James Goudie KC



Silk: 1984 Call: 1970

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James is a very experienced senior silk with a broad practice in and out of Court. He is highly reputed both as an advocate and for his advice. He covers the entire field of 11KBW practice, especially acting for and against clients operating in and with the public sector. James is listed as a Leading Silk in Administrative and Public Law, Education, Employment, Local Government and Public Procurement in Chambers and Partners and Legal 500. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2014 Chambers & Partners Bar Awards.

James Goudie KC has been Head of Chambers since 1997, alongside Daniel Stilitz KC.

> ***James Goudie is very experienced and well known.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

Expertise

Public

Public, administrative and constitutional law is James' main area of practice. He is co-editor of a leading textbook on judicial review and has appeared in very many of the major judicial review cases. He is a Past Chair of the Administrative Law Bar Association. Contributor to Election Law Handbook (2021)

> ***He is very clever, immensely knowledgeable on judicial reviews and has superb judgement.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

R (Siderise Insulation Ltd) v Kensington & Chelsea RLBC

(2025) EWHC 1178 (ADMIN)

exclusion of contractor criticized in Grenfell Tower Report

R(JX) v Devon County Council

(2025) EWHC 893 (ADMIN)

Howells v Newport City Council

(2025) EWHC 22 (CH)

London Borough of Merton Council (Appellant) v Nuffield Health (Respondent)

[2023] UKSC 18; SC, JUNE 7 2023; [2023] 3 WLR 13

rating relief for charities

Chilldara Group Holdings Ltd v West Northamptonshire Council

[2023] EWHC 1675 (ADMIN)

on local authority land disposals

R (Stride) v Wiltshire Council

(2022) EWHC 1476 (ADMIN)

on whether exclusion of public from Cabinet Meeting was unlawful

Westminster City Council v Sports and Leisure Management Ltd

(2021) EWHC 114 (TCC)

contractual allocation of risk in respect of losses under leisure services contract arising from covid-19 change in law

Achievements

Appointments

James is a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple and has been a Deputy High Court Judge. He is a member of the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in its Antigua and Barbuda and of British Virgin Islands jurisdictions. He has been admitted ad hoc to the Bars of Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Malawi, Northern Ireland and Singapore. He is a former Chairman of the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council, of the Administrative Law Bar Association and the Bar European Group.

News, Articles & Publications

In addition to numerous articles, publications include:

- *Supperstone, Goudie and Walker on Judicial Review* (co-editor and contributor of chapter on Bias) (7th Edition 2024, Supplement 2019)
- Contributes chapters to Tolley's annual Employment Handbook
- Contributed chapter in Education Law Handbook (2021) on Pre-Compulsory School Age.

Supperstone, Goudie and Walker on Judicial Review was described by Lord Woolf as a "leading textbook" in **R v Home Secretary**, **ex p Jeyeanthan** [2000] 1 WLR 354 at 360C and has been reviewed as 'the leading textbook in the field', 'wide in scope', 'rich in detail and authoritative in expression', with 'contributors superbly qualified for the task', providing a 'thorough, detailed analysis' and 'essential account' and being an 'essential' reference volume.

James is on the Editorial Board of "Judicial Review". He was Consultant Editor of the Local Government Reports and edited the Audit Commission Act 1998 for Current Law Statutes

Education

LLB (Hons) London University (London School of Economics) 1963.

Solicitors' Finals (with distinction in Commercial Law) 1966.

A longstanding figure who is endorsed by market sources for his encyclopaedic understanding of domestic and EU public procurement law as well as state aid matters

WHO'S WHO LEGAL

He has a good tactical judgement and knows how to pitch his argument.

LEGAL 500

His knowledge and experience are abundantly clear, and this no doubt contributes to his ability to provide not only technically astute advice, but also practical guidance on how best to approach a particular issue. He is approachable and responsive

LEGAL 500

He's incredibly responsive and client-focused

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

He displays an ease of communication coupled with an excellence and mastery of the subject matter, however diverse. A dream to work with.

LEGAL 500

A brilliant strategist, combining a sharp eye for detail with an innate sense for what matters – and what doesn't. James can turn instructions around within days and sometimes hours, possessing a ferocious appetite for work, he immediately wins the confidence of clients, and is never wrong-footed

LEGAL 500

A brilliant, versatile silk. He is able to explain complex concepts simply in clear, concise advice

LEGAL 500

Detailed knowledge across a broad range of local authority law and presents it in a clear way with no extraneous advice

LEGAL 500

Very client-focused and with impressive turnaround times

LEGAL 500