



# James Picken

Year of Call: 2004

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## Overview

James Picken is a Barrister specialising in private family law and financial remedy. He was appointed as a Recorder of the Family Court (Midland Circuit) in January 2016.

James is instructed in all areas of private law and particularly in cases of legal and factual complexity. Such issues often involve applications seeking the international relocation of children, whether on a permanent or temporary basis to non-Hague Convention countries, disputes as to the habitual residence of children, or relocation within the jurisdiction.

James' specialism is financial remedy proceedings concerning married and unmarried partners. James' practice involves applications under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, the Civil Partnership Act 2004, the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 and applications pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989. James has appeared both at first instance and on appeal in such matters.

## Practice Areas

### Private Law Children

Private Law Children

James is instructed in all areas of private law and particularly in cases of legal and factual complexity. Such issues often involve applications seeking the international relocation of children, whether on a permanent or temporary basis to non-Hague Convention countries, disputes as to the habitual residence of children, or relocation within the jurisdiction.

James' private law practice regularly involves intractable disputes and implacably hostile parents, where there are allegations of violence, non-accidental injury or sexual abuse and where the court is considering transferring where a child lives from one carer to another.

James regularly acts in applications for specific issue orders relating to children undergoing medical procedures, where matters of religion or schooling are in dispute, and where there are issues as to the name by which a child should be known.

In private law proceedings James represents parents, other family members and children through their rule 16.4 Guardian.

James is able to accept instructions on a [Direct Access](#) basis.

## Family - Finance

James' specialism is financial remedy proceedings concerning married and unmarried partners. James' practice involves applications under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, the Civil Partnership Act 2004, the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 and applications pursuant to Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989. James has appeared both at first instance and on appeal in such matters.

The financial remedy proceedings in which James is instructed frequently involve high net worth cases of substantial complexity before District, Circuit and High Court Judges. Commonly, the cases in which James is instructed include: international and jurisdictional issues, the interests of third parties, complex company structures, trust assets, large pension assets and farming matters.

James is often instructed early on to advise in anticipation of proceedings, or in an effort to resolve matters without the intervention of the court and prides himself on being able to give clear, realistic and commercial advice. James is happy to represent clients in all forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution, including arbitrations.

James is regularly instructed to provide lecturing and training to professional clients in respect of both current issues in matrimonial finance and advocacy in such proceedings.

## Qualifications

LLB (Hons)

## Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

## Appointments

James was appointed as a Recorder of the Family Court (Midland Circuit) in January 2016.

## Recommendations

**Chambers & Partners 2020:** "He is well prepared and his conferences are structured and cover every aspect of the client's case. His manner is calm and approachable. He takes the time to explain matters thoroughly to clients." "He's experienced in dealing with ancillary relief cases, and has a calm and thorough approach with clients."

**Chambers & Partners 2019:** "Renowned for his attention to detail in financial matters." "A reassuringly excellent barrister. You know that the case is immaculately prepared and his understated demeanour means that he engenders trust easily." "He grasps issues quickly and has fantastic drafting skills."

**Chambers & Partners 2018:** "He is softly spoken but has steel running through him; he is so effective and really impressive." "Displays fantastic attention to detail and his technical drafting is excellent."

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