

12

King's Bench Walk

James Beeton

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

International & Travel, Industrial Disease, Personal Injury, Aviation, Product Liability

James specialises in cross-border claims and industrial disease litigation, with a particular focus on travel law and claims for asbestos-related disease.

James acts for both claimants and defendants and undertakes work on a CFA basis.

International & Travel

James specialises in cross-border litigation. He regularly advises on and acts in claims raising private international law issues and he is experienced in cases involving the international transport conventions. He is a co-author of the 'Accidents Abroad' chapter of the most recent edition of Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service and he co-edits the International & Travel Law Blog.

James is particularly experienced in claims involving accidents abroad and package holidays. He acts for and against the major tour operators and has written about travel law for specialist law journals. He is currently acting as junior counsel to William Audland QC in a catastrophic skiing injury claim which occurred in Norway.

James also has experience of international group litigation. He was instructed by Peruvian environmental protestors in relation to allegations of assault and mistreatment in *Vilca and Others v Xstrata Ltd* and by the FCO in relation to claims against the UK Government arising out of the Mau Mau insurgency in Kenya in the 1950s in the *Kenyan Emergency Group Litigation*.

Industrial Disease

James is experienced in claims for mesothelioma and other asbestos-related disease. He is regularly instructed in cases involving complex evidentiary issues and low levels of asbestos exposure. He is currently acting as junior counsel to Harry Steinberg QC in a fatal mesothelioma claim raising complex loss of dependency issues. He is also familiar with appeals under the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme.

James is instructed in claims for exposure to other hazardous substances, including platinum and plastic dust. He also acts in claims arising out of occupational exposure to noise and mechanical vibrations.

Personal Injury

James has considerable experience of all areas of personal injury law, including road traffic accidents (and claims

against the MIB), employer's liability, occupier's liability, defective premises, trespass against the person, claims under the Highways Act, and claims under the Animals Act. He has particular experience of claims involving allegations of fraud and fundamental dishonesty.

James frequently acts for and against public authorities. He was instructed by the MOJ in a claim by a prisoner for severe injuries sustained whilst attempting suicide in custody. He has also been instructed on behalf of police and ambulance drivers in cases involving road traffic accidents in the course of emergency responses, on behalf of NHS Trusts in claims involving assaults by mental health patients, and by teachers and pupils injured during school activities.

James regularly deals with associated human rights issues arising in personal injury cases. He successfully represented a local authority in strike-out proceedings in the High Court relating to claims by a former employee for false imprisonment and breach of art. 8 ECHR. He has also successfully represented a local authority in claims for misfeasance in public office and trespass involving further claims for breaches of arts. 8, 12 and 14 ECHR.

Aviation

James is frequently instructed in claims arising out of aviation activities, including aircraft crashes. He has acted in claims against airport operators, airlines and other air transportation companies. He was recently instructed in a claim for serious injuries suffered by a passenger in the course of the crash landing of a Reims Cessna F172P Skyhawk aircraft.

Product Liability

James is experienced in product liability claims under the Consumer Protection Act and at common law, including claims raising cross-border and industrial disease issues.

He is particularly interested in liability issues concerning emerging technologies, and has lectured on the implications of the Automated and Electric Vehicles Act for owners, insurers and manufacturers of driverless cars.

Qualifications & Awards

BCL (Distinction), Exeter College, University of Oxford
BPTC, City University London
BA Jurisprudence, Saint Peter's College, University of Oxford

Times Law Awards 2014: 2nd Prize
Law Faculty Prize for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (BCL)
Ralph Chiles Award for Comparative Human Rights (BCL)
Middle Temple Colombos Law Prize
Exeter College Tobias Prize in Law
Oxford Postgraduate Internship Award (UN World Food Programme Legal Office)
Exeter College Internship Grant (Court of Appeal of Hong Kong)
Saint Peter's College Law Essay Prize

Memberships

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Travel and Tourism Lawyers Association

Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers

Publications

Division XVIII: Accidents Abroad, (2018) Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service

Characterisation of obligations for choice of law purposes under Rome I and II (*Committeri v Club Med*), (2018)
Lexis®PSL Dispute Resolution

Rome I – Consumer Contracts (art. 6), (2018) Lexis®PSL Dispute Resolution

Case Report: Wood and Anor v TUI Travel PLC T/A First Choice [2017] EWCA CIV 11 (2017) 154 Personal Injury Law Journal 20