



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

“The epitome of the modern QC”

Chambers & Partners

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
- 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 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 (among other things): "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); "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 2017).

Comments in past directories include: "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



Practice Overview continued

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.

Joint venture & partnership

James has wide experience of issues and disputes relating to joint ventures and partnership arrangements of all types (contractual, corporate, LLP, LLC, trust etc), including

- enforceability of JV/partnership agreements,
- breach of JV/partnership agreements;
- breach of fiduciary and other duties owed by JV/partnership members;
- claims for mismanagement of JV/partnership assets;
- claims for misappropriation of JV/partnership assets (including knowing receipt/assistance claims);
- termination and winding up of JV/partnership arrangements.

James's experience in the field includes a particular familiarity with disputes concerning joint ventures or partnerships for the acquisition, development or other exploitation of real property assets.

Some representative cases include:

- advising landowner regarding dispute with joint venture partner arising out of proposal for re-development of valuable land in North London into £200 million block of ultra-prime apartments;
- advising property unit trust in relation to expert determination of disputes arising in relation to joint venture for re-development of city centre shopping centre;
- advising pension fund trustees in relation to dispute with joint venture partner in relation to marketing and sale of their interest in the joint venture;
- representing member of LLP for property investment/development in £10m claim for damages for breach of fiduciary and other duties and recovery of 'secret profit' made by partner;
- advising property developer facing £40m claim by former JV partner for account of profits from acquisition and development of valuable land site;
- representing corporate vehicle for investment of Euro 60m in shopping malls in Eastern Europe in defence of multi-million pound claim by one of investors;
- acting for one of two 50/50 shareholders in dispute relating to joint venture for sale of agricultural equipment in the former CIS;
- advising investor in joint venture for establishment of a private jet hire business regarding dispute with other investors.

Chambers and Partners 2019 notes, when commenting on James's commercial chancery work, the many real property joint venture cases handled by him.