

James Pickering

Call: 2013
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, International & Travel, Insurance, Military Claims, Group Litigation

James is a leading junior in cases involving serious injuries and fatal accidents, with expertise in international and group litigation. He acts in complex and cutting-edge litigation, often with a cross-border element.

Chambers UK and The Legal 500 describe him as “really excellent” and “a super junior with a massive future. He is incredibly bright, meticulous and approachable.” He “possesses a towering intellect and is able to master the law in a wide range of areas from international law to English procedural law before deploying it with lethal effect.”

He is ranked as a leading junior in Personal Injury (Chambers UK and The Legal 500), Industrial Disease (Chambers UK), and International Personal Injury (Chambers UK).

James specialises in group litigation. He is instructed in the Military Deafness Litigation, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2025. He was Junior Counsel for the Claimants in *Adams v Ministry of Defence* [2024] EWHC 1966 (KB), the leading authority on the use of “omnibus” Claim Forms in large-scale personal injury actions.

James leads 12KBW's Band 1-ranked International & Travel Team. He edits the key practitioner textbooks in his areas of practice: *Occupational Illness Litigation* (Sweet & Maxwell), *Asbestos: Law & Litigation* (Sweet & Maxwell), and *Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service (Accidents Abroad)* (LexisNexis UK).

Personal Injury

James is recommended by the legal directories as a specialist in claims for serious injuries, fatal accidents, and industrial diseases.

He acts for both claimants and defendants in claims for injuries of the utmost severity, including brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and pain disorders.

Recent examples of his cases (led and unled) include:

For claimants:

- Representing thousands of soldiers in claims for military hearing loss and cold injuries in the Military Deafness Litigation and the Military Cold Injuries Litigation.
- Representing clients with severe brain and spinal injuries suffered in an overseas road traffic accident: settled for £2.25 million.
- Representing a client with serious psychological injuries following an accident at an overseas work event: settled

for a global sum over £2 million.

For defendants:

- Representing the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association in their defence of the Rugby Concussion Litigation.
- Defending a severe brain and orthopaedic injuries claim involving lifelong care pleaded at £35.25 million: settled for £10.25 million.
- Defending a severe brain injury claim involving lifelong care pleaded at £12.5 million: settled for £8.5 million.

He is a robust trial advocate with a strong counter-fraud specialism in his defendant practice. He is regularly instructed by motor insurance companies and the MIB to defend claims arising from road traffic accidents and he has expertise in associated indemnity issues.

He also represents bereaved families and interested parties in all types of inquest, where his work complements his specialism in fatal accidents litigation. He is committed to pro bono representation and accepts instructions on this basis where appropriate.

Qualifications & Awards

BCL (Distinction), Exeter College, University of Oxford
BPTC, City, University of London
BA Jurisprudence, Saint Peter's College, University of Oxford

Inner Temple Pegasus Scholarship
London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association Essay Prize
Law Faculty Prize for Criminal Justice and Human Rights
Ralph Chiles Award for Comparative Human Rights
Middle Temple Colombos Law Prize
Exeter College Tobias Prize in Law
Times Law Awards, 2nd Prize
Oxford Postgraduate Internship Award
Exeter College Internship Grant
Saint Peter's College Law Essay Prize

Memberships

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

London Common Law & Commercial Bar Association

Publications

Occupational Illness Litigation (Sweet & Maxwell) (Editor)

Asbestos: Law & Litigation (Sweet & Maxwell) (Co-Editor)

Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service (Accidents Abroad) (LexisNexis UK) (Editor)

'Asbestos Product Litigation', Journal of Personal Injury Law (2021, 1, pp. 17-24)