



Melanie James

Partner

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Melanie James has over 20 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 reinsurance transactions, 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 bancassurance, capital structuring and Lloyd's capacity offers and auctions.

Prior to joining DLA Piper, Melanie spent eight years within a global Corporate Insurance Group and was previously 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

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

Publications

Brexit for the insurance sector – Cross border business between the EU and the UK

1 March 2021

Insurance Horizons

Regulatory regimes for firms which can no longer passport rights after Brexit and communications from insurance supervisory authorities. A guide for insurers and insurance intermediaries.

United Kingdom - Brexit for the Insurance Sector

1 March 2021

Insurance Horizons

Following the end of the Brexit transition period (31 December 2020), EEA-authorized insurers and insurance intermediaries can no longer rely on passporting rights to carry out regulated insurance activities in the UK.

Third edition of *The Price of Data Security*, a guide to the insurability of GDPR fines across Europe

27 May 2020

We've partnered with global broker Aon for the third year running for the updated edition of *The Price of Data Security*, a guide to the insurability of GDPR fines across Europe that includes common issues faced by organisations in international cyber scenarios and illustrated with practical case studies.

GDPR has undeniably revolutionised the data protection regime and significantly affects how organisations worldwide collect, use, manage, protect, and share personal data that comes into their possession – with significant fines for non-compliance. Within the last year alone, a EUR18 million fine was issued against a national postal operator and a EUR14.5 million fine against a real estate company.

PRA outlines 2020 priorities for general insurance

11 November 2019
Insurance Horizons

On 5 November, the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) published two letters. Insurance firms should consider these letters carefully at board level and within their actuarial function. In this briefing we discuss the letters further and what steps firms should take to address the issues raised.

FCA releases report on general insurance pricing practices

18 October 2019
Insurance Horizons

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

- "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

NEWS

DLA Piper partner Melanie James recognised in The Lawyer's Hot 100 list

28 January 2020

DLA Piper's Corporate partner and Global Co-Chair of Insurance Melanie James has been recognised in The Lawyer's prestigious Hot 100 list for 2020. The list, published today by UK legal magazine The Lawyer, celebrates 'the standout lawyers in the UK – the most daring, innovative and creative lawyers from in-house, private practice and the Bar.'
