

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).

Cases

DHV v Motor Insurers' Bureau (No. 1) [2025] EWHC 2002 (KB): Successful claim for damages for a severely brain injured client following a 14-day High Court trial dealt with under Spanish law.

DHV v Motor Insurers' Bureau (No. 2) [2025] EWHC 2038 (KB): Successful claim for Spanish “penalty interest” in relation to a severe brain injury claim.

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.

Woodward v Mapfre Espana Compania de Seguros y Reaseguros [2022] Lexis Citation 1433: A key case on the recovery of Spanish penalty interest in the English Courts, eventually appealed to the Court of Appeal: [2024] EWCA Civ 718.

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)