

Tony Hughes MA (Oxon)

IS A QUALIFIED MEDIATOR (Senior Mediator)

General Information

MEDIATION AREAS: Shareholder disputes; partnership disputes; family business disputes; commercial contract disputes; NHS contracts; IT/IP disputes; professional negligence; rights of way, boundary and other property disputes; restrictive covenants and confidential information; employment and workplace; Landlord and Tenant, Medical issues, contentious probate, wills, Inheritance Act claims and proprietary estoppel disputes; multi-party disputes; community, neighbourhood and environmental disputes.

CAREER HISTORY: Awarded an Exhibition in Natural Science to read Law at University College, Oxford. Qualified as a Solicitor with Burges Salmon in 1981. Former equity litigation partner with Morgan Cole (now part of Blake Morgan).

Has considerable experience of representing and advising clients involved in heavyweight General Commercial and Property disputes. Recent disputes have included the following

- Claim by purchaser of business against vendor for compensation for infringing restrictive covenants
- Successful Defence of claim by Landlord against Tenant for recovery of arrears of rent and forfeiture of commercial property, together with associated shareholder dispute
- Partnership dissolution proceedings
- Claims in professional negligence against former solicitors
- Pursuing former director on grounds of fraud
- Defending claim by insolvency practitioner against former director
- Many other shareholder and partnership disputes

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE: Tony is an experienced dispute resolution lawyer with an acute understanding of the problems and pitfalls of the judicial system. He is a passionate advocate of the use of negotiation and mediation in the resolution of disputes and is particularly interested in the psychology of conflict resolution, and the impact of the biases of the subconscious mind on attitudes towards conflict. Tony was accredited as a mediator with the ADR Group in 1999 and since then has mediated or taken part in a large number of mediations in a wide variety of different areas of dispute, but particularly within the areas referred to above. He has lectured on the use of mediation, and has been involved in facilitating courses on mediation techniques for new and experienced mediators, including mediation training for Polish judges in March 2004 (London) and April 2005 (Warsaw). He has acted as a judge in mediation competitions. When not mediating, Tony runs his own legal practice which handles a wide range of commercial, corporate and employment disputes, particularly for owner-managed businesses. He also provides community mediation services on a voluntary basis through Resolve West (formerly known as Bristol Mediation).

He is currently secretary of the Association of South West Mediators.

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