Cooley

James Maton

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London

Commercial Litigation
International Arbitration
Public International Law
Crisis Management
Product Compliance and Product Litigation
Investment Treaty Arbitration
Blockchain Technology and Tokenization
Asset Recovery
CooleyREG

James is co-partner in charge of the London office, heads Cooley's versatile UK disputes practice and is a member of the firm's compensation committee. He is a solicitor advocate and acts for companies in a broad range of commercial, contractual, privacy and product compliance disputes – whether resolved in court proceedings or arbitration – including defending group actions. James' cases are often multijurisdictional, and his work is particularly focused on the technology and manufacturing sectors. He conducts and co-ordinates internal investigations, and he is experienced at helping companies manage and resolve the numerous legal and reputational challenges that unexpected crises can present.

James has advised states worldwide on sensitive public international law issues and on domestic and international remedies for the corrupt activities of public officials.

James is recommended in UK and international legal directories for asset recovery and civil fraud, commercial litigation, international arbitration and public international law.

James' representative experience includes:

- Defending a social networking app against a group actions alleging misuse of sensitive data
- Advising online marketplaces on product safety and other regulatory issues, related disputes and investigations
- Acting for companies in the Solaris SE Group in Commercial Court proceedings against a cryptocurrency exchange for alleged wrongful termination of a contract to provide debit cards to exchange customers
- Acting for Infinni Innovation SA in a Commercial Court claim for alleged cyber hacks and scraping of confidential data by a competitor, including obtaining and maintaining an interim injunction
- Advising tech companies on sensitive privacy issues and claims arising from the alleged misuse or loss of data
- Acting in a wide range of contractual and commercial disputes in the Commercial Court and in arbitration under International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and ad hoc rules
- Acting in proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court or in arbitration concerning the design, construction, operation and/or repair of assets and technology
- Conducting internal investigations for clients and helping to resolve the issues and disputes that arise,

often in crisis situations where there is a significant threat to the business or reputation of the client
- Advising a manufacturer in a substantial criminal investigation examining alleged breaches of product safety laws regarding product design and the implementation of product recalls
- Representing the claimant in an UNCITRAL arbitration brought under NAFTA Chapter 11 seeking compensation exceeding US$2 billion for the arbitrary denial of an environmental permit for a subsea phosphate dredging project
- Advising a government on various land and maritime boundary disputes with neighbouring countries and on a range of related commercial disputes arising under joint venture arrangements and contracts between state-owned companies of the client and its neighbours
- Advising governments in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean on English and foreign civil proceedings seeking to recover the proceeds of corruption from former leaders, senior public officials and their associates

Publications and speaking engagements

- Co-author, ‘Corruption and Misuse of Public Office’, Oxford University Press, third edition (2017) and fourth edition (2024)
- Speaker, ‘How to Crack a Crisis (and Not Let the Crisis Crack You)’, The Lawyer’s GC Summit, May 2021
- Quoted, ‘The Morning Risk Report: UK Brings Its First Wealth Orders’, The Wall Street Journal, March 2018

Education

BPP University Law School Legal Practice Course, 1996

New College, University of Oxford BA, 1994

Admissions & Credentials

England and Wales

Rankings & Accolades

The Legal 500 UK: Leading Lawyer in Dispute Resolution – Public International Law (2026)

The Legal 500 UK: Dispute Resolution – Commercial Litigation: Premium (2026)

The Legal 500 UK: Crime, Fraud and Licensing – Fraud: Civil (2026)

The Legal 500 UK: Dispute Resolution – International Arbitration (2026)

Chambers UK: Public International Law

Who’s Who Legal Asset Recovery: Lawyers