



Colin Manning

Year of call: 1970

“Never flummoxed or flustered”; “a calming presence and a voice of reason”

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Practice Summary

Colin has been an accredited mediator since 1997 (CEDR). He is a Registered Mediator with the Civil Mediation Council and is now one of the most experienced and widely regarded commercial mediators at the Bar. He brings to the mediation process considerable knowledge gained from his wide commercial practice. He is able to relate easily to clients and understand their needs, whilst adopting a commercial, realistic, friendly but firm approach. His mediation services are provided by the mediation group at 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, and is available to provide his services anywhere in the country or abroad.

Colin mediates in a broad range of commercial disputes, including contract, professional negligence of all types, partnership, company, shareholder disputes, construction, employment, property, landlord and tenant, copyright, trusts and probate and international trade. He has conducted several hundred mediations including multi-party disputes, from multi-million pound claims to those involving comparatively small sums. Colin has also acted as joint mediator when required and in “MED/ARB dispute resolution.

He was a founder member of Littleton Chambers Mediation Group, and is Chair of the Bar Council ADR Panel. He is on the commercial mediation sub-group of the CMC Mediation Sectors Committee and on the advisory board for the Jackson ADR Handbook.

Colin has been a barrister for over 40 years and has wide experience in litigating commercial and business law disputes involving contract, international trade, share purchase/sale, partnership, professional and clinical negligence, entertainment and media (in particular film, music and video rights), building and construction, computer (technical and copyright), landlord and tenant and employment. His practice has led him to travel to Paris, Geneva, Chicago Gibraltar and Sierra Leone.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and served as a Recorder for 16 years. In addition, he has chaired Primary Care Trust Tribunal inquiries into the fitness of doctors and dentists to remain on NHS Performers'

Lists. He has also taken evidence on commission for use in foreign proceedings.

Professional Posts

Chair of the Bar Council ADR Panel.

Member of the commercial mediation sub-group of the CMC Mediation Sectors Committee.

Member of the advisory board for the Jackson ADR Handbook.

Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn (2003).

Publications

Main contributor to Sweet & Maxwell's "Civil Appeals".

Training and Lectures

Colin is extremely active in promoting mediation both to the Bar and Solicitors and to a wider audience. He has conducted seminars and workshops both in the UK and abroad, as well as to visiting delegations from European countries. He seeks to advance the cause of mediation generally and has organised and presented the CMC National Conference between 2015 and 2017.

What the Directories Say

Colin Manning "has been an accredited mediator since 1997. His practice covers a wide range of commercial disputes, including contractual issues, professional negligence, company and shareholder disputes, partnership and construction. Manning is also experienced in mediating employment, property, landlord and tenant, trusts and probate, copyright and international trade claims." - Legal 500 2020

Colin Manning "is approachable and courteous while maintaining a tight control of the process. Instructing solicitors appreciate his ability to gain the confidence of both parties in a dispute by virtue of his "gravitas," as well as his piercing intellect and plain-speaking manner."

"Never flummoxed or flustered"; "a calming presence and a voice of reason" in complex mediations. He is hugely experienced in a broad range of commercial and business law disputes. "In a nutshell, he's the sort of guy prepared to go the extra mile." Attracts praise for his "charm and charisma"

Colin Manning "is highly sought after for his skill in mediating fractious disputes in areas including construction, insurance and commercial contracts. Commentators highlight his pragmatism, with one noting: "He excelled in cutting through what could have been a very fact-sensitive exercise, being commercial about it and putting personality to one side."

Colin Manning "made an extremely difficult mediation look effortless".

Client Feedback

"I found his knowledge of the subject matter of the dispute to be unparalleled, when compared with other mediators I have used for such relatively weighty matters. His insistent and probing style, and his ability to advance the situation when faced with some quite obvious obstacles proved excellent."

"thoughtful, considerate, imaginative and persuasive without being overbearing, 'herding' or patronizing. An impossible gap narrowed with finesse and elegance"

"Colin had a good grasp of the issues and was very patient in a case which involved detail"

"Very good, he was very helpful and worked very hard to get the dispute successfully resolved"

"very neutral and even-handed. Colin was very skilful in asking the appropriate questions (of the clients) to help the process"

"This very painful experience for (the client) was very much ameliorated by your very professional, empathetic and sympathetic manner. I am amazed that a case that I would not have given very great odds on settling has resulted in a huge weight being lifted from my client's shoulders"

"Excellent throughout. The mediator was flexible in his approach and provided relevant information in advance and throughout. He remained positive and focused despite it being a challenging day"

"Colin had fully acquainted himself with the facts of the case and identified the live issues and, furthermore, adopted a proactive and friendly approach"

"Colin did a first class job. He handles the parties and their advisers with courtesy and aplomb. He succeeded in getting everyone to reality test at an early stage."

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