

39 Essex Chambers
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James Strachan KC

Year of call: 1996 | Silk: 2013

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Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

"An outstanding lawyer, who is a pleasure to work with. If you've got a seemingly unwinnable case he's the only one that's going to win it..." Chambers and Partners

James Strachan KC has an extensive practice in administrative and public law, planning and environment, major infrastructure and DCOs, compulsory purchase and compensation, local government, financial services and commercial regulatory law, human rights and privacy.

He is recommended in Administrative and Public Law, Civil Liberties and Human Rights, Environment and Planning by the current editions of both the UK Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, who describe him as "a superb lawyer".

James was named as 'Environmental and Planning Silk of the Year' at the Chambers and Partners Bar Awards 2016 and shortlisted as 'Environmental and Planning Silk of the Year 2020'.



Areas of expertise

Public and Administrative Law

Planning and Environment

Financial Services and Commercial Regulation

Human Rights and Civil Liberties

Information and Media

Information and Media

James has a particular interest in privacy and media law, having acted in cases concerning breach of confidence, protection from harassment and protection of reputation and having appeared as a witness before House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee on Privacy and Media Intrusion.

Recommendations

"He's very cerebral and his advocacy style is understated but measured, and judges really listen to him" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Administrative and Public

"A very methodical and meticulous advocate who has a lovely style" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Administrative and Public

"Top of the tree intellectually and in dealing with clients; his work product is consistently at a very high standard indeed" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Administrative and Public

"A real tactician who is able to steer a clear course through the most complex disputes. He is also a ruthless cross-examiner" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Planning

"He has an excellent style and is tenacious and easy to deal with" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Planning

"Amazing in the way he calmly absorbs huge amounts of evidence and information and then presents a case that is both compelling and coherent" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Environment

"... extremely clever. He's a really excellent advocate and comes across in an understated way is no less powerful for it" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Human Rights / Civil Liberties

"He has a razor-sharp mind and is a very strategic thinker, as well as a very persuasive advocate" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Local Government

"He's absolutely brilliant and one of the nicest people you could ever meet" Chambers and Partners 2020 - Local Government

"A highly experienced public lawyer. He is very intelligent, knows the area very well and is a fine advocate" The Legal 500 2020 - Administrative and Public

"Special note should be made of the 'text book' way that James conducted his cross examination of the objector's witnesses and the way that he extracted concession after concession leaving the objector with no alternative but to withdraw" The Legal 500 2020 Planning

"He has a calm and pleasant manner in court but is ruthlessly effective in cross-examination" The Legal 500 2020

"Super-bright, always two steps ahead of everyone else in the courtroom. ..." The Legal 500 2020 Civil Liberties and Human Rights

"He has a deep knowledge of Financial Services law which he deploys to great effect, and is a tenacious and technically proficient advocate." The Legal 500 2020 Financial Services

Appointments

Appointed Deputy High Court Judge – September 2018

Appointed Queen's Counsel – 2013

Attorney General's Counsel to the Crown 'A' Panel – appointed March 2008

Attorney General's Counsel to the Crown 'B' Panel – appointed March 2004

Attorney General's Counsel to the Crown 'C' Panel – appointed March 2001

Welsh Assembly Government Panel from 2009 – 2012

Memberships

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- COMBAR
 - ALBA
 - PEBA

Qualifications

Winchester College

St Peter's College, Oxford University BA (Hons) (1st Class)

Diploma in Law College of Law (Commendation) (1994-5)

BVC Inns of Court School of Law (Outstanding) (1995-6)

Scholarships and Prizes

1991-3 Steven Latner Scholarship, St Peter's College Oxford

1995 Harmsworth Major Entrance Exhibition to Middle Temple

1996 Baron Dr VerHeyden de Lancey Award for highest Middle Templar BVC Result

1999 Pegasus Scholar to Mallesons Stephen Jacques, Sydney, Australia

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