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.

> ***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

Expertise

Employment

He has been highly experienced over many years in the wide range of employment cases, both in the High Court and above and in appeals from Employment Tribunals, with particular expertise in contract disputes, TUPE, pensions, all aspects of discrimination law, jurisdictional issues, collective disputes, various kinds of injunctions, and ECHR law.

Melki v Bouygues E&S Contracting UK Ltd

[2024] EAT 36; (2025) EWCA CIV 585

Appellant omitting to send respondents grounds of resistance – Whether 'minor error' for purpose of extending time to appeal. Change to EAT Rules applies to pending as well as future proceedings.

Guardian News and Media v Rozanov

[2022] EAT 12; [2022] ICR 973; [2022] IRLR 482

An employment tribunal had been wrong to refuse a journalist access to copies of skeleton arguments, witness statements and trial bundle documents that had been referred to in a hearing which he had not attended.

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

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