

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).

Insurance

James acts for claimants and defendants in a wide range of pure insurance disputes, including travel insurance, private health insurance, and motor insurance. He is regularly instructed by motor insurers to advise on policy and coverage disputes. He cuts through the complex legal issues raised in these cases to deliver pragmatic advice meeting the commercial needs of his clients.

James has particular expertise in motor insurer status and policy construction. He advises in relation to the Road Traffic Act 1988, Article 75 of the MIB's Articles of Association, and the Uninsured Drivers Agreement and Untraced Drivers Agreement. He has extensive experience of coverage disputes relating to vehicle use. His solicitors in this area value his cross-over expertise in litigation relating to personal injuries and overseas travel.

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)