James Aldridge QC

Call 1994
Silk 2014

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James has practised at the Bar since 1995. His practice encompasses all major areas of Chancery and commercial litigation. He has a particular interest and experience in contractual disputes (including particularly share warranty claims, bespoke commercial contracts and security arrangements), professional negligence, real property and insolvency.

James is recommended in the Chambers UK Directory for Chancery Commercial and Art and Cultural Property Law, and in Legal Experts for Fraud (asset recovery).

James has considerable experience in large-scale litigation starting with Barings and more recently with an extensive shareholder dispute involving allegations of forgery of documents for the purposes of supporting an otherwise bogus claim and a case surrounding the collapse of a hedge fund where allegations of a $0.5billion fraud arise. He has been involved in the Al-Gosabi/Al Sanea litigation both in the UK and in the Cayman Islands.

Reported cases in which James has acted include Sainsbury v Olympia; Slattery v Moore Stephens (accountants’ negligence); Redevco Properties v Mount Cook (consent to alterations to leasehold property); McGowan v Chadwick (CA) (scope of liability of Court appointed Receivers); Goldstein v Conley (CA) (costs liabilities in leasehold enfranchisement); Barings Plc (In Liquidation) v Coopers & Lybrand; Gillet v Holt (equitable/proprietary estoppel). He acts for a number of high profile clients and many large organisations in cases which have reached conclusions without the need for a trial.

Notable Cases

Iain Laurie Shearer & Ors v Spring Capital Ltd & Ors (2013)
Iain Lawrie Shearer & Ors v Spring Capital Ltd & Ors (2013)
Avrora Fine Arts Investment Ltd v Christie, Manson & Woods Ltd (2012)
Weavering Capital (UK) Ltd (In Liquidation) v ULF Magnus Michael Peterson & 9 Ors (2012)
Al Sanea v Saad Investments Co Ltd (2012)
Christie, Manson & Woods Ltd v Aurora Fine Arts Investments Ltd (2012)
Saad Investments Co Ltd (In Liquidation) v Maan Abdulwahed Abdulmajeed Al-Sanea (2011)
Mohammad Zahoor v Sohail Masood (2009)
Sainsbury’s Supermarkets Ltd v Olympia Homes Ltd & Ors (2005)
Lionel Goldstein v Ronald Conley (2001)
Barings PLC (In Liquidation) & anor v Coopers & Lybrand (A Firm) & ors (2001)
Gillett v Holt & Anor

Qualifications

MA (Cantab)

Recommendations

Chambers 100 UK

“A consummate chancery commercial junior.”

“A great cross-examiner who can completely crush the other side’s witnesses.”

Chambers UK

Art and Cultural Property Law

“A very commercial lawyer who brings strong strategic perspective to a case. He thinks laterally and comes up with innovative solutions.” (2019)

“A very fair and decent opponent who’s a very sound practitioner.” (2018)

“He’s commercial and very user-friendly.” "He's absolutely brilliant.” (2017)

Chambers UK

Chancery: Commercial
"Very resilient and dedicated, he isn't someone who will give up a position lightly. He is definitely someone to go to if you want someone to stick their chin out and take difficult positions." (2019)

"Measured, on the ball and good with clients, he commands and takes control of a situation. His written work is concise and to the point." (2019)

"Expresses himself very clearly, distils the argument down to the basic points, and is very good at dealing with questions from the Bench." "He is smooth in his delivery and has the ear of the judges." (2018)

"A superb advocate who is a nice, clever man. When handling cases he deals with moving goal posts well." (2017)

"He is an understated but engaging advocate who really does his research." (2014)

"Impresses with his handling of technical matters and his superior client-facing skills." "Intellectually able" and "incredibly hard-working," (2013)

"Very hard-working and dogged - a real terrier for his client." (2012)

"Remains phenomenally busy after gaining the trust of many instructing solicitors who appreciate his "hard-working manner" and "hasty return of opinions even when he is stretched for time." (2011)

"Considered a “strong lateral thinker,” James Aldridge has a practice that is focused on commercial property, specifically with regard to development issues, possessions and breaches of contract." (2010)

Chambers UK

Real Estate Litigation

"Is "a star of the future," according to observers. He has a special interest in contractual disputes, professional negligence and insolvency-related cases. "Very personable, analytical and bright, he is a good, thoughtful advocate."" (2011)

Chambers Global

Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery

"He is an understated but engaging advocate who really does his research." (2014)

"Very hard-working and dogged – a real terrier for his client." (2012)

Legal 500 UK

Commercial Litigation

"Very easy to work with; bright, and commercial in his advice." (2014)

"Stands out as one to watch amongst the senior juniors." (2013)

"An excellent trial lawyer with persuasive advocacy skills and excellent cross-examination technique." (2012)

"Hard work and empathy with the client's position." (2011)

Legal 500 UK

Property
"A top-notch Chancery barrister with a strong grounding in property litigation." (2014)