# James Hurd

YEAR OF CALL 1994

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### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

Inquests & Public Inquiries, Regulatory and Professional Discipline Group, Insurance Fraud, Travel & International Personal Injury Law, Personal Injury, Employment



## Personal Injury CV

James was described as a Leading Junior on the Northern Circuit, in the 2014 Legal 500, for personal injury work: "He makes well-timed decisions to meet the needs of the situation."

#### **Profile**

James acts for both Claimants and Defendants in all areas of personal injury litigation, fatal accidents and clinical negligence (including cosmetic surgery), with an emphasis on employers' liability. James also undertakes disease work including HAVS, mesothelioma and claims for psychiatric injury in the workplace. He accepts instructions in occupiers' liability cases, road traffic accidents and Animals Act 1971 claims. James also handles cases involving travel claims arising under the Package Holiday, Package Travel, and Package Tour Regulations 1992.

He is often instructed in cases of severe injuries (including brain injuries), requiring expert evidence and the drafting of extensive and complex schedules and counter schedules of loss. He deals with complex trials, as well as advising on paper and in conference. He is experienced in advising in cases of forensic loss of earnings claims, such as with self-employed Claimants or those who own/manage their own businesses.

As a keen motorcyclist, James is always happy to accept instructions in relation to accident claims involving motorcycles.

Additionally, James frequently advises clients on issues that span both employment and personal injury law, such as claims for psychiatric injury in the workplace, stress at work, and bullying/harassment claims pursuant to the Harassment Act 1997.

James also has substantial experience in dealing with claims relating to prisons (defending claims by both prisoners and employees) through acting for the Ministry of Justice

James regularly participates in joint settlement meetings and is happy to act on a CFA funding basis in appropriate cases. He is both approachable and friendly and strives to provide a high standard of customer service and an efficient turnaround on paperwork.

Some representative examples of his personal injury practice include:

- Junior counsel on brain injury case resulting in multi-million pound settlement led by Michael Rawlinson KC
- Junior counsel in a pedestrian injury claim by Indian national injured when working in the UK, who was sent back to India, post-accident. The case involved complex calculations of damages and the forensic assessment of employment prospects/loss of chance on an international basis, for a highly talented computer software programmer and other cross-cultural issues led by David Allan KC
- Settled claim on behalf of wheelchair dependent Claimant with hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy, whose condition was significantly accelerated in minor RTA led by Michael Rawlinson KC
- Acted for Claimant in clinical negligence claim which resulted in client having her leg amputated. Case settled for circa £1m at JSM
- Acted for teacher in claim for psychiatric injury and sexual harassment in the workplace, which settled for in excess of £100k
- Settled claim at JSM by former firearms police officer for work related stress
- Successful finding of fraud and indemnity costs against a prisoner claiming to have tripped in prison grounds (using anonymous hearsay intelligence evidence)
- Defended claim by prison officer for serious injury in the course of control and restraint training
- Acted for the successful Claimant in a claim against the Royal Opera House following an accident to a self-employed police pathologist who tripped whilst a late attendee for a performance.

As an accredited public access barrister, James is able to accept advice and advocacy work directly from individuals or businesses through the Public Access Scheme, and is happy to discuss fixed fee or retainer rates for such work.

#### **Other Services**

As part of a continuing commitment to building and enhancing client relationships, James regularly gives training seminars to clients on legal developments. He is happy to devise bespoke training, tailored to clients' requirements, to deliver at their businesses.

#### **Personal Interests**

His outside interests include creative writing, music, football, classic cars and motorcycles, cinema, and travel. James's debut novel, A Bold Deceiver, which is set in Manchester in the 1990s, was published in August 2008. For further details, visit http://www.abolddeceiver.co.uk

### **Quotes**

**Personal Injury:** "James has excellent attention to detail and he is quick to cut through any chaff straight to the salient information and points. He inspires confidence in his advocacy and has a very good bedside manner with clients." - Legal 500 2024

**Employment:** James's preparation is meticulous, which is manifest by the sound legal analysis which he employs in his skeleton arguments. His precise advocacy is easy for any judge to follow such that it undermines the opponent s application or case with compelling subtlety; a first rate advocate."

- Legal 500 2024

**Personal Injury:** "James is a fantastic all round advocate. He is approachable but professional at all times. His turnaround of work is incredible but he maintains attention to detail and gets to the crux of the legal issues very quickly. James is calm and thorough when explaining technical issues to clients and his written advice is considered and logical. He is extremely reliable and responsive."

- Legal 500 2023

**Employment:** "James is extremely competent, technically excellent, and a highly skilled advocate. He is professional, friendly and approachable, fantastic with clients and easily contactable."

- Legal 500 2023

**Personal Injury:** "Attention to detail is second to none and always responds to any queries in a highly efficient manner. Grasps the issues of a case very quickly and advises accordingly. Intelligent, professional and reliable whilst being down to earth and approachable. Really good people skills. These qualities make him an excellent advocate."

- Legal 500 2022

**Employment:** "James is able to put clients at ease with his friendly but professional approach, a skilled advocate and extremely efficient in drafting complex pleadings."

- Legal 500 2022

**Employment: Leading Junior Band 2** "Recent work includes defending against disability discrimination and stress at work claims."

- Legal 500 2020

Personal Injury: Leading Junior Band 2 "Always identifies the key issues and potential weakness in a case."

- Legal 500 2020

Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence ranked Tier 1 Clients appreciate his practical advice.

- Legal 500 2019

**Employment** ranked Tier 1 Congenial, sagacious and conscientious.

- Legal 500 2019

"He has great client communication skills."

- Legal 500 2017

"He is knowledgeable, approachable and quickly turns work around."

- Legal 500 2017

"An assertive cross-examiner with excellent judgement."

- Legal 500 2016

"Always turns work around in a very reasonable time and is punctual in returning instructions."

- Legal 500 2015

"He does not give up easily, and demonstrates unflagging enthusiasm throughout the case."

- Legal 500 2015

Knowledgeable, practical and helpful

- Legal 500 2014



He makes well-timed decisions to meet the needs of the situation.

- Legal 500 2014

works very hard, and relishes a good challenge

- Legal 500 2013

a very good grasp of complex factual and legal issues

- Legal 500 2012