



JAMES ROBOTOM

Year of call
2009

James has a multi-disciplinary practice, with particular emphasis on and experience in tort law (including clinical negligence and abuse work), inquests and inquiries, public law, crime, and human rights and equality law. James' multi-disciplinary practice allows him to advise in complex claims where practice areas may overlap.

James' appellate work includes the decisions of the EAT, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court in *Onu and Akwivu* [2016] UKSC 31, and the Court of Appeal in *Rowstock v Jessemey* [2014] 1 WLR 3615, and *T v HM Coroner for West Yorkshire* [2018] 2 WLR 211. He represented the intervener in the Supreme Court in *A&B v CICA* [2018] 1 WLR 5361.

James is listed as a leading junior in the inquests and inquiries and clinical negligence sections of the Legal 500 2021 and in inquests and inquiries in Chambers and Partners UK Bar Guide 2021.

James is on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Panel of preferred counsel and the Attorney General's Panel of civil Counsel at B Level.

James has particular experience in relation to the law of modern slavery and human trafficking.. He appeared in the Supreme Court in 2016 in *Onu v Akwivu* and in 2020 in *A&B v CICA*. He represents the victims of the Kozeesleep and Operation Fort human trafficking conspiracies in their compensation claims against companies that failed to prevent forced labour in the UK. In 2018 he represented a victim of modern slavery in her successful Criminal Injuries Compensation appeal to the First Tier Tribunal on the basis that servitude constitutes a crime of violence. James is currently undertaking a PhD at King's College London on modern slavery, tort, and human rights law. His multi-disciplinary practice allows him to advise in relation to human trafficking and modern slavery cases which intersect several practice areas, domestic and international law. In 2019 he was invited to give evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee's Inquiry into modern slavery, In 2016 he was nominated for the Bar Pro Bono award for his work on behalf of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.

James' recent work includes the EHRC's assessment of Premier League football clubs' compliance with their equality law duties towards disabled supporters; being instructed by victims of the Windrush scandal to bring

civil claims against the Home Office, advising the EHRC on the provision of reasonable adjustments to defendants with mental disabilities in the criminal justice system, advising the CPS in relation to the prosecutions arising from the Hillsborough disaster; the Mander v Adopt Berkshire race discrimination claim regarding approving couples of adoption, and several high-profile inquests.

James is the Secretary of the Access to Justice and Legal Aid Committee of the International Bar Association.

James' previous directory recommendations include the following:

"He is very good at explaining things to clients and being easily accessible. He is also good on his feet and on paper too." "He is very impressive in complex cases, and he can do a very broad range of work which is helpful in inquests where specialisms can overlap." Chambers and Partner 2016

"He is realistic. He identifies the points that are worth pursuing and he is tenacious when questioning witnesses without ever alienating a jury. He is tenacious but fair, which gets him the answers he is looking for." Chambers and Partner 2017

"He always goes the extra mile and is a very approachable barrister. He has a very good knowledge across the fields of inquests, human rights and public law." Chambers and Partner 2018

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence & Personal Injury Litigation

James is frequently instructed in all aspects of injury-related civil litigation. He specialises in claimant clinical negligence work but also represents claimants and defendants across the full range of personal injury work.

James has particular expertise in claims involving mental injuries and mental health care. His mental health expertise is closely related to his inquest practice. He regularly represents clients in relation to high value settlements in his areas of expertise.

James has been recognised as a leading practitioner for his representation of families in coronial proceedings including Article 2 cases and those involving mental health care since 2015.

James has developed a particular practice in representing victims of modern slavery in civil and Criminal Injuries Compensation Claims. He is regularly instructed in relation to modern slavery claims against perpetrators, corporate bodies, and the state. He is currently instructed by victims of two of the biggest modern slavery conspiracies in the UK, the Kozeesleep case, which resulted in the first conviction of a factory owner for modern slavery offences, and the Operation Fort case which resulted in convictions in Birmingham in 2019.

Appointments

- CPS Prosecutor (Grade 3)
- Equality & Human Rights Commission's Panel
- Serious Fraud Office Panel of Counsel (B)

Memberships

- INQUEST
- AvMA
- Human Rights Lawyers Association