

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).

International & Travel

James leads 12KBW's Band 1-ranked International & Travel Team. He has expertise in all of the complex legal issues that arise in international claims and regularly advises clients on service of process and the conflict of laws.

His solicitors value him for his pragmatic cross-border advice in the most difficult and sensitive of claims, such as to bereaved families in the aftermath of the tragic 2018 Leicester City Helicopter Crash.

James represented the successful claimant in the key cross-border case of *DHV v Motor Insurers' Bureau* (No. 1) [2025] EWHC 2002 (KB) and (No. 2) [2025] EWHC 2038 (KB), securing damages and Spanish penalty interest for his severely brain injured client following a 14-day High Court trial dealt with under Spanish law.

He frequently acts for tour operators, airlines, cruise ship operators, and foreign insurance companies. He has successfully represented catastrophically injured clients in cases arising out of overseas road traffic, skiing, and workplace accidents. Much of his group litigation practice involves international elements and he enjoys working as part of a team.

He is regularly invited to speak on cross-border legal issues at conferences, such as those organised by APIL and the

Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers. He is the editor of *Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service (Accidents Abroad)*.

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)