

James Pickering

Call: 2013
jpickering@12kbw.co.uk



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).

Industrial Disease

James is an industrial disease litigation specialist and the legal directories recommend him as a leading industrial disease lawyer. According to the legal directories: “He is truly an encyclopedia of knowledge. He is across law, fact and history.”

James is instructed in some of the most high profile industrial disease litigation before the English courts. He represents thousands of serving and ex-members of HM Armed Forces in claims for military hearing loss and cold injuries in the Military Deafness Litigation and the Military Cold Injuries Litigation.

He frequently represents bereaved or terminally ill clients in asbestos disease claims and he is recognised by the directories for his warmth and approachability in these sensitive cases. He finds a path through the most legally and factually complex of cases to get the right outcome for his clients: “He has a really good brain for legal research and wading through complex provisions which exist in this area.”

His expertise and depth of knowledge are reflected by the fact that he edits the two leading practitioner textbooks in this area of the law: *Occupational Illness Litigation* (Sweet & Maxwell) and *Asbestos: Law & Litigation* (Sweet & Maxwell).

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)