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James Potts KC

Call: 1994 Silk: 2013

James is a leading commercial chancery silk recognised for his expertise in shareholder disputes, corporate litigation, restructuring and insolvency, corporate transactions and international commercial disputes. He is particularly sought after in cases involving business acquisitions, directors' duties, shareholder and contentious restructuring disputes.

He is regularly instructed in high-value and strategically significant disputes for companies, investment funds, insolvency practitioners, directors and shareholders, often where company law, insolvency and commercial litigation issues intersect. His practice encompasses trial work, appellate advocacy, arbitration and strategic advisor matters, including disputes with substantial international and offshore elements.

Recent work includes the Privy Council appeal in 1Globe Capital LLC v Sinovac Ltd concerning corporate governance and poison-pill arrangements, acting for the Co-op Group in its successful defence of the largest ever transaction at an undervalue / preference claim brought in the UK, the Digicel restructuring in Bermuda, the Carillion disqualification proceedings, in Cayman Islands proceedings brought by Raiffeisen Bank International AG arising from an international corporate restructuring, and a large number of shareholder disputes in arbitrations, onshore and offshore contexts.

James is also a CEDR Accredited Mediator.

Corporate

- Reductions of capital
- Cross-border M&A
- Schemes of arrangement
- Takeovers
- Conduct of meetings
- Company advisory
- Shareholder disputes
- Joint venture dispute

James is one of the leading company law silks (Legal 500 and Band 1 in Chambers) with extensive experience in shareholder disputes, corporate governance, directors' duties, business acquisitions, joint ventures and corporate control litigation. He is regularly instructed in disputes involving complex ownership structures, boardroom disputes, unfair prejudice petitions and contested corporate transactions.

Selected recent cases:

1Globe Capital LLD v Sinovac Biotech Ltd (Privy Council): challenge concerning corporate governance, shareholder rights and poison-pill arrangements.

MILFAM LLC v Morrow, Smith and Scully Royalty (Cayman): acted for successful defendants in high-profile proxy battle concerning contested election of directors, interpretation of articles and tricky circulars.

Confidential unfair prejudice arbitration concerning £1bn business.

Singapore arbitration concerning drag and tag rights in corporate transaction.

Transaction work includes schemes of arrangement, reductions of capital and associated court applications: **Re Inmarsat Plc [2019] EWCHC 3470 (ChD); Re Dee Valley [2017] EWHC 184 (Ch).**

Restructuring & Insolvency

- Winding up
- Administration
- CVAs
- Receivership
- Contentious insolvency
- Cross-border issues
- Director' disqualifications
- Misfeasance
- Company charges

James is recognised by the directories as one of the leading restructuring and insolvency silks and is regularly instructed in complex domestic and cross-border contentious restructuring and insolvency disputes.

Selected recent cases:

Re Food Retailer Operations Ltd / Co-operative Group litigation: acting in claims of approximately £500 million arising from alleged preferences and transactions at an undervalue following a major group restructuring.

Carillion plc: acted for the former finance director in directors' disqualification proceedings following the collapse of Carillion.

Raiffeisen Bank International AG litigation (Cayman Islands): currently acting in proceedings arising from an international corporate restructuring involving allegations concerning substantial intra-group asset transfers, creditor protection issues, corporate authority and directors' duties.

Digicel restructuring (Bermuda): acting in connection with the US\$3.8 billion restructuring of the Digicel group.

Re Sturgeon Central Asia Balanced Fund Ltd: acted for the successful applicant in proceedings terminating recognition under the Cross-Border Insolvency Regulations in relation to a Bermuda company.

Litigation & Arbitration

- Shareholder disputes
- Breach of warranty claims

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- Joint venture disputes
- LLP / partnership disputes
- Professional negligence
- Breach of fiduciary duty / misfeasance
- Civil fraud and asset recovery
- Interim remedies
- Mediation and expert determination
- Registered Societies

A leading commercial disputes silk with a broad litigation and international arbitration practice spanning shareholder disputes, corporate transactions, financial services, fraud-related claims and cross-border commercial disputes.

James is frequently instructed on disputes with complex factual issues, international elements and the intersection between company law, insolvency and commercial litigation.

Selected recent cases

MLFAM LLC v Morrow, Smith and Scully Royalty Ltd (Grand Court of the Cayman Islands): acted for the successful defendants in a high-profile shareholder activism and corporate governance dispute concerning the election of directors, shareholder rights and control of a NYSE-listed Cayman Islands company.

1Globe Capital LLC v Sinovac Biotech Ltd (Privy Council): acted in a landmark corporate governance dispute concerning poison-pill arrangements, shareholder rights and the validity of director elections.

LCIA-DIFC arbitration: acted for the successful claimant in a major shareholder and joint venture dispute resulting in a substantial buy-out award.

Confidential unfair prejudice arbitration: acted in a high-value shareholder dispute concerning a business valued at approximately £1 billion.

Singapore arbitration: acted in a dispute concerning the interpretation and operation of drag and tag provisions in a corporate transaction.

Autonomy Corporation v Lynch: acted for Hewlett Packard entities in one of the most significant recent commercial and fraud-related disputes before the English courts.

Project Emanuel Bidco Ltd v Robson: acted in litigation arising from the acquisition of a business involving breach of warranty claims, freezing injunction relief and contempt proceedings.

International & Offshore

James KC has a substantial international and offshore practice encompassing shareholder disputes, corporate governance, restructuring and insolvency, commercial litigation and international arbitration.

He is regularly instructed in matters involving offshore corporate structures, cross-border transactions, shareholder activism, creditor disputes and foreign insolvency proceedings.

His practice spans the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, BVI, Gibraltar, Turks & Caicos Islands and major international arbitral centres, and he frequently works alongside lawyers in multiple jurisdictions on matters involving significant assets and complex corporate structures.

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Selected recent case:

1Globe Capital LLC v Sinovac Biotech Ltd (Privy Council): acted in a major corporate governance dispute concerning poison-pill arrangements, shareholder rights and the validity of board elections.

MILFAM LLC v Morrow, Smith and Scully Royalty Ltd (Grand Court of the Cayman Islands): acted for the successful defendants in a significant shareholder activism and corporate governance dispute concerning the election of directors, shareholder rights, meeting procedures and control of a NYSE-listed Cayman Islands company. The judgment addresses important issues concerning shareholder meetings, director elections and the interpretation of articles of association under Cayman Islands law.

Raiffeisen Bank International AG litigation (Cayman Islands): acting in proceedings arising from a major international corporate restructuring involving allegations concerning substantial intra-group asset transfers, creditor protection issues, corporate authority and directors' duties.

Digicel restructuring (Bermuda): acted in connection with the US\$3.8 billion restructuring of the Digicel group, one of the most significant recent offshore restructuring matters.

LCIA-DIFC arbitration: acted for the successful claimant in a substantial shareholder and joint venture dispute resulting in a significant buy-out award.

Singapore arbitration: acted in proceedings concerning the interpretation and operation of drag and tag provisions in a corporate transaction.

Memberships and publications

COMBAR

Chancery Bar Association

ILA

INSOL

Committee Member of the Bar Council International Committee

Contributor to Buckley on the Companies Acts

Practice and Procedure of the Companies Court

Contributor to FromCounsel

Ranked in

Legal 500 2026

Company, Commercial Litigation, Insolvency

Chambers & Partners 2026

Company, Restructuring & Insolvency, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Chancery: Commercial

Chambers & Partners Global Guide 2026

Restructuring/Insolvency, Dispute Resolution: Commercial, Dispute Resolution: Commercial Chancery

Who's Who Legal

Global Leader in Restructuring and Insolvency, National Leader at UK Bar in Civil Fraud, Company and Partnership and Restructuring and Insolvency.