



James Walmsley

Call: 2007

jwalmsley@wilberforce.co.uk

Clerks' Details

+44 (0)20 7306 0102
practicemanagers@wilberforce.co.uk

Qualifications and Appointments

- Maths & Philosophy MA (Oxon) 1995-1999 – top in year
- Graduate Diploma in Law 2005-2006 – distinction
- BVC 2006-2007 – outstanding
- Fellow of All Souls College Oxford 1999-2014

“A brilliant technical and strategic thinker.”

The Legal 500, 2022

Memberships

- Association of Pension Lawyers
- Chancery Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association

Publications

- The pensions chapter of Lightman & Moss

Practice Overview

James has a broad commercial chancery practice including general commercial litigation and arbitration, trusts, pensions and professional liability.

He is recommended in both Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500 for his commercial and pensions work.

Chambers & Partners 2022:

Commercial Dispute Resolution *"Brainy and incredibly thorough, he is a fantastic team player."*

Pensions *"His ability to distil vastly complex fact patterns into practical advice is extremely impressive."*

The Legal 500 2022:

Commercial *"James provides laser-focused and practical advice; he cuts to the heart of the matter quickly and confidently. His written work is exceptional."*

Professional Negligence *"A brilliant technical and strategic thinker. He is particularly well-suited to large and complex cases and will get on top of the facts quickly."*

Pensions *"James is respected for his acumen and raw intelligence, particularly in actuarial or financial matters."*

Chambers & Partners 2021:

Commercial Dispute Resolution: *"He is incredibly logical and will look at things very thoroughly from all angles."*

Pensions: *"He is exceptionally good – extremely bright and hard-working."* *"He always adds value when considering difficult areas of contract law."*

The Legal 500 2021:

Commercial litigation: *"Extremely hard-working, on top of the papers, and has a fierce intellect."*



Practice Overview continued

Pensions: *"Very knowledgeable of pensions and more general civil procedure, demonstrating really considered advice that gives you confidence that he has the right answer."*

Professional negligence: *"He is extremely detailed oriented and has an absolute mastery of the law."*

Trusts, Tax, Probate and Estates

Many of James' recent cases have a significant trust law element.

In addition to cases involving pension schemes, and commercial cases involving trust arguments, James' experience in this area includes:

- Acting for an executor where an issue arose as to the proper interpretation of a self-dealing authorisation clause, as well as the proper interpretation and scope of an exoneration clause. The executor succeeded: *Barnsley v Noble*.
- Advising and acting as junior in a multi-faceted and multi-jurisdictional matrimonial dispute concerning inter alia the operation of family trust arrangements in Cyprus and the BVI.
- Advising on the proper interpretation of wills and trust documents.
- Acting for and against trustees in the context of alleged conflicts of interest.
- Acting on an application for court approval of an amendment to an employee benefit trust deed in the context of a £300m takeover of the employer, where the trustee was the major shareholder of the employer, and advising subsequently.