



Accreditation:	2016
CEDR Panel	2022
Languages:	English
Location:	United Kingdom

“One of the best mediators I’ve worked with, and my clients were very impressed too.”

“Very calm, efficient and effective. It felt almost like business therapy”

“Harry Spurr is a highly skilled professional mediator”

Client Feedback

Harry Spurr

Overview

Harry is an accomplished and directory-ranked mediator in commercial, civil and property disputes. Described recently as “at the top of his profession”, “one of the best”, “highly skilled” and “outstanding”, he is regularly commended by parties for his mediation style, and in particular his calming influence and capacity to challenge sensitively but robustly. His consistently excellent feedback, and his high settlement rate, speak for themselves.

Harry’s background as a barrister practising for many years from leading chambers, and as the former owner of two businesses, gives him a rare insight into the combination of legal and commercial influences that frame disputes.

Harry’s mediation practice extends across the commercial, civil and property spectrum. His commercial expertise is extensive and covers:

- boardroom conflict
- contractual disputes
- corporate and shareholder actions
- directors and fiduciary duties

- employment disputes
- financial sector litigation
- insurance matters
- mergers & acquisitions
- probate / 1975 Act disputes
- professional negligence
- share purchase disputes

In addition, Harry has extensive expertise in disputes concerning property, land and environmental issues. This includes:

- agriculture
- adverse possession
- boundaries
- construction and development
- easements
- environmental and other regulatory matters
- inheritance
- land ownership
- landlord and tenant - a wide range of matters
- licensing
- nuisance
- options
- overage
- planning
- restrictive covenants
- rights of way
- trespass
- water rights

Harry also offers substantial experience in conflict engaging public bodies, whether acting in a regulatory capacity or otherwise.

Harry mediates for parties from a wide range of sectors, including:

- agriculture and forestry
- aviation
- beneficiaries and other parties in probate disputes
- charities
- crypto-currency
- energy (electricity, renewables, gas, oil)

- education (schools, universities)
- financial services
- high-profile individuals, including prominent sports professionals
- insurance
- local government
- legal services
- manufacturing, distribution and retail
- media
- medical institutions and professionals, and care
- public and regulatory sector
- real estate, construction and development
- start ups
- tourism, leisure and hotels
- transport and other infrastructure

These parties include domestic and international organisations and individuals, and range from large corporates to SMEs and individuals, shareholders, directors and partners, professionals and landowners, tenants and other occupiers of land, regulators, councils and other public bodies, community groups and other organisations.

Harry regularly delivers lectures and training sessions on mediation, including to high-profile organisations, and is the author of a substantial number of articles on the subject.

Dispute experience

Commercial / Contractual

A large number and wide range of disputes, from which the following is a short list of illustrative examples:

- Alleged faulty installation of major plant at large industrial site
- Claimed breach of contract in relation to oil supply infrastructure in the Middle-East
- Claims concerning breach of contract in relation to the use of rail infrastructure
- Claims in relation to the provision of management services to a hotel chain
- Disputed investment in an international property fund
- Claim arising out of supply of electricity to a manufacturing plant
- Breach of contract claim concerning the supply of workers to the food manufacturing industry
- Alleged fraudulent conduct in an international supply of goods contract

- Dispute over provision of care for vulnerable persons
- Claim in relation to contract for nationwide vehicle repair service

Company / Shareholder / Boardroom & Fiduciary duties

Various disputes between shareholders and / or directors, including in the following sectors:

- the construction sector (e.g. builders, developers, clients)
- the automotive sector (e.g. car manufacturers and repairers)
- the media (including a leading international media agency)
- the medical sector (e.g. a GP practice)
- leisure / tourism (e.g. seaside, fitness, hotels)
- the property / development sector
- the retail sector
- in commercial and residential property freehold / management companies

Various disputes concerning the division of assets between shareholders / partners upon the sale, break up or voluntary liquidation of businesses in various sectors, including:

- sale of a firm of solicitors
- sale of major shareholding a retail chain
- sale of major shareholding in an automotive business
- sale of shares in a property investment fund
- sale of a prominent hotel
- several disputes between shareholders following the breakup of cryptocurrency SMEs

Property / land / agriculture / forestry

an extensive range of experience, including the following:

- Many disputes concerning boundaries, rights of way, easements, trespass and nuisance in relation to land of various types (e.g. development sites, industrial, retail, commercial, highways, railway, agricultural, residential, public open space, playing fields, etc)
- Disputes arising out of restrictive covenants, such as covenants against development
- Many cases concerning breach of leasehold covenants
- Various rent arrears cases concerning commercial and other property
- Disputes arising out of development projects, e.g. options, contentious development premiums / overage at large residential development sites etc

- Long-running dispute in relation to open space involving a school, campaign organisations and several community groups
- Disputes between shareholders in freehold management companies concerning property of various types (e.g. commercial, office, educational, residential etc)
- Dispute concerning contentious investment in international property development fund
- Various claims concerning solicitor and surveyor negligence in relation to property
- Dispute over the installation of a sewage system in residential development
- Sale of a hotel and leisure site
- Claim in relation to a right to extract timber from publicly owned forests
- Dilapidations and disrepair cases, e.g. concerning premises occupied by a seaside leisure operation, a range of commercial premises, etc
- Adverse possession disputes, including in relation to public / council owned land
- Claims for possession, e.g. by a council in relation to agricultural land to facilitate a major redevelopment project; and in relation to land occupied by a provider of medical care
- Cases concerning mortgages and other charges on land
- Cases involving the regulation of land and its use in relation to:
 - the town and country planning system
 - public rights of way & highways
 - town and village greens
 - the licensing of premises
 - compulsory purchase of land
 - public spaces and community assets
 - environmental matters
- Cases concerning water, such as riparian rights, flooding and pollution
- Disputes in relation to waste, waste management and sewerage

Infrastructure / Energy / Transport

A significant number of cases in this area, including the following:

- Dispute over security provision for oil industry infrastructure
- Accounting negligence in the petrochemical industry
- Allegations against major airline in relation to treatment of high-profile passengers
- Claims concerning damage to railway rolling stock
- Trespass / nuisance claims in relation to railway infrastructure land
- Dispute arising out of renewable energy industry regulatory proceedings
- Dispute over provision of electricity to industrial site
- Various disputes concerning aviation and airfields

Regulatory / Public sector (excluding education)

Substantial experience of cases involving public bodies, including the following:

- Cases concerning:
 - the town and country planning system
 - highways / public rights of way
 - town and village greens
 - premises licensing
 - water and watercourses
 - waste management
 - public spaces and community assets
 - compulsory purchase
 - environmental regulation
- Disciplinary matters, such as accreditation for provision of medical care
- Access to felling contracts in publicly managed forests
- Claim for damage to rail infrastructure
- Settlement of regulatory proceedings against renewable energy provider
- Long-running dispute in relation to open space involving school, campaign organisations, community groups
- Alleged failures in relation to provision of care for vulnerable persons
- Property disputes in relation to council owned land, public land and land for development or other public purposes

Education / Medical & other care

- Dispute over treatment of pupils in the independent education sector
- Conflict over teaching provision in state primary school
- Long-running dispute between secondary school and community and other interests over access to open space used for sports and PE provision
- Conflict coaching for students in conflict in secondary school settings
- Alleged failures in relation to provision of residential care for vulnerable persons
- Dispute concerning management of medical practice
- Claim arising out of allegations of ill-treatment of student by university

Negligence

- Various allegations of negligence by solicitors and surveyors in relation to land, including conveyancing
- Accounting negligence in the petrochemical industry
- Dispute over installation of waste water treatment infrastructure in development of residential units
- Negligence claim in relation to corporate finance advice
- Claims for damage to railway rolling stock
- Alleged breach of duty of care for pupils at prominent independent school

Finance / Banking

- Dispute over corporate financing of purchase of mid-size leisure business
- Claim in relation to badly performing investment in cryptocurrency
- Dispute in relation to investment in international property investment scheme
- Claim concerning financing of purchase of vehicles

Employment

- Termination, dismissal
- Team moves
- Disputes in relation to employee benefits, eg in leisure and retail sector
- Alleged breach of conditions of employment in retail business
- Dispute in relation to supply of workers in the food manufacturing industry

Construction

- Various construction cases, including:
 - Dispute over the construction of a residential development scheme
 - Claim concerning the construction of infrastructure in luxury residential development
 - Dispute concerning provision of security for oil supply infrastructure

Consumer

- Consumer claim against major car manufacturer

Professional Background

Harry has been mediating since 2016. Before then he practised as a barrister; called to the Bar in 2001, he practised from leading chambers in London and Bristol. He has also been a successful entrepreneur, founding and managing businesses in the energy and drinks sectors alongside his legal career during the years 2007 – 2018.

2016 – present: commercial mediator (accredited by CEDR and ADRgroup) and lead mediator for two community mediation charities

2001 – present: barrister (Landmark Chambers, Francis Taylor Building, Hogan Lovells LLP, St John's Chambers)

2007 – 2018: business entrepreneur – founder and director of successful businesses in the renewable energy sector and drinks industry.

Mediation Style

The combination of Harry's extensive experience as a professional litigator, and as a successful business owner dealing with the commercial realities of negotiation and dispute, puts him in a position that is rare for a mediator-barrister; it means that he is unusually well-placed to understand not only the legal context that frames disputes, but also the commercial and other private influences that lie at their heart. This insight is of particular value in the deal-making environment of mediation.

Fundamental to successful mediation is the need to design and deliver the process around the needs and interests of the parties, and a sensitivity to the evolving dynamic of a negotiation. Harry's approach is therefore characterised by flexibility, awareness and responsiveness. This is accompanied by a commercial insight that reflects his other career in business, and a sensitivity to the emotional aspects of conflict that he has developed from his work in the challenging community mediation sector. Parties often comment favourably about his mediation style, and in particular the calming nature of his influence in difficult disputes, and his ability to challenge robustly but gently.

Harry is particularly interested in the psychology behind the origins and pattern of conflict, and its effect on negotiation dynamics, and regularly exploits his insights in this field to encourage and maintain progress in mediation.

Harry mediates both in person and online in cases involving parties across the UK and internationally. He is always pleased to arrange the format and start / finish times to reflect geographical and time zone constraints.

Feedback

- *"Has all the skills required of an effective mediator. He has an impressive knowledge of the law, and an equally impressive commercial awareness."* (Legal 500, 2024)
- *"Reasonable, calming and not afraid to put forward opposing points of view in the hope it will lead to progress"* (Legal 500, 2023)
- *"One of the best mediators I've worked with, and my clients were very impressed too."* (Barrister, regional chambers)
- *"It was a breath of fresh air to have you when you're clearly very good at what you do."* (Barrister, regional chambers)
- *Harry is a highly skilled and effective mediator. He worked tirelessly late into the evening to achieve a settlement, combining considerable commercial acumen with an ability to listen empathetically to the parties..."* (Barrister, London chambers)
- *"Harry Spurr is a first-rate mediator – always thoughtful, prepared and pragmatic."* (Barrister, London chambers)
- *"Can't recommend Harry Spurr highly enough. From speaking to him over the phone to dealing with him in person, it was clear, he's at the top of his profession."* (Director, leading London media agency)
- *"Harry was great. He really grasps the positions of both sides, and spent a considerable amount of time with each party in order to facilitate successful settlement proposals. He was flexible throughout the day to party's requests which eventually meant that settlement was reached."* (Solicitor, London city law firm)
- *"Excellent. Very calm but also direct when needed and a good facilitator. Managed the parties well and enabled a settlement to be reached in what looked to be very unlikely circumstances."* (Partner, regional law firm)
- *"First time I had used Harry - I was very impressed and would be happy to recommend him in the future. Very user friendly, set the mediation well and went the extra mile to ensure settlement was achieved. A really nice tone was set for the mediation."* (Partner, leading national firm)

- *“Harry was excellent. It is quite a skill to be able to point out weaknesses and be straight to the point without offending a client and putting them in defence mode. I would certainly use Harry again.”* (Partner, regional law firm)
- *“I don’t think I properly thanked you at the time for your super work on the mediation [...] you did an outstanding job and was really grateful for your hard work and perseverance to get it where it got to. I know we are looking to use you where possible since.”* (Partner, London city law firm)
- *“Clear, level headed and empathetic. I would have no hesitation in putting your name forward for future mediations. Managed the process well and was skilful at facilitating dialogue and negotiation between the parties”* (Partner, leading national law firm)
- *“You’re a fantastic mediator [...] it’s been a pleasure working with you; I’ve learned lots”* (Co-mediator in an education case)

