



James Ayliffe QC

Call: 1987

QC: 2008

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- First in Philosophy Politics & Economics
New College, Oxford
- Distinction in Diploma of Law.
City University, London

“Superb at anything”

Chambers & Partners 2014

Publications

- [Hill and Redman's Law of Landlord and Tenant](#) (2014)
Specialist Editor

Memberships

- Chancery Bar Association
- COMBAR
- Commercial Fraud Lawyers Association
- Insolvency Lawyers Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Property Bar Association
- Member of the Bar of the British Virgin Islands

Practice Overview

James is a highly experienced QC with a broad commercial/financial practice.

He provides advice and advocacy services across a range of fields including banking, company, insolvency, financial services, civil fraud and asset tracing, joint venture/partnership, professional negligence, real estate and contentious trust matters.

His practice is marked by determination to achieve the best outcome for his clients, mental agility, attention to detail and sound practical judgment.

Much of his work has an international flavour, involving jurisdictions as diverse as the BVI, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cyprus, South Africa, Isle of Man, Gibraltar, New York and Ukraine.

His work also includes acting as an arbitrator, mediator or expert.

He has been recommended for many years in the legal directories (*Chambers & Partners*, *Chambers Global* and/or *The Legal 500*) for:

- Commercial Dispute Resolution (Chancery)
- Banking & Finance
- Real Estate Litigation
- Professional Liability
- International & Offshore.

Among the comments that have been made of him in the directories are: "superb", "excellent", "a fine barrister with a charming manner", "very good with clients", "a first rate intellect with a user-friendly manner that engenders confidence", "has the ability to digest information and advise coherently on the most complex of legal arguments", "an excellent communicator who provides supremely intelligent advice", "very confident in implementing the advice he gives", "a real specialist", "his advocacy is fantastic and he is able to sway the judge's mind", "a great guy to work with", "fantastic", "dynamic", "level-headed and focused", "easy to deal with", "always on top of his cases", "a splendid understated style", "held in high regard", "widely respected", "meriting the most notable compliments", "a team player", "intellectually tough", "will stand up to anyone", and "a star of the commercial Bar".



Civil Fraud

Civil fraud & Asset tracing

Many of James' cases involve dealing with the consequences of fraud, including

- applications for freezing injunctions, search orders and other interim relief;
- claims for damages for deceit, breach of fiduciary duty, unlawful means conspiracy;
- asset tracing claims;
- setting aside or avoidance of transactions (including transactions defrauding creditors).

Some representative cases include:

- representing Russian joint venture partner defending claim for fraudulent misrepresentation in connection with establishment of BVI joint venture vehicle;
- acting for shareholder in property investment company on claim for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and conspiracy against other shareholders/directors in connection with sale of company assets to themselves at a substantial undervalue;
- acting for tax authorities of foreign state seeking to set aside fraudulent transactions entered into by tax debtor in efforts to prevent enforcement of £200m tax debt;
- acting for defendant to £50m claim arising out of the operation of a corporate Ponzi scheme;
- representing City trader in defence of claim for the recovery of £20m of AIM-listed company shares allegedly misappropriated by him;
- acting for European car parts distributor in claim against former directors/ employees for fraud and unlawful means conspiracy;
- setting aside "sham" trust established by Hong Kong businessman to shield his assets and prejudice creditors.

















