



### Melanie James

Partner

GLOBAL CO-CHAIR, INSURANCE SECTOR

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Melanie James has over 17 years' experience in (re)insurance transactional and regulatory matters, gained both in-house and in private practice. Melanie focuses on corporate insurance and advises on all aspects of non-contentious insurance matters.

She regularly advises on complex cross-border insurance and reinsurance mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, reorganisations (including SE and cross border mergers), portfolio transfers and the structuring, formation and licensing of insurance and reinsurance platforms across Europe. Melanie also advises on PRA, FCA and Lloyd's regulation and other corporate matters, including reinsurance transactions, bancassurance, capital structuring and Lloyd's capacity offers and auctions.

Prior to joining DLA Piper, Melanie spent eight years within the Corporate Insurance Group of Dewey & LeBoeuf and was, prior to joining Dewey & LeBoeuf, Head of Operations and a Director of a Lloyd's Broker in the City of London.

## EXPERIENCE

- Acted for The Warranty Group (Target) on its \$1.5 billion sale by Onex to the TPG Group
- Advised London AIM listed, Tawa plc (renamed Pro Global Insurance Solutions plc) on the complex three-stage reorganization including a de merger, capital reduction and "de listing" of its risk carrier business
- Advised Amlin plc on its pan-European restructuring involving the cross-border merger of a UK and a Dutch insurer to create a new Societas Europaea. Due to its complex and multijurisdictional nature, DLA Piper offices in 13 jurisdictions were involved in the transaction
- Acted for leading Swiss insurer on the transfer of its Dutch insurance business by way of DNB approved portfolio transfer
- Acted for a UK headquartered global insurer on its proposed acquisition of an Italian insurance Portfolio by way of Part VII transfer
- Acted for Compre on its corporate reorganisation involving the cross-border merger of a UK and French insurer to form a new Societas Europaea

## RELATED SERVICES

- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions

## RELATED SECTORS

- Insurance

- Acted for Compre Group on Project Madrid
- Acted for Habib Bank AG Zurich on its intra-group restructuring by way of Part VII transfer
- Acted for Eagle Star Insurance Company on the transfer of \$273 million in gross liabilities of its general insurance business to RiverStone Insurance (UK) through a competitive auction sale
- Advised Fosun on its minority investment in Ironshore Inc and its subsequent acquisition of 100% of Ironshore Inc

## CREDENTIALS

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### Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

### Prior Experience

2012 to date, DLA Piper

2003 to 2012, New York based global law firm

1998 to 2003, Campion McCall Group

### Recognitions

- Melanie featured in Legal Week's 2016 UK Rising stars: up-and-coming M&A partners across the UK.
- Melanie was instrumental in DLA Piper's UK office being awarded Insurance Law Firm of the Year in 2014.

### Education

- Coventry University, LLB (Hons)
- College of Law, London

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### **FCA releases report on general insurance pricing practices**

18 October 2019

Insurance Horizons Series

Following a thematic review the Financial Conduct Authority has released its interim report on General Insurance pricing practices, focusing on home and motor insurance.

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#### **Brexit for the insurance sector: No-deal regimes in the UK and Europe**

17 September 2019

Insurance Horizons Series

This guide has been prepared by DLA Piper's insurance regulation team to provide a high level overview of post-Brexit regimes that are being implemented in key EU markets, and in the UK. It is intended to help insurers and intermediaries with their planning in the run up to a possible no-deal Brexit.

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#### **UK Court refuses to sanction transfer of annuity portfolio - Re Prudential Assurance Company**

23 August 2019

On 16 August 2019, the UK High Court declined to sanction the transfer of a portfolio of annuity policies from Prudential Company Assurance Ltd (Prudential) to Rothesay Life PLC (Rothesay) under Part VII of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

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- "Insurance Sector Trends: Forecast for 2018 and 2017 Year End Review," Insurance Update, February 5, 2018
- Insurance Update - 2015 Year End Review and Forecast for 2016
- Insurance Update - 2014 Year End Review and Forecast for 2015