



CEDR Accreditation:	2012
CEDR Panel	2013
Languages:	English
Location:	United Kingdom

“ Great at absorbing all the key information, listens to all parties’ concerns, and is very adept at helping negotiations to successful conclusions.”

Legal 500 2022

Beverley Vara

Overview

Beverley has been a full-time mediator since 2013. She has practiced as a mediator from Maitland Chambers since 2013, prior to which she was a partner in Allen & Overy LLP, where she was head of Real Estate Litigation. She is regularly appointed in large commercial disputes, often those with a real estate angle and often where one or more parties are from outside the UK, but she mediates all types of commercial and private client disputes. She has been listed as a leading mediator in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 for many years. She has written articles on a variety of mediation topics, and regularly gives seminars on mediation. She has been a member of the CEDR faculty for a number of years and regularly coaches and assesses on the Mediation Skills Training Course both in the UK and internationally. The feedback she receives from solicitors representing parties in her mediations is that they, and their clients, appreciate her straight talking, practical approach and her ability to mix a rigorous legal analysis of the case with empathy to help the parties find a solution that works for all of them. Beverley is currently working with the Anglican Diocese of Southwark to set up a pro bono mediation service to assist Parishes where disputes arise.



Professional Background

Beverley worked as a solicitor for 20 years, the last 10 of which were as a litigation partner in Allen & Overy LLP where she specialised in contentious property work and was Head of Real Estate Litigation. Since leaving A&O in 2013, Beverley has transferred to the bar to further her mediation work and now mediates all types of commercial and private client disputes including property, insolvency, professional negligence and breach of contract claims.

Expertise

- Banking and Finance
- Boundary and right of way disputes
- Breach of contract
- Business disputes
- Commercial contract
- Commercial developments
- Competition Law
- Construction and Engineering
- Conveyancing and residential development
- Defamation
- Easements and restrictive covenants
- Fraud and unjust enrichment
- Landlord and tenant disputes
- Mortgage and lending disputes
- Neighbour disputes and nuisance
- Partnership and shareholder disputes
- Party Wall
- Proprietary estoppel
- Public Law and Planning
- Real estate and commercial property leases
- Sale of goods and services
- Trusts and TOLATA claims

Dispute Experience

Business Disputes including Finance

- Many different shareholder disputes, including minority shareholder prejudice claims and those involving disputes over termination of employment and pension rights.
- Various disputes where business partners have fallen out including those which were properly characterised as joint venture disputes, partnership disputes and those where the precise nature of the legal relationship between the parties was disputed.

Professional negligence

- Claims of professional negligence and/or breach of contract against various professionals including solicitors, estate agents, surveyors, financial advisors including counter claims for unpaid fees.
- Claims of professional negligence and breach of directors' duties against former directors by Insolvency practitioners or by purchasers of a business.

Property and Development claims

Sale and purchase

- Various claims between purchasers and sellers of land including for misrepresentation and for failure to complete.

Development

- Many different development agreement disputes, including disputes between developer and anchor tenant, contractor and employer and developer and funder.

Neighbour

- Various disputes between neighbours, both residential and commercial, concerning rights of way, rights to light, trespass, other easements of different types, restrictive covenants, disputed boundaries including where injunctive relief is claimed, nuisance, negligence and Rylands v Fletcher claims.
- Claims that various restrictive covenants were anti-competitive and accordingly unenforceable which, if made out in court, would have jeopardised the funding structure/ viability of a large development.

Landlord and Tenant/ Licensor and Licensee

- Various landlord and tenant disputes including service charge, breach of covenant, forfeiture (including wrongful forfeiture, waiver and often where lenders to the tenant are involved), failure to consent to alienation or alterations, dilapidations, exercise of break options, derogation from grant and concerning lease interpretation (for example the scope of the user clause).
- Claims involving serviced office providers concerning payment of the licence fee and the provision of services.
- Many different claims under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, both opposed and unopposed.

Trusts

- Various TOLATA claims and/or claims for a constructive trust.

Personal Style

Beverley's style has been assessed as calm and authoritative with the ability to gently help each party reality test their respective positions with the situation calls for it.

Feedback – Directories

- Great at absorbing all the key information, listens to all parties' concerns, and is very adept at helping negotiations to successful conclusions." Legal 500 2022
- "Likes to grasp cases by the scruff of the neck and is good at handling challenging situations." Chambers UK 2021
- Beverley is "very good at getting people to think in the right way about a case. She gets on top of the detail quickly and sees points that might have been missed." Chambers UK 2020
- "She's very good at getting people to think and to negotiate, and she gets cases quickly." Chambers 2019

Feedback – Clients & Assessors

- "Beverley was excellent. The way she handled both joint and individual meetings was great."
- "Calm, collected manner."
- "Calm authority and an assured open manner which facilitates communication."
- "A sound handling of the process."
- "We thought she was excellent! our client was very pleased with her."
- "She did a very good job moving the parties from their original positions."
- "I think Beverley was very helpful and judged the tone of the mediation well."
- "I thought Beverley was extremely professional and knowledgeable in the way she dealt with the issues. It was not the easiest mediation in terms of the positions of the parties with regard to the claim and in terms of the various personalities at play but Beverley treated the parties fairly, challenged us when appropriate and kept the mediation moving in order to achieve a settlement."

Professional Skills

- CEDR/Oxford Process Certificate in International Conflict resolution and Peace-making 2021
- Called to the Bar 2013
- CEDR mediation accreditation 2012
- Higher Rights of Audience 2002
- Admitted as Solicitor, England and Wales, 1994
- MPhil, Computer Speech & Language Processing, University of Cambridge, 1990
- BSc, Mathematics, University of London, 1987, First Class