



CEDR Accreditation:	2023
CEDR Panel:	2025
Languages:	English
Location:	London, UK

Michael Bass

“His expertise, calm demeanour and thoughtful guidance made the entire mediation process seamless”

UK Law Firm Partner

Overview

Michael Bass mediates complex commercial and financial disputes, particularly those involving financial institutions, markets and instruments where valuation, risk and commercial context are central.

He brings over thirty years' experience in global banking and financial markets, including senior leadership roles at Nomura, Standard Chartered, RBC Capital Markets and Westpac. His background spans derivatives, foreign exchange, commodities, structured products and asset structuring.

He combines this market experience with the procedural discipline of a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb), enabling him to engage directly with complex financial matters while maintaining a structured and effective mediation process. His training in organisational psychology further informs his approach to negotiation, decision-making and conflict dynamics.



Dispute Focus

Michael is particularly suited to disputes involving:

- Financial instruments, including derivatives, structured products and securities financing
- Banking and financial services disputes, including mis-selling, valuation and collateral issues
- Shareholder and partnership disputes involving financial institutions or investment structures
- Professional negligence and advisory disputes involving financial products
- Complex commercial disputes where financial structure or risk allocation is central

Professional Background

Michael spent over two decades in senior roles in global banking and financial markets, including leadership positions at Nomura, Standard Chartered, RBC Capital Markets and Westpac.

His experience spans derivatives, foreign exchange, commodities and structured products, with responsibility for trading, structuring, risk management and international business development.

Areas of expertise include:

- Trading, structuring and risk management across multiple asset classes
- Distressed debt and restructuring following the Asian financial crisis
- Structured products for private and institutional clients
- Regulatory implementation, including MiFID II and market conduct frameworks

He also served for five years on the board of the International Swaps & Derivatives Association (ISDA), working with leading financial institutions and regulators on derivatives regulation and documentation.

Personal Style

Michael's approach is calm, structured and commercially focused. He builds rapport quickly while maintaining appropriate challenge, helping parties to clarify their objectives, test assumptions and focus on realistic outcomes. He is particularly effective in complex disputes involving sophisticated parties, where both financial insight and disciplined process are required.

Dispute Experience

Michael has experience mediating a range of commercial and workplace disputes, including:

- Commercial disputes involving contractual interpretation, financial structure and risk allocation
- Financial services disputes, including issues relating to valuation, mis-selling and advisory relationships
- Shareholder and partnership disputes involving breakdown of commercial relationships
- Workplace disputes involving senior professionals and complex interpersonal dynamics

He has also been closely involved in the resolution of complex financial disputes throughout his career in global financial markets, including matters involving derivatives, structured products and cross-border transactions.

Credentials

- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- CEDR Accredited Mediator (2023)
- MSc Organisational Psychology, Birkbeck
- MA Economics, Trinity College Cambridge
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

Testimonials

“His expertise, calm demeanour and thoughtful guidance made the entire mediation process seamless”

UK Law Firm Partner

“Thank you for getting us over the line. Your intuitive grasp of the valuation issues was invaluable.”

In-house Counsel, Financial Services

“Measured, authoritative and highly effective — he brought clarity and momentum at key moments in a complex mediation.”

Senior Counsel