



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

“Simply outstanding: a persuasive advocate who provides measured and balanced advice.”

Chambers & Partners 2020

Memberships

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

Publications

- [Transaction Avoidance in Insolvencies](#), OUP (2012)
- [Hill and Redman's Law of Landlord and Tenant](#) (2016) Specialist Editor

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 particularly prominently in James's work.

Much of James's work has an international dimension with cases involving 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: "a very good, strong QC. He's shown himself to be pretty adept at handling the commercial strategy as well as the law". He's simply outstanding; he's very bright and user-friendly. He provides measured and balanced advice and is a persuasive advocate." (Chambers & Partners 2020); "A great QC to have in a crisis, and is more than willing to roll up his sleeves and get stuck in". He "understands the need to bring the client along with him in the direction of his advice." (Legal 500 2020). He is "very, very good to work with", "very user-friendly", "extremely good in court", "very good at reading judges and anticipating what they will say", "a fantastic mind", "very knowledgeable", "good strategically", and giving "concise advice which saves time and instils confidence" (Chambers & Partners 2019); "great with clients", "strong strategically", having an "excellent advocacy style", "very commercial", and "pro-active and hardworking" (Legal 500 2019).



Practice Overview continued

Comments in past directories include: "excellent"; "exceptionally intelligent" with a "brilliant ability to analyse contractual situations", providing "very balanced and measured advice"; "the epitome of the modern QC"; "an excellent legal brain"; "a real team player" who "works alongside everyone to achieve the right result"; "always adopts a practical commercial approach"; "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.

International Arbitration

James has wide experience of international (and domestic) arbitration as well as other forms of alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, expert determination and early neutral evaluation.

Some representative cases include:

- acting for FTSE 100 company in LCIA arbitration concerning the proper interpretation and operation of complex contractual arrangements for the disposal of properties within a large UK real estate portfolio;
- acting for Dubai and Brunei investors in multi-million pound LCIA arbitration relating to alleged breaches of operating and management agreement in respect of a major hotel in Saudi Arabia;
- acting for a UK property fund in relation to expert determination of issues relating to profit share arrangements with a development partner.
- representing licensor in defence of US\$80m LCIA arbitration claim for alleged breach of international licence agreement governing use of well-known brand and trademark in connection with sale of handbags;
- acting for licensor in US\$20m claim for alleged repudiation of international licence agreement relating to use of brand in connection with sale of watches;
- representing a successful and long-established firm of accountants in an arbitration concerning the rights of a retiring partner to dissolve the firm.

James also acts as an arbitrator, mediator and expert himself.