MAITLAND

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JAMES WOOLRICH

CALL: 2019



OVERVIEW

James has a broad commercial practice working for corporate and banking clients, encompassing complex commercial disputes, civil fraud and international arbitration.

His cases are often international in nature involving parallel proceedings which raise questions of applicable law and jurisdiction, and recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments. He has extensive experience of litigation in offshore jurisdictions (Cayman, BVI and Isle of Man). He has also gained substantial experience of applying for interlocutory relief and advising on related jurisdictional issues.

James originally qualified as a solicitor in 2006 and a solicitor advocate in 2010. During his career in private practice, he has worked at 3 major international law firms: Slaughter and May; White & Case LLP; and most recently at Jenner & Block LLP, where he was a partner in its London office.

He is recommended in Chambers & Partners for Commercial Dispute Resolution and Offshore both in the UK Bar and Global directories and is a 'rising star' in the Commercial Disputes section of Legal 500 Caribbean.

DIRECTORY QUOTES

"James is very smart and knows the law."

Chambers UK Offshore (2026)

"He really impressed with his work great and attention to detail."

Chambers UK Offshore (2026)

"An extremely user-friendly, reliable junior who is always available and very responsive."

Legal 500 (2026)

"James takes a lot of care. He thinks very carefully about the advice he gives and will always be happy to talk it through with you."

Chambers UK (2026)

"James is responsive and extremely knowledgeable, and works well as part of a team."

Chambers UK (2026)

"James Woolrich is very smart and his drafting is absolutely spot-on. He is someone you can trust on complex matters."

Chambers UK (2026)

"James is an incredibly bright man whose experience as a former partner at a law firm is particularly useful. He is personable and responsive, and he produces very good written advice."

Chambers UK Commercial Dispute Resolution (2026)

"James Woolrich is a very relaxing and calming man to have on the team. His drafting is also absolutely fantastic."

Chambers UK Commercial Dispute Resolution (2026)

"James is responsive and extremely knowledgeable and works well as part of a team."

Chambers Global (2025)

"James takes a lot of care. He thinks very carefully about the advice he gives and will always be happy to talk it through with you."

Chambers Global (2025)

"Excellent, bright and always willing to talk through the pros and cons of a case."

Chambers UK ()

EXPERTISE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION & ARBITRATION

Notable cases include:

- ***Okoye v Aluko:*** Acted (as sole counsel) in successful defence of a challenge to the English court's jurisdiction.
- ***Confidential:*** Advised (as sole counsel) on a c.£1m contractual dispute between a software development company and gas distribution network

- ***AER Ltd v Ginetta Cars Ltd***: Acted (as sole counsel) for a high-performance racing car engine manufacturer in its claim under an engine lease agreement in the London Circuit Commercial Court.
- ***Wonop APS v Fetch.ai Ltd***: Acted (as sole counsel) a technology company in relation to its claim under a contract for the development of a scalable distributed ledger system in the London Circuit Commercial Court.
- ***MCL v MS Sarl***: Acted (with Stephen Auld KC) for the claimant bank in CPR Part 8 proceedings in the Commercial Court for non-disclosure and ancillary orders in support of proceedings in the British Virgin Islands under s.25 Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982.
- ***Haskell Elias v David Mamistvalov & Soda Holdings Ltd (2021):*** Acted (as sole counsel) for the defendant in interlocutory High Court proceedings concerning a dispute between 2 individuals in relation to ownership and control of an English limited company.
- ***Cruz City v Unitech & Ors:*** Advising Cruz City (with Simon Colton KC and Nehali Shah) in ongoing proceedings in aid of enforcement of LCIA arbitration awards worth US$500m. Includes, in the Isle of Man, successfully resisting an application to strike out and for summary judgment in respect of Cruz City's application for declaratory relief, and successfully resisting an application to set aside a Chabra freezing order.
- ***The Republic of Sierra Leone v SL Mining Ltd (2021)***: Acted (as sole counsel) for the Republic of Sierra Leone in proceedings in the Commercial Court relating to a US$1.9bn ICC arbitration, in relation to applications for (a) security for costs, and (b) costs
- ***Confidential:*** Advised (with David Lord KC) in relation to the scope of an arbitration clause in articles of association for the purposes of US (SDNY) proceedings.
- ***Confidential (2021):*** Advising an investor in relation to claims in public international law, including under the Energy Charter Treaty, and certain BITs.

CIVIL FRAUD

Notable cases include:

- ***Astra Global DMCC v Mr Narayan and Adams Property Holdings Inc*** - acting as sole counsel in respect of a civil fraud claim in the High Court concerning the alleged misappropriation of c.US$4m by the late Mr

Narayan, a former Credit Agricole bank manager in Dubai.

- ***Cruz City v Unitech & Ors:*** Advising Cruz City (with Simon Colton KC and Nehali Shah) in ongoing proceedings in aid of enforcement of LCIA arbitration awards worth US$500m. Includes, in the Isle of Man, successfully resisting an application to strike out and for summary judgment in respect of Cruz City's application for declaratory relief, and successfully resisting an application to set aside a Chabra freezing order.
- ***Confidential: Bahamas/Cayman*** – Advising in relation to questions of jurisdiction regarding allegations of a complex large scale (US$400m) civil fraud.
- ***Transworld Payment Solutions UK Ltd (in liq) v FCIB & Deuss:*** Acting (with Christopher Parker KC and Caley Wright) in a c.£280 million claim relating to MTIC fraud.

OFFSHORE & TRUSTS

Notable cases include:

- ***Arnage & Ors v Walkers (A firm):*** Cayman – Advising (with Mark Simpson KC and Nico Leslie) the defendant firm in a $490 million professional negligence claim in the Cayman Islands arising out of the uncovering of alleged frauds in a major Brazilian bank.
- ***Re Seahawk China Dynamic Fund:*** Cayman – assisted Appleby in its representation of the petitioner in a just and equitable winding up petition and application to appoint provisional liquidators in respect of an investment fund worth over US$400m.
- ***Multibank litigation:*** Advised the defendant bank in connection with ongoing proceedings concerning a claim to set aside a Tomlin Order for fraud and unlawful means conspiracy, including in relation to a return date application for a WWFO and an application to challenge the BVI court's jurisdiction.
- ***Confidential:*** Bahamas/Cayman – Advising in relation to questions of jurisdiction regarding allegations of a complex large scale (US$400m) civil fraud.
- ***Briefline Assets Ltd v Falin & Anor (2021)***: BVI – Advised (with John Carrington KC) the claimant/respondent in relation to an application to continue and cross-application to discharge an ex parte WWFO.
- ***Re a Cayman Islands Trust (2020):*** Cayman – Junior counsel in a team advising a Cayman Islands trustee of a £20m trust in relation to allegations of breach of trust and gross negligence. The case also involved allegations of undue influence, lack of capacity, proprietary estoppel and conspiracy.

CRYPTOASSETS

James has experience in handling cryptoasset disputes, both as standalone matters and where they intersect with other areas of his practice. His work in the field includes representing a software developer in ***Wonop APS v Fetch.ai Ltd*** and advising in relation to the fraudulent misappropriation of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

QUALIFICATIONS

- MA (Oxon) Jurisprudence (Exhibitioner) – Lincoln College, University of Oxford
- Postgraduate Certificates in the Principles of Civil Procedure and International and Comparative Commercial Restitution – undertaken part-time at University College London
- MSc in Law and Finance – Worcester College, University of Oxford
- MPhil in Law (Private International Law) – Worcester College, University of Oxford

MEMBERSHIPS

- COMBAR
- International Bar Association
- London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association

NOTABLE CASES