

James Pickering

Call: 2013
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, International & Travel, Abuse, 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 brilliant lawyer”. “James has a Rolls Royce brain and eye for detail.” “His tactics and strategy always result in favourable outcomes.”

The legal directories rank him as a leading junior in Group Litigation, Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, International Personal Injury, and Motor Insurance Fraud.

James was junior counsel in the Military Deafness Litigation, one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2025.

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).

Group Litigation

James specialises in group litigation. He is ranked as a leading junior in Group Litigation by Chambers UK. He was junior counsel 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.

He has acted in some of the largest group actions ever brought in the UK:

- Instructed in several large group claims brought by thousands of military veterans against the Ministry of Defence for personal injuries whilst in service.
- Instructed by the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association in their defence of the Rugby Concussion Litigation.
- Instructed by thousands of police officers in group litigation relating to the leaking of their sensitive personal data.

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)