



James Ayliffe QC

Call: 1987

QC: 2008

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Clerk's Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

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

“The epitome of the modern QC”

Chambers & Partners 2017

Publications

- [Transaction Avoidance in Insolvencies](#), OUP (2012)
- [Hill and Redman's Law of Landlord and Tenant](#) (2016)
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 an experienced QC providing advice and advocacy services across a wide range of commercial fields, including business and financial contracts, banking, company, insolvency, financial services, civil fraud, professional negligence, real estate and contentious trust matters.

Disputes and issues arising, directly or indirectly, from the ownership or exploitation of real property assets feature prominently in James's work.

James's work also incorporates a significant international dimension with cases involving involved jurisdictions as diverse as BVI, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cyprus, South Africa, Netherlands, Isle of Man, Gibraltar, New York and Ukraine.

James is currently ranked in the legal directories (Chambers & Partners, Chambers Global and/or Legal 500) in the following fields:

- Commercial (Chancery)
- Financial Services
- Real Estate Litigation
- Professional Liability
- International & Offshore.

Recent editions of the directories describe him as "exceptionally intelligent", with a "brilliant ability to analyse contractual situations", providing "very balanced and measured advice", "excellent" advocacy and written work, and "a very safe pair of hands" (Chambers & Partners 2018); "a very talented individual" with a "good client manner" (Legal 500, 2018); "the epitome of the modern QC" and "an excellent legal brain" who is "good in a team" (Chambers & Partners, 2017); "a real team player" who "works alongside everyone to achieve the right result" and "always adopts a practical commercial approach" (Legal 500, 2017).

Comments in past directories include: "superb at anything", "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", "intellectually tough", "will stand up to anyone", and "a star of the commercial Bar".

James also acts as an arbitrator, mediator and expert.

Company

James has experience of a wide range of company law matters such as:

- disputes arising from share/asset sale agreements;
- claims for breach of directors' duties;
- interpretation and enforcement of shareholder agreements;
- unfair prejudice and just and equitable winding up disputes;
- issues as to validity and enforcement of company charges;
- miscellaneous Companies Act issues;
- corporate insolvency issues.

Some representative cases includes:

- acting for defendants to a derivative claim under Part 11 of Companies Act 2006 for an account of \$50m profits from the development of valuable land (*Wilton Estates v Shuttleworth & ors* [2017] EWHC 2195 (Ch))
- acting for a firm of solicitors alleged to be liable pursuant to s 36C Companies Act 2006 for a £20m property contract entered into by company which had not yet been incorporated (*Royal Mail Estates v Maples Teesdale* [2016] 1 WLR 942);
- advising regarding restoration to register of dissolved company holding £15m property asset;
- acting for a 50% shareholder in dispute with US partner over control of vertical transportation services company;
- acting for defendant to £200m claim arising out of the takeover of a listed company involving issues regarding stock exchange rules, the takeover code, and the duties of professionals involved in advising on takeovers;
- acting for former chairman of Chestertons estate agency in multi-million pound shareholder dispute (*Jafari-Fini v Skillglass*);
- acting for director of property investment company accused of complicity in setting up "poison pill" to deter company takeover (*Criterion Properties plc v Stratford UK Properties LLC*);
- acting for purchaser of paint manufacturing company on multi-million pound claim for breach of warranty in share sale agreement;
- advising directors of well-known healthcare company in administration;
- acting for company providing support services to private equity industry in successful opposition to claim for rectification of its share register;
- acting for creditors on successful application to restore company to register to enable pursuit of indemnity rights (*Stanhope Pension Trust Ltd v Registrar of Companies*).