



James Davison

Partner

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James Davison is a commercially focused and innovative Restructuring Partner. He has vast experience in corporate rescue and turnaround and typically works alongside corporates and their management teams, investors and financial institutions to protect and maximize value.

James regularly advises on accelerated M&A transactions, debt and capital restructurings, and work outs and has led high profile restructuring mandates in a variety of sectors including hospitality and leisure, travel, retail and consumer, industrials and financial services. He has completed secondments to two lending institutions, as well as to private equity investor, Lone Star Funds, and has a rounded experience of stakeholder dynamics in complex restructuring situations.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English

- Restructuring

- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Financial Services
- Real Estate
- Industrials

English

- Leading a restructuring and accelerated divestment programme for a prominent US private equity investor, completing a series of hotel portfolio disposals with a value of +GBP700 million.
- Advising Deloitte as CVA nominees and supervisors in connection with the rescue of historic British retailer, Clark Shoes.
- Advising Gourmet Burger Kitchen (and subsequently the group's appointed administrators) in connection with the sale of the majority of its dining and franchise business to Boparan Restaurants Group.
- Acting for Bibby Line Group in relation to the recapitalisation and divestment of Bibby Offshore via a scheme of arrangement.
- Acting for a significant financial creditor in relation to the insolvency of Thomas Cook.
- Acting for Shearings Group through a number of phases of reorganisation.
- Advising Metalysis, a cutting edge and politically sensitive business in the metals sector, in relation to its fundraising and subsequent sale to Power Resources Group.
- Advising PwC as administrators of UK Coal through numerous phases of the group's restructuring.

- Acting for members of the King & Wood Mallesons global network in relation to the rescue of part of the firm's legacy EUME business, maintaining the firm's presence in key locations.
- Acting for the LA Fitness Group in connection with its financial and operational restructuring, including interlocking CVA's.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- BPP Law School, 2005
- University of Sheffield, 2004

Memberships

- Member of the Law Society of England and Wales

INSIGHTS

Publications

So what now for landlords and tenants following the lifting of restrictions

25 March 2022

In March 2020 the Government began restricting actions that could be taken to recover unpaid rent. A ban on forfeiture for non-payment of rent was introduced in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and restrictions on the use of winding-up petitions and statutory demands (generally) were subsequently introduced in the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (CIGA).

Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill

12 November 2021

The Government has published draft legislation for England and Wales, with the aim of tackling accrued rent arrears for businesses which were forced to close during the pandemic. The Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill provides for the ringfencing of rent debt built up by businesses forced to close during the pandemic and establishes a binding arbitration system to determine what happens to that ringfenced debt. Alongside the Bill, the Government has also published a revised Code of Practice to be used by landlords and tenants to resolve disputes over unpaid rent arrears, which replaces the previous version from June 2020.

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A shop window of opportunity: Act now to recover

6 August 2021

Law à la Mode

Challenges in bricks-and-mortar retail are not new. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated many key consumer trends away from the high street, forcing acute (and potentially permanent) reductions in footfall as well as widespread store closures.

Administrations: A new (restructuring) plan of action?

20 July 2021

After a somewhat stop/start convening hearing concluded earlier this month, Amicus Finance PLC (in administration) was the first company given the opportunity to convene creditor meetings for a restructuring plan whilst in administration.

New Look CVA challenge dismissed by High court

19 May 2021

The restructuring market has been eagerly anticipating the judgments in the New Look and Regis CVA challenges. The New Look judgment was handed down on 10 May 2021 and the Regis Judgment followed on 17 May 2021.

UK Restructuring Plan Update: One further sanctioned case, one giant step forward

19 May 2021

Given the powerful provisions contained in the Act for dealing with both secured and unsecured creditors, creditor cram-downs and cram-ups, and notwithstanding the introduction of far reaching insolvency and restructuring reforms in other jurisdictions, the Restructuring Plan is a powerful new tool in the arsenal that will need to be considered as part of contingency and implementation planning for any restructuring.

Super Scheme or Super CVA?

31 March 2021

The UK Restructuring Plan took its first foray down the well-trodden path of lease restructuring over the last week. The Restructuring Plan has been used through to court sanction in five cases so far: however, none has sought to compromise landlord claims, the preferred tool for which has until now been the CVA.
