

James Gale

Call Date: 2016



James is developing a broad commercial and civil practice both domestically and in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Prior to transferring to the English Bar, James worked as a trainee in Trinidad and Tobago at JD Sellier & Co and practised as an associate attorney at Hastings Attorneys-at-law in Barbados. He was also a judicial assistant to Lady Justice Asplin DBE in the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, where he worked on appeals covering topics such as breach of trust, secret commissions, cartel damages, private international law, pensions, unlawful means conspiracy and human rights.

Legal Services

Commercial, Company and Insolvency

James has worked on a variety of commercial disputes domestically and overseas, including:

- A successful appeal before the Caribbean Court of Justice arising out of a long-running Barbadian shareholder dispute (assisting, as second junior counsel).
- Advising on a prospective claim to recover cryptoassets (as sole counsel).
- Advising on jurisdictional issues in relation to a claim for unlawful means conspiracy, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of trust and unconscionable receipt (as sole counsel).
- Advising a cryptoasset investment fund on a prospective breach of contract claim (as an attorney-at-law).
- An application for an urgent injunction in support of a £27 million claim alleging breach of trust and dishonest assistance (assisting [Aidan Casey QC](#) and [Tom Poole QC](#), as a pupil).
- An ICC arbitration concerning the enforceability of guarantees issued in relation to a US\$200 million infrastructure project in the Caribbean (as an attorney-at-law).
- A £250 million claim by liquidators against former administrators alleging London property sold at an undervalue (assisting [Simon Davenport QC](#) and [Tom Poole QC](#), as a pupil).

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- Advising on AML/KYC issues in relation to the development of a cryptoasset protocol.
- Assisting Richard Samuel with various pieces of commercial / insolvency litigation, including a claim for misrepresentation and an application challenging a transaction at an undervalue.
- Claims for breach of directors' duties, oppression (unfair prejudice) and wrongful dismissal (as a trainee).
- Advising a software as a service business on the migration of its business from the Caribbean to the UK (as an attorney-at-law).
- Applications challenging transactions at an undervalue and transactions defrauding creditors (assisting [Tom Poole QC](#), as a pupil).

Judicial review

James is currently acting on behalf of various property owners in a judicial review challenging planning permission for the development of large hotel in Barbados. This follows on his previous work in this area as an associate at Hastings Attorneys-at-Law, including:

- A judicial review concerning a moratorium imposed on the construction of petrochemical storage facilities in Barbados.
- A judicial review concerning planning permission for the construction of a development valued at US\$175 million.

Employment

James also has experience of employment disputes both domestically and in Trinidad and Tobago. As a pupil and trainee, he worked on claims concerning breach of contract (wrongful dismissal and breach of restrictive covenants) and unfair dismissal. He was also a contributor to the Oxford Pro Bono Publico's comparative report on the employment status of Uber drivers.

Personal Injury

James has considerable experience in Fast Track personal injury trials. He is regularly instructed in respect of claims under the Package Travel Regulations and arising out of accidents abroad more generally. James has also acted in road traffic accidents claims with credit hire and fundamental dishonesty elements.

Public Access

James is able to accept instructions directly from members of the public, companies and other entities through the public access scheme (also known as direct access). If you wish to instruct him on a direct basis, please speak to the clerks.

For more information on public access, please see the Bar Council website.

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

Qualifications

- BCL, Lincoln College, University of Oxford
- LEC, Hugh Wooding Law School, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- BPTC, BPP University
- LLB, University of Manchester (First Class with Honours)

Awards and Prizes

- University of Oxford, BCL Supperstone Law Scholarship 2017
- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2015 – 2016: Winner (Munich Moot); Quarterfinalist (Vienna Moot)
- University of Manchester, RG Lawson Award for Advocacy and the Law 2015