James J. Pickstock

Skadden

Associate, London

Financial Institutions



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Education

A.M., University of Cambridge, 2023

G.D.L., BPP Law School, 2022

B.A., University of Cambridge, 2019

Bar Admissions

England & Wales

Languages

German

Spanish

James Pickstock advises on a wide range of corporate and regulatory matters, including U.K., cross-border and global mergers and acquisitions, group restructurings, reinsurance transactions and Part VII transfers, as well as governance and conduct issues. Mr. Pickstock also counsels clients on matters at Lloyd's of London, including acquisitions and disposals, new syndicates, special purpose arrangements and alternative structures. His clients include reinsurers, asset managers, private equity institutions and other forms of financial sponsors.

Mr. Pickstock's representations include advising:

- BMS Group, a portfolio company of Preservation Capital Partners, Eurazeo and British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, on the sale of BMS Re, US, its U.S. reinsurance brokerage business, to Willis Re
- Preservation Capital Partners on the sale of its portfolio company, Optio Group, a global high-growth specialty managing general agent platform, to funds managed by Cinven and La Caisse (CDPQ)
- FTV Capital on the acquisition of Carbon Underwriting, a specialist independent Managing General Underwriter (MGU) and Lloyd's Syndicate
- JAB Insurance on the acquisition of Utmost Life and Pensions (ULP) from Utmost Group plc. ULP is a U.K. life and pensions platform that serves approximately 290,000 pensioners and has more than £5 billion of assets under management
- OAK Global on the establishment of:
  - private equity-backed Syndicate 2843 at Lloyd's, which operates under the strategic business unit OAK Reinsurance and commenced underwriting on 1 January 2025
  - private equity-backed Syndicate 1440 at Lloyd's, which operates under the strategic business unit OAK Enterprise and obtained permission from Lloyd's to commence underwriting on 1 January 2026
- Starr Insurance on the acquisition of the IQUW Group, a leading Lloyd's specialty insurer, reinsurer and managing agent, from Aquiline Capital Partners, Abry Partners LLC and management shareholders
- Optio Group Limited on its acquisition of Circles Group. S.A.
- BlackRock as part of a consortium of investors, including Allianz and T&D Holdings, on the acquisition of Viridium Group at an enterprise value of €3.5 billion
- The Acorn Group Limited on its acquisition of My Policy Limited and Minerva.Science Limited
- InEvo Re (established by Macquarie Asset Management) on its first pension risk transfer life reinsurance transaction
- a Gibraltar-based insurance carrier in relation to an equity refinancing, debt restructuring and capital remediation plan with the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission
- Helios Underwriting plc in relation to governance matters