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.

> ***He is very knowledgeable, approachable and gives clear advice.***
>
> LEGAL 500

Expertise

Commercial / Arbitration & Mediation

James is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is experienced both as an Arbitrator and appearing as Counsel in arbitrations and mediations. He appears in the Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court, the Chancery and Queen's Bench Divisions and Tribunals.

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.

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

Education

James is an Emeritus Governor of the London School of Economics. He has appeared in many important education cases, including on college transport, nursery education, and admission criteria.

> ***James' reputation precedes him.***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

European Union

James is a Past Chair of the Bar European Group. He is heavily involved not only with public procurement, competition and State Aid, but also with EU aspects of environmental and employment law and retained EU Law generally.

Health & Community Care

James has appeared in many cases related both to the NHS and to community care, including **R (F) v Buckinghamshire County Council** (2019) EWHC 1817 (Admin) on closure of children's centres and consultation.

Recent cases include **R (Lancashire County Council) v SoS for Health and Social Care** (2021) EWHC 268 (Admin), (2021) 24 CCLR 57, dispute between two local authorities as to which of them had responsibility for funding accommodation for an individual who had suffered brain damage.

R (F) v Buckinghamshire County Council

(2019) EWHC 1817 (ADMIN)

Closure of children's centres and consultation

R (Lancashire CC) v Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

[2021] EWHC 268 (ADMIN), [2021] 2 WLUK 211

Challenge to a determination of an "ordinary residence" dispute, i.e. which local authority is responsible for a person. The case was the first test of the "Greenwich principle": the principle by which, if a local authority should have taken particular steps but failed to take them, ordinary residence and responsibility is determined on the presumed factual basis that the local authority had in fact taken those steps.

Human Rights

James' practice extends to the European Court of Human Rights.

Information, Media & Privacy Law

James is a former President of the National Security Panel of the Data Protection and Information Tribunal. He represented the then Information Commissioner before the Bichard Inquiry on data processing issues arising out of the Soham Murders, and acted for the Commissioner in the High Court in the case over MP's expenses. He deals not only with data protection but also with environmental and other information requests, freedom of expression, privacy and confidentiality.

Garrard v Information Commissioner and British Museum

(2024) UKFTT 601 (GRC)

freedom of information, corporate sponsorship and fossil fuels

Hussain v Sandwell MBC

(2017) EWHC 1641 (ADMIN), [2017] ACD 97

Data protection

Local Government

He was the Leader of a London Borough. Recent cases include **London Borough of Merton Council (Appellant) v Nuffield Health (Respondent)** [2023] UKSC 18 on rating relief for charities, **Chilldara Group Holdings Ltd v West Northamptonshire Council** [2023] EWHC 1675 (Admin) (05 July 2023) on local authority land disposals, **Williams v Caerphilly Council** (2020) EWCA Civ 296, CA, March 3 2020, [2020] PTSR 1130 on local authority decision making, **R (Peters) v Haringey LBC** [2018] HLR 33; [2018] PTSR 1359; [2018] WLR (D) 74;(2018) EWHC 192 (Admin) on vires, **R (Whitstable Society) v Canterbury City Council** (2017) EWHC 254 (Admin) on land disposal, **R (Hussain) v Sandwell MBC** [2017] WLR (D) 438; [2018] PTSR 142; (2017) EWHC 1641 (Admin) on standards, and **R (Liverpool City Council) v SoS** [2017] PTSR 1564; [2017] WLR (D) 314; (2017) EWHC 986 (Admin) on central government funding of new burdens on local authorities.

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

Procurement & State Aid

Procurement

James has acted in numerous public procurement cases and is a much sought after source of advice on all public procurement issues. His recent cases include **Ocean Outdoor UK Ltd v Hammersmith & Fulham LBC** [2019] WLR (D) 555; [2020] 2 All ER (Comm) 213; [2020] 2 All ER 966; (2019) EWCA Civ 1642, [2020] PTSR 639, the leading case on concession contracts and the land exemption.

State Aid/Subsidy Control

James has acted throughout the Ricoh Arena saga, **R (Sky Blue Sports & Leisure Ltd) v Coventry City Council,** No. 1 on a loan, and No.2, on a lease extension, both at first instance and in the Court of Appeal, the leading cases on State Aid and the Market Economy Investor Principle, now embodied in the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

> ***Has a comprehensive understanding of the interface between public and procurement law***
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> CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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***
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> WHO'S WHO LEGAL

> ***He has a good tactical judgement and knows how to pitch his argument.***
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> 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***
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> LEGAL 500

> ***He's incredibly responsive and client-focused***
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> 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