

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”, “razor-sharp”, 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).

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 is immensely experienced in representing bereaved and terminally ill clients in asbestos disease claims and he is recognised by the directories for his warmth and sensitivity in these difficult cases: “He is thoughtful, thorough and extremely good in conference when advising clients on highly sensitive and emotive subjects.”

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)