunflower seeds in disputes concerning five separate international sale contracts.

General Commercial and Financial Disputes

- HK$700 million UNCITRAL arbitration under the 2015 HKIAC Procedures concerning a personal guarantee related to a convertible bond transaction.

- HK$220 million Hong Kong court proceedings acting for a high-net-worth individual in disputes concerning personal guarantees related to a convertible bond transaction.
- €100 million put option and fraud claims acting for an investment fund.
- US$50 million HKIAC administered arbitration acting for a high-net-worth individual in a dispute with a BVI investment company concerning a personal guarantee relating to a convertible bond transaction.
- £39 million London High Court proceedings acting for high-net-worth individuals in their professional negligence claim against a UK law firm arising from an M&A transaction.
- US$22 million London High Court proceedings acting for an international bank against a Singaporean investment vehicle and various individuals arising from a substantial fraud.
- US$15 million UNCITRAL arbitration under the 2015 HKIAC Procedures concerning a personal guarantee relating to a convertible bond transaction.
- US$3 million Hong Kong Court proceedings acting for an Egyptian motor dealer against a global motor conglomerate concerning an Egyptian arbitral award.
- US$1.5 million London High Court proceedings acting for a multi-asset exchange platform for forex trading against a Cypriot forex broker, two high-net-worth individuals and a trust company arising from a substantial fraud.
- US$500,000 London High Court professional negligence and legal cost recovery dispute acting for a shipowner in a claim against prior legal advisors.
- London High Court Norwich Pharmacal proceedings acting for an international bank against a foreign bank located in the UAE. The case set English legal precedent.
- Represented a high-net-worth individual in a complex claim for high-value shares in a family business.
- SIAC arbitration acting for an international football marketing agency arising from the sale and purchase of premier league football digital advertising space.
- Enforcement proceedings acting for an investment management vehicle under the Administration of Justice Act 1920.

Credentials

Education

- Kaplan Law School, L.P.C.
- The College of Law, Graduate Diploma in Law
- London School of Economics, B.Sc.

Admissions

- England and Wales, 2014

Recognitions

- Recognised as a leading global litigator in the 2026 *Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Litigators* guide
- Recognised as a Next Generation Partner, and a Key Lawyer for International Arbitration, Commercial Litigation – Mid-Market and Commodity Disputes by *Legal 500 UK* 2024, with testimonials describing Michael as "excellent in his field", a practitioner who is "known for his meticulous attention to detail", and one who "embodies the team's commitment to excellence"
- Recognised as a Key Lawyer by *Legal 500 UK* 2023, with testimonial stating, "Senior associate Michael Davar really cares about his cases and clients. He is keen to identify all the points that might help them, and is always looking for an innovative angle."
- Recognised as a key lawyer by *Legal 500 UK* 2022 and 2021

Expertise

Services

- Litigation
- International Dispute Resolution

Industries

- Commodities & Shipping
- Construction & Engineering
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Mining

Client Testimonials

- "Exceptional lawyer whose ability to navigate and interpret highly complex technical and commercial matters is truly outstanding. He combines deep legal expertise with a strong strategic mindset and consistently delivers innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to challenging legal issues, providing clients with insight and value that are difficult to match."
- "An exceptional litigator. He is always thinking strategically and always hunting for the best outcome for his clients. He is the definition of a top-class litigator."
- "Top-tier litigator in the industry. He is a sharp-minded and innovative legal expert and very meticulous in details. That's what makes him so exceptional among his peers in the sector."
- "Michael Davar, James Lewis, and their team are impressive. They deploy all the levers of litigation to exert high pressure on opponents at low cost to their own clients, thereby forcing swift and satisfactory settlements. They are also a pleasure to work with."
- "Incredibly hardworking and dedicated. He is also extremely diligent, leaving no stone unturned."
- "Another key name, bringing 'technical precision' and 'exceptional attention to detail'."

Publications & Speaking

- Co-author, "When you're in a JV but the contract won't let you sue alone", 20 May 2026, *Construction News*.

Engagements

- Lecturer, International Arbitration, Litigation and Global Enforcement, European University, 11 June 2025
- Co-author, "Location, Location, Location: Jurisdiction and Enforcement in the Land where Location Does Not Exist", *The Cambridge Journal of Law, Politics, and Art*, 28 May 2025.
- Speaker, International Oil & Gas Disputes co-hosted by the Mozambique Bar Association International Affairs Committee, 8 May 2025.
- Speaker, International Oil & Gas Disputes at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, of Trinidad and Tobago, 8 April 2025.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning Disputes – The Sustainability Gap", *The Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy*, 18 August 2023.
- Co-author, "Web3 and Beyond: Arbitration or Consumer Rights – The Victor Is…", *Arbitration: The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management*, Kluwer Law International, 2023.
- Presenter, "Written Advocacy", ICC YAAF and GIAC, GIAC Arbitration Days, Tbilisi, Georgia, 13 October 2022.
- Moderator, "Distributed Finance and Blockchain Technology – What Next? Part 2", London, England, 27 September 2022.
- Speaker, Georgian Forum for Digital Transformation 2022, Web 3 Conference, ICT Cluster and Alte University, 6 July 2022.
- Panellist, Globalize GE's EU Conference panellist, "Crypto Popularity VS Regulation Risks", touching on smart contracts, crypto regulation and Web3, 11 June 2022.
- Speaker, Decommissioning Coffee and Contracts, Decom North Sea, London, 30 November 2021.
- Presenter, De-risking Decommissioning Projects, Decom North Sea, Virtual International Conference, 18 May 2021.
- Co-author, "International Arbitration – Shipping and Maritime: Outside Counsel Perspective", International Commercial Arbitration Practice: 21st Century Perspectives, Lexis Nexis, 2020.
- Presenter, Getting an Edge: Starting a Career in Private Practice International Arbitration, GIAC Arbitration Days, Tbilisi, Georgia, 14 December 2020.
- Presenter, De-risking Decommissioning Projects Part 2, Decom North Sea, London, 26 November 2020.
- Co-author, "Recognition and Enforcement: Brussels v Arbitration", *The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management*, August 2020.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning: Scope for Dispute", *The Regulation of Decommissioning, Abandonment and Reuse Initiatives in the Oil and Gas Industry: From Obligations to Opportunities*, August 2020.
- Presenter, De-risking Decommissioning Projects Part 1, Decom North Sea, London, 26 May 2020.
- Presenter, "Tempering Evidence in the Era of Technology: Witness Statements in International Arbitration", ICC YAF and ICDR Y&I joint, GIAC Arbitration Days, Tbilisi, Georgia, 11 October 2019.
- Presenter, "Bills of Ladings under Time and Voyage Charterparties" and "Safe Ports and Berths", Cambridge Academy of Transport, London, 17 June 2019.

- Co-author, "Freight forwarders and the freight rule", *Shipping and Trade Law*, June 2019.
- Co-author, "Choice of Law: A Fair Exchange", *Commercial Litigation Journal*, August 2017.
- Co-author, "Overcoming the principle of 'Reflective Loss'", *Finance Disputes and Regulatory Investigations Blog*, November 2017.
- Author, "The Principle of Futility in Contractual Construction", *Commercial Litigation Journal*, August 2017.
- Presenter, "Practical Lessons and Pitfalls in Charterparty Disputes," Reliance Industries Limited, West of England Insurance Services (Luxembourg) S.A., London, 24 March 2017.
- Author, "Don't Shoot Yourself in the Foot", *Shipping and Trade Law*, March 2017.
- Co-author, "International Arbitration – Shipping and Maritime: Outside Counsel Perspective," *International Commercial Arbitration Practice: 21st Century Perspectives*, Lexis Nexis, 2016.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning in the UK Continental Shelf: Decommissioning Security Disputes," *International Energy Law Review*, September 2016.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning Disputes in the UK Continental Shelf," Oil and Gas Decommissioning: Law, Policy and Comparative Practice, *Global Law & Business*, ed. 2, 2016.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning Security Disputes", International Energy Law Review, September 2016.
- Co-Author, "Decommissioning Net Costs and Net Value Disputes", *Oil Voice*, June 2016.
- Presenter, "Decommissioning Security Disputes," "Decommissioning – the D Word – A Problem or a Big Opportunity?" The Geological Society, London, June 7, 2016.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning in the UK Continental Shelf: Net Costs and Net Value Disputes," *Oil Voice*, June 2016.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning in the UK Continental Shelf: Decommissioning Security Disputes," *Platform-OilandGas Journal*, February 2016.
- Author, "The Supreme Court Re-frames the Modern Law of Implied Terms," *Shipping and Trade Law Journal*, December 2015.
- Co-author, "Is Positional Loss Recoverable," Shipping and Trade Law Journal, October 2015.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning in the UK Continental Shelf: A Litigator's Perspective," Sweet & Maxwell, *International Energy Law Review*, September 2015.
- Co-author, "GAFTA Seller's Truly 'Golden Victory': Supreme Court Reduces Damages from US$3 Million to US$5," Lexology, August 2015.
- Co-author, "Decommissioning in the UK Continental Shelf: Delay Disputes," *Oil & Gas Monitor*, July 2015.
- Author, "The Supreme Court Adopts a Literal Approach: Arnold v Britton and others [2015] UKCS 36," *Shipping and Trade Law Journal*, July 2015.

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.