



Iain Christie

Year of call: 1989

"Perceptive" and "user-friendly"

Legal 500

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Practice Summary

My legal career has been varied and high level. For the past 5 years, I have practised exclusively as a civil, commercial, workplace and family mediator. Previously I was a Foreign Office lawyer in which capacity I regularly negotiated on behalf of the UK at the United Nations and Council of Europe. I returned to private practice in 2000 and joined the media and information law chambers 5RB where I co-founded the leading textbook on the law of privacy. I was on the Attorney General's panel for 10 years and acted for and against media organisations and public bodies in the High Court and European Court of Human Rights. This range of experience as diplomat, advocate, negotiator, adviser and facilitator equips me well to handle any kind of dispute.

Whilst at the FCO I acted for the Government in more than 40 cases before the European Commission and Court of Human Rights. These included landmark decisions concerning libel damages, planning applications, interception of communications, traveller's rights, deportation, invasion of privacy and national security. Whilst at 5RB I acted in various private law proceedings for and against the media and in public law cases, including in a case against the prison service, for which I was nominated for the Bar Pro Bono Award in 2003. My mediation practice, in which I have been appointed in over 100 disputes, covers all areas of civil, commercial, employment and family law. My rate of settlement is second to none.

I became a full-time mediator because I passionately believe in the benefit of resolving disputes through constructive dialogue, avoiding the delays, costs and stress of litigation. Having spent the first half of my career as an advocate I am well aware of the what the alternative to settlement entails. As such, I respect the decision of all those who come to mediation in good faith and go the extra mile to make sure they do not leave without a satisfactory resolution to their dispute. I act with integrity, courage, creativity and determination. In addition to my mediation practice I am a qualified facilitator, coach and professional actor, so I am very comfortable with holding the space during the live, evolving and sometimes emotional process which mediation entails.

Professional Positions

- Secretary, Civil Mediation Council
 - Vice-Chair, Bar Council ADR Committee
 - Director, IMPRESS the Independent Monitor for the Press
 - Bencher, Honourable Society of the Inner Temple (2008)
 - Leadership Fellow, St George's House
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Memberships

- Registered Mediator, Civil Mediation Council
 - Mediator, Family Mediation Council
 - Family Mediators Association
 - Standing Conference of Mediation Advocates
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Publications

- Founding Editor, Tugendhat & Christie: The Law of Privacy and the Media (OUP, 2002 – 2016)
 - Contributor, Blackstone's Guide to the Defamation Act 2013 (OUP, 2013).
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Qualifications/Accreditations

- Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator, Regent's University, 2004
 - Accredited Family Mediator, ADR Group, 2009
 - Accredited Workplace and Employment Mediator, Globis Ltd, 2010
 - Diploma training in Conflict Resolution, Group Facilitation and Counselling Skills, The Forgiveness Project, 2012
 - Professional Imago Facilitator, 2013
 - Certified Daring Way and Dare to Lead Facilitator, 2015
 - NLP certified coach, 2017
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Training and Promotion

Iain is a member of the Association of Mediation Assessors, Trainers and Instructors and is frequently asked to speak at conferences and events promoting mediation. He has taken part in an episode of Clive Anderson's Radio 4 programme Unreliable Evidence advocating the benefits of mediation.

Client Feedback

"Iain had a good manner and made me feel at ease" – Disputant in high-value commercial mediation

"A very able person" – Solicitor in medium value civil mediation

"I was treated with dignity and respect and am very grateful for the help given" – Litigant in small claims mediation

"The mediator played a blinder!" – Solicitor in high value commercial mediation

Reported Cases

- Christie v UK (1994) 78-A D&R 119 – interception of communications (Article 8)
 - Wynne v UK (1995) 19 EHRR 333 – mandatory life sentences (Article 5)
 - Tolstoy Miloslavsky v UK (1995) 20 EHRR 442 – award of libel damages (Article 10)
 - Bryan v UK (1996) 21 EHRR 342 – fairness of planning procedure (Article 6)
 - Hussain v UK (1996) 22 EHRR 1 – detention of juveniles (Article 5)
 - Goodwin v UK (1996) 22 EHRR 123 – disclosure of journalist's source (Article 10)
 - Buckley v UK (1997) 23 EHRR 101 – gypsies' home and family life (Article 8)
 - Stubbings v UK (1997) 23 EHRR 213 – access to court (Articles 6 and 14)
 - Chahal v UK (1997) 23 EHRR 413 – deportation of alien (Articles 3, 5 and 13)
 - Ian Brady v UK (1997) 24 EHRR CD 38 – invasion of privacy (Article 8)
 - Laskey and others v UK (1997) 24 EHRR 39 – private sexual life (Article 8)
 - Earl and Countess Spencer v UK (1998) 25 EHRR CD 105 – invasion of privacy (Article 8)
 - John and Frederick Barclay v UK (Decision of 18 May 1999) – invasion of privacy (Article 8)
 - Seray-Wurie v Charity Commission [2008] EWHC 870 (QB) (for Defendant)
 - Wainwright v United Kingdom (26 September 2006) – invasion of privacy (Articles 3, 8 and 13)
 - Mullins v Macfarlane and the Jockey Club [2006] EWHC 986 (QB) (for Defendants)
 - R (Mullins) v Appeal Board of the Jockey Club [2005] EWHC 2197 (Admin) (for Defendant)
 - Wainwright v Home Office [2004] 2 AC 406 (for Claimants)
 - Musa King v Telegraph Group Ltd [2003] EWHC 1312 (for Defendant)
 - HM Attorney General v Times Newspapers Ltd [2001] 1 WLR 885 (for Defendant)
 - WB v H Bauer Publishing Ltd [2002] EMLR 145 (for Claimant)
 - Lillie and Reed v Newcastle City Council and others [2002] EWHC 1600 (for Defendants)
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