

# Biography



## James Kitching

Counsel | Banking & Corporate | British Virgin Islands

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✉️ james.kitching@harneys.com

### Expertise

Corporate , Digital Assets & Blockchain , Private Equity ,  
Equity Capital Markets

James Kitching is a counsel in the Corporate practice group in our BVI office. He advises on all aspects of corporate and commercial law, often acting as a “trusted advisor” throughout a business’ lifecycle.

He has particular experience with start-up/scale-up businesses, especially within the Digital Assets and Blockchain sector. James has significant knowledge of all types of Web3 projects and has advised on numerous token offerings, platform launches, trading operations, and other crypto projects. He has represented clients across the sector including major video game developers, exchanges, blockchains, and traditional and non-traditional DeFi ventures.

James served as BVI counsel to Berachain on the launch of its groundbreaking proof-of-liquidity blockchain. His clients also include RavenQuest, the most streamed Web3 game, and Avail, founded by Polygon co-founder Anurag Arjun.

He is also closely involved with the firm’s publicly listed clients, working on IPOs, providing ongoing corporate and commercial support, and specialising in advising special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), including listings and business combinations. Notably, he advised ACG Metals – one of the most notable BVI, UK listed SPACs – on its initial listing and first business combination, and supported WISEKey on the spin-out of its subsidiary, SEALSQ, as a separately listed US entity.

James is recognised by his peers and legal directories as a rising star and is one of the driving forces behind the firm’s H3: Digital Assets and Blockchain practice.

He joined us in 2021, having previously practised with the transatlantic law firm Womble Bond Dickinson LLP and in-house at British insurer Liverpool Victoria. Prior to joining us, James was an elected Council Member of the Law Society of England and Wales and sat on the Executive Committee of the Junior Lawyers Division.

## Recommendations

James is ranked as a "rising star".

– IFLR1000, 2023

"James is extremely helpful in navigating the technical legal requirements on one hand and the client's practical needs on the other. I value his commitment to service and his outstanding responsiveness."

– Client feedback – Partner, US law firm

## Experience

### Digital Assets & Blockchain

Leading the Harneys team on working with Berachain (TVL US\$3 billion at genesis) on the launch of its groundbreaking proof-of-liquidity blockchain, in the BVI, to ensure it took place smoothly.

Advising South America based Aligned, a decentralized verification layer, with all aspects of its corporate and commercial lifecycle – initial fundraising, formation of the foundation and token issue, regulatory opinions, the terms of sale of ALIGN, engagement with market makers, as well as other day to day advice.

Providing day to day corporate and commercial support to SAIHEAT, a Eurasia-based energy saving bitcoin mining operator, after initially advising on its business combination with TradeUP Global Corporation (a SPAC).

### Corporate & Commercial

Advising ACG Acquisition Company Limited (ACG), a SPAC incorporated in the BVI, on its initial public offering and standard listing on the London Stock Exchange's Main Market and on its subsequent \$290m de-SPAC – the first in London under its new SPAC rules.

Advising Altibbi, a major medical technology company targeting the Middle East and North Africa, on two successful fundraising rounds as well as with ongoing business as usual support.

Advising Latin American leading developer of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical solutions, Procaps Group, on its business combination with Nasdaq listed Union Acquisition Corp. II (a Cayman incorporated SPAC) for an enterprise value of US\$1.1 billion – named "Deal of the Year, Columbia 2021" by Transaction Track Record.

Supporting Central Group in its transactions with the Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund (PIF) to form a new holding structure and governance arrangement in respect of the Selfridges Group, following PIF's total buyout of Signa Group's interest in Selfridges Group.

## Bar Admissions

British Virgin Islands  
2021

England and Wales  
2017

## Education

Bournemouth University (LPC)  
2013

Bournemouth University (GDL)  
2012

University of Nottingham (BA)  
2010

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*requirements on one hand and the client's practical needs on the other. I value his commitment to service and his outstanding responsiveness."*

**Client feedback – Partner, US law firm**