


James Shaw


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James is a partner in the corporate team and a leading transactional venture capital lawyer, advising entrepreneurs, companies and investors through the funding life-cycle.

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He was the co-founder of tech law firm JAG Shaw Baker which merged with Withers to create a new legal offering, Withers tech, in 2018.

James has two decades of experience helping entrepreneurs, high-growth technology based companies and investors navigate their way through multiple rounds of financing, growth, scale-up and exit/liquidity events. He's ranked as a recommended lawyer for Venture Capital in the 2017 edition of the Legal 500.

James is considered to be one of the leading University spin-out lawyers for life sciences companies and he actively advises on spin-out activity from several of the leading Universities in the UK and Scotland including Oxford and Cambridge University. James works as a mentor and speaker with the Oxford Foundry, part of Oxford University's incubator initiative for past and present students.

As a close adviser to many companies and investors, James also acts as Outside General Counsel to a number of innovative science-based companies and is an adviser to Parkinson's UK Biotech Business Group.

And through the combination of innovation and other practice areas, James is helping to drive firm-wide Global initiatives to address the rapidly changing landscape of more traditional sectors such Real Estate, Hospitality, Sports and Fashion and Luxury Brands.

James is a graduate of both St Andrews University (BSc Hons) and Edinburgh University (LLB), and is passionate about innovation and the environment. As a Scottish qualified lawyer, James also holds a committee position on the Society of Scottish Lawyers in London and is a Writer to Her Majesty's Signet.

Track record

Elasmogen

We advised biologics company Elasmogen Ltd on securing a £8 million investment round. The funding round was led by BGF and Scottish National Investment Bank with additional support from existing investor Scottish Enterprise. The Withers tech team also advises Elasmogen on commercial matters such as complex licensing and collaboration agreements and IP protection.

Investment into Cazoo

Advising an investor syndicate led by Stride VC on the multiple rounds of finance (to ultimately SPAC) in Cazoo Ltd, the used car marketplace.

Investors

Representing Stride.VC and a series of other investors on the multiple rounds of financing of Cazoo Ltd, the disruptive start-up to the second hand car market in the UK

Sweet Capital

Representing Sweet Capital (the private investment fund of the Founders of King.com) - across multiple consumer mobile disruptive investments on a global basis

Fintech disrupter

Representing a Fintech disrupter on its major European Growth Strategy

Global Access Diagnostics

Global Access Diagnostics (GADx) is a leading developer of lateral flow and rapid diagnostic technologies, products and services, offering a full suite of services from concept to validation to manufacturing at flexible volumes. We advised on the formation of GADx by the acquisition of two companies, Mologic and Global Access Diagnostics, by a consortium of social impact investors called Global Access Health. As part of this transition, GADx became a social enterprise, dedicating its profits and mission to improving the health and wellbeing of underserved populations around the world. We also advise on licensing and facilities agreements, manufacturing agreement and customer contracts.

Global Health Diagnostics Ltd

Outside General Counsel to Global Health Diagnostics Ltd

In3Bio

Outside General Counsel to In3Bio - an immuno-oncology business with a pipeline of early stage clinical assets

Grampian BioPartners

Outside General Counsel to Grampian BioPartners - a specialist life science business angel syndicate, able to act as a micro-lead on specialist life-science deals

Talks

- Early Stage Funding, Startup and SME club, 3/8/2018
- Funding AI, VR And AR Startups In MedTech For Growth, February 2018 (panel member)
- What Does The Future Hold For Digital Health? Biotechs and the City, September 2017 (panel member)
- Fintech Phenomena; Cross Border Growth & Success, Digital Freedom Festival, Riga, 2017
- Crossing The Valley Of Death: Funding, Financing & Strategy, Biotech & Money 2016 (panel member)

External publications

Withers talks tech - podcasts

Writer to Her Majesty's Signet and Council Member of the WS Society

A Q & A with James Shaw, Biotech and Money, Drugs & Dealers, May 2016

What You Need To Know About Intellectual Property And Brexit, Financier Worldwide, January 2017

A New Cambrian Era For Biotech Startups, Drugs & Dealers, January 2018

JAG Shaw Baker Thought leadership content

Innovative Financing Instruments, A Better Alternative? 1/23/17

The New World Order Of Innovative Financings, 11/9/16

The Top Four Tips You Need To Prep For A Biotech IPO, 9/12/16

The Effect Of Brexit On Venture Funding, 7/11/2016

In The News: James Shaw Talks To Drugs & Dealers Magazine, 5/13/16

Crossing The Valley Of Death: Funding, Financing And Strategy At Biotech & Money London, 2/3/2016

Mention, A Rare Launch in Europe: A Big New Law Firm Dedicated To Tech Startups, Techcrunch, 9/24/2013

Admissions

The Law Society of Scotland

Education

St Andrews University, BSc Hons

Edinburgh University, LL.B Law

Languages

English

French

Memberships

Society of Scottish Lawyers in London, committee member (President 2017-2020)

Key dates

Year joined: 2018

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