



[Home](#) ♦ [Our People](#) ♦ [James Freeman](#)

James Freeman

♦ [Back](#)



Year of Call: 2021

Barrister

E: jamesfreeman@enterprisechambers.com

T: 020 7405 9471

Clerk: Raj Lamba

Clerk: Jonathan Mytton

PRACTICE AREAS

Insolvency & Restructuring

Property

Commercial

Wills, Trusts and Probate

Company

Civil Fraud

PROFILE

James regularly appears as sole counsel in the High Court and County Court and is building a broad commercial chancery practice across all of Chambers' areas of work. He has acted as sole counsel in multi-day trials and has cross-examination experience.

James takes instructions on corporate and personal insolvency matters, commercial disputes, company and partnership disputes, civil fraud matters, and disputes involving trusts and real property. He acts at all stages of proceedings across these areas. James is comfortable as sole counsel or assisting as part of a larger team of counsel.

James' recent cases as sole counsel include [Nilsson v Iqbal \[2024\] EWHC 49 \(Ch\)](#) (no proprietary estoppel in an Islamic divorce) and *Taylor and Dix v Mirza* (legal charges had been fraudulently signed by a bankrupt).

James read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford. He graduated with a First Class degree and was awarded the Gibbs Prize in Politics. James also holds an MPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford, which he completed with a full ESRC scholarship. He studied the GDL and the BVS at City Law School, graduating with a Distinction in both. Before coming to the Bar, James worked as a research assistant at the Ministry of Defence.

PRACTICE AREAS

Insolvency & Restructuring

James deals with all aspects of corporate and personal insolvency. He is regularly instructed in insolvency proceedings by both officeholders and private individuals. James' hearings typically concern: disputed winding up and bankruptcy petitions, applications to annul bankruptcies or rescind winding up orders, applications for insolvent administration orders, applications to set aside statutory demands, validation order applications, applications for the extension of administrations, and applications concerning director's misfeasance, preferences and transactions at an undervalue.

Recent cases include:

- Successfully resisting the defence of proprietary estoppel brought by the former Islamic wife of a bankrupt: [Nilsson v Iqbal \[2024\] EWHC 49 \(Ch\)](#)
- Representing the former wife of a bankrupt in a six-day trial of the beneficial ownership of a number of the bankrupt's properties. James' client was successful in showing that legal charges over her property had been forged.
- Representing a former director in a three-day trial involving applications under section 239 of the Insolvency Act 1986
- Successfully annulling the bankruptcy of a Premier League footballer
- Applying to vary a default judgment in a director's misfeasance claim. James was successful in arguing that a liquidator's claims for repayment of a director's loan account were specified sums for the purposes of CPR 12.4
- Acting in a multi-billion-dollar corporate insolvency application involving cross-border elements following the company entering Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in the United States

Property

James is routinely instructed in cases concerning real property and disputes arising out of the landlord and tenant relationship. He appears on matters including: residential and commercial possession proceedings,

relief from forfeiture applications, charging order applications, mortgage assignment disputes, housing disrepair claims, boundary disputes, possession and sale applications, and applications concerning the beneficial ownership of property.

Recent cases include:

- Successfully resisting the defence of proprietary estoppel brought by the former Islamic wife of a bankrupt: [Nilsson v Iqbal \[2024\] EWHC 49 \(Ch\)](#)
- Representing the former wife of a bankrupt in a six-day trial of the beneficial ownership of a number of the bankrupt's properties. James' client was successful in showing that legal charges over her property had been forged.
- An application under s.39(1) of the Senior Courts Act 1981 for the court to execute the transfer of a lease on behalf of a defaulting party
- An application to suspend enforcement of a warrant of possession on medical grounds
- An application to vary a possession and sale order to specify the beneficial interests of co-owners.

Commercial

James frequently takes instructions on cases involving commercial disputes, including: claims for commission payments, claims under the Consumer Credit Act 1974, mortgage repossessions, and bailment disputes.

Recent cases include:

- Appearing as sole counsel against leading counsel in an application to discontinue a claim for breach of a personal guarantee
- Advising an advertiser in its dispute against a Premier League football club concerning whether the termination of its contract was valid
- Drafting proceedings in a claim for unpaid commission payments arising out of introductory services in the telecommunications sector
- Appearing as sole counsel in a one-day trial concerning the interpretation of repayment provisions in an employment contract

Wills, Trusts and Probate

James acts on a broad range of matters involving areas of probate and trusts law. His experience in this area includes: contentious will interpretation on behalf of executors and beneficiaries, advising executors and trustees on their duties under complex trust arrangements, and claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.

Recent cases include:

- Advising a trustee on whether they had breached the rule against self-dealing by purchasing property from the trust with the consent of the parent of a minor beneficiary
- Drafting a defence and counterclaim concerning whether a beneficiary under a will had wrongfully taken money from his mother's bank accounts prior to her death

- Advising a beneficiary whether he can enforce an oral agreement made with a co-beneficiary concerning each other's entitlements to the proceeds of their mother's estate

Company

James' cases often raise issues of company or partnership law, including: applications to register charges out of time with Companies House, claims for breaches of duty against current and former directors, and disputes arising out of implied terms within partnership agreements.

Recent cases include:

- Representing a former director in a three-day trial involving a misfeasance application brought by the company's liquidators
- Reviewing disclosure in a £100m+ claim brought by a technology company against its former directors. The company alleges that the directors acted in breach of their duties under the Companies Act 2006 in causing the company to enter into contracts in a new area of technology
- Advising a security company on a claim against a former director who founded a rival company with the benefit of insider information
- Representing the claimant in partnership proceedings seeking to recover unpaid intra-partnership consulting fees

Civil Fraud

James is able to advise on disputes concerning allegations of fraud, including Norwich Pharmacal orders and claims involving fraudulent misrepresentation.

Recent cases include:

- Representing the former wife of a bankrupt in a six-day trial of the beneficial ownership of a number of the bankrupt's properties. James' client was successful in showing that legal charges over her property had been forged.
- An application brought against a franchisor following fraudulent misrepresentations made to the franchisee about the level of profits expected within the franchise
- Appearing for a major bank to defend a Norwich Pharmacal application
- An application to set aside an investment contract for fraudulent misrepresentation

SIGNIFICANT CASES

Nilsson v Iqbal [2024]
EWHC 49 (Ch)

James acted for the officeholder in a claim for possession and sale of a bankrupt's former matrimonial home. James successfully resisted the defence of proprietary estoppel brought by the former Islamic wife of the bankrupt.

Dix and Taylor v Mirza

James acted for the former wife of a bankrupt in a six-day trial concerning the validity of various trusts and charges over the bankrupt's property. James' client was successful in showing that her signature on two legal charges over jointly owned property had been forged, notwithstanding a solicitor having purportedly witnessed her signature.

CAREER AND ASSOCIATIONS

Associations

Chancery Bar Association
Commercial Bar Association

Education

2021: BVS, City Law School (Distinction)
2020: GDL, City Law School (Distinction)
2019: MPhil, International Relations, Lincoln College, Oxford (Merit)
2017: BA, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Magdalen College, Oxford (First Class)

Awards

2020: Denise Pannick Scholarship, Gray's Inn
2019: Sir James Hunt Scholarship, Gray's Inn
2019: Postgraduate Scholarship, City Law School
2017: Sloane-Robinson Scholarship for MPhil tuition and costs, ESRC
2015: Gibbs Prize for best Politics score, Oxford University



LONDON

9 Old Square
Lincoln's Inn

London
WC2A 3SR

T 020 7405 9471
E london@enterprisechambers.com

BRISTOL

60 Queen Square
Bristol
BS1 4JZ

T 0117 450 7920
E bristol@enterprisechambers.com

LEEDS

Fountain House
4 South Parade
Leeds
LS1 5QX

T 0113 246 0391
E leeds@enterprisechambers.com

NEWCASTLE

65 Quayside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 3DE

T 0191 222 3344
E newcastle@enterprisechambers.com

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

CONNECT WITH US



