



CEDR Accreditation:	1997
CEDR Panel:	1999
CEDR Chambers:	2012
Languages:	English
Location:	United Kingdom



Neil Goodrum

“He is an excellent mediator who is patient and understanding but firm when required”
Client Feedback

Overview

Neil Goodrum is a full-time mediator, CMC Fellow and member of CEDR’s Chambers panel of mediators. He has extensive experience in mediating disputes in many different industries with amounts in dispute ranging from relatively modest sums to millions of pounds including via video.

Neil is a lead member of the highly regarded CEDR Training Faculty and has regularly presents courses on mediation, mediation advocacy, negotiation and dispute resolution both in the UK and abroad. His international experience includes Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Moldova, Morocco, Mongolia, Dubai, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Vietnam and Israel.



Professional Background

While working as a solicitor in private practice Neil dealt almost exclusively with contested matters throughout his professional career since qualifying in 1981. Joining McCormicks solicitors in 1983, he was a Senior Litigation Partner for 27 years dealing primarily with disputes in contract and commercial, partnership, employment, professional negligence, clinical negligence and personal injury cases, having initially dealt with commercial fraud and other serious criminal cases.

He is highly regarded for his expertise in sports disputes. Neil is a former Chairman of the Football League Disciplinary Commission.

He is now a non-practising solicitor.

During his time as one of the management partners at McCormicks, he had direct experience of running a business with over 100 employees.

Commercial Mediation Experience

Commercial Contracts

While working as a practising solicitor Neil dealt with many types of commercial disputes. These have included bringing and defending matters arising from the breach of commercial contracts, the supply of goods and services and professional negligence matters relating to accountants, architects, surveyors and solicitors. He has also acted in partnership disputes relating to accountants and solicitors and in claims arising from professional misconduct. Examples of recent cases as mediator include:

- Commercial contract dispute relating to the breach of a multi-party joint venture agreement where the amount in dispute was up to £1 million.
- Dispute relating to a facilities management agreement where the amount in dispute exceeded £2.25m.
- A dispute relating to unpaid invoices in which it was alleged that there was a breach of contract regarding the terms of trading between the parties where the amount in issue was in excess of £3,300,00.
- A breach of contract dispute relating to a luxury asset where the amount in dispute exceeded £380,000.
- Dispute arising from a claim to enforce personal guarantees given by the directors of a company in liquidation and involving a counter claim regarding material misrepresentation in the sale of the business.

- Dispute relating to allegations of breach of a franchise agreement involving allegations of misrepresentation by the franchisor.
- A dispute between two companies in a specialist industry regarding the terms of an alleged option to purchase part of one of the organisations concerned.
- A commercial contract dispute in the media and entertainment sector relating to a claim for money due and a counterclaim for consequential losses where the amount in issue was £170,000.
- A dispute between a franchisor and a franchisee regarding their respective performances of the franchise agreement.
- A dispute between investor in companies concerned with property development over monies claimed for investments and dividends where the amount in dispute was around £600,000.

Partnership & Shareholder

- A dispute between shareholders in a law firm regarding the funds due to an exiting shareholder.
- A dispute between former business partners regarding an interest in the business.
- Partnership / commercial contract dispute between members of a Limited Liability (Professional) Partnership where the issues in the dispute involved breach of contract, allocation of clients and future competition. The amount in dispute exceeded £500,000.
- A dispute involving breach of a partnership agreement and the making of secret profits, where the amount in dispute exceeded £300,000.
- A dispute between two individuals who worked in a business together ultimately forming a limited company to carry out gritting and small-scale car park repairs.
- A dispute between director and shareholders following the commencement of a process to remove one of the directors.
- A dispute regarding the division of assets in a business between two director/shareholders where the amount in issue was in excess of £2,000,000.
- A dispute regarding the value of a business and the value of a shareholding on the sale of an interest where the amount in dispute exceeded £400,000.

Agency Agreements

- A dispute between an independent financial adviser and a company, with whom there was an agency agreement, regarding the arrangements following termination of the agreement.

- A dispute between a Commercial Agent and the Principal regarding alleged breaches of and termination of the agreement where the amount in dispute was in excess of £500,00 plus costs.
- A dispute between a Commercial Agent and the Principal relating to money claimed as due under the contract where the amount in issue was £110,000.
- A dispute between a Commercial Agent and the Principal relating to money due at the end of the contract where the amount in issue was circa £42,000.

Sale of Goods & Services

- Dispute relating to the terms of a contract for the transportation of specialist equipment including the basis on which the agreement could be lawfully terminated.
- A dispute regarding a contract to undertake building alteration work at a number of commercial properties owned and operated by one of the parties.
- Dispute relating to the alleged breach of a contract to supply specialist equipment to a commercial entity with a consequential loss claim.
- Dispute relating to a claim for breach of a contract for the supply of specialist industrial equipment in which it was alleged that time was of the essence regarding delivery.
- Alleged breach of a commercial contract and negligence regarding the supply of business services.
- A dispute between a company creditor and personal guarantors of the debt.
- Agricultural dispute relating to the provision of foaling services and allegations of negligence.

Property

- A dispute relating to a contract for sale of a commercial property where the amount in dispute exceeded £2.75 million.
- Dispute between a landlord and guarantor for a tenant following damage to the rented property.
- A dispute between a builder and a householder regarding building work carried out at the house.
- A protracted dispute between neighbours relating to alleged trespass where the damages in issue were £15,000.

Utilities

- A dispute regarding the supply of electricity to commercial outlets in circumstances where there was an issue as to whether or not one party was engaged as principal or agent. The amount in dispute between the parties exceeded £1m.

Trusts, Wills & Probate

- Claim under the Inheritance (Provisions for Family and Dependents Act) 1975 where the amount in dispute exceeded £300,000.
- A claim relating to a disputed will and a property transferred shortly prior to death where the amount in dispute exceeded £900,000.
- Claim relating to contested probate and under Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 between siblings where the amount in dispute was approximately £500,000.
- A dispute between family members contesting a will on various grounds including estoppels where the amount in dispute was approximately £700,000.
- Dispute between two siblings under The Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.
- A dispute relating to the inheritance provisions of a will.
- A dispute regarding the respective interests in a house following the death of a family member who was intestate and where the amount in issue was circa £350,000.

Sport

In his time as a partner in McCormicks, a firm with a national reputation regarding sports law, Neil was actively involved in cases relating to football, cricket, boxing, athletics and swimming. While sitting as the Chairman of the Football Disciplinary Commission of the Football League (as it then was), Neil dealt with cases relating to club finance, player contracts, fielding of ineligible players and supporter conduct and safety issues. Examples of recent cases as mediator include:

- A dispute relating to the contractual arrangements between a football manager and a high profile football club.
- A dispute between an internationally high-profile footballer and a football agent where the amount in dispute exceeded £2.5m.
- A claim by an athlete that he was subjected to bullying and discrimination while training at the Centre of Excellence for the sport.
- A dispute relating the governance and the handling of a complaint regarding a member of a national sports association.

- A dispute regarding the governing bodies of a high-profile sport.
- A dispute relating to a professional golfer and commercial contracts.
- A dispute between members of a national sports team regarding team selection.

Other Mediation Expertise

As a mediator, Neil has extensive experience across many types of disputes having mediated hundreds of cases over more than 20 years. In addition to commercial matters, these include:

- Agency Agreements
- Partnership & Shareholder
- Commercial Contracts
- Personal Injury
- Clinical Negligence
- Professional Negligence
- Utilities
- Property
- Sale of Goods & Services
- Sports
- Trusts, Wills & Probate

Other Dispute Experience

Investigations

Neil, when in practice, advised clients for over 30 years about the conduct of investigations in most aspects of employment including fraud and very serious sexual harassment cases. This has meant that, on a weekly basis at least, he worked with clients on the steps to be taken in an investigation. This has been in terms of enquiries to be made including collecting evidence and preparing witness statements. Some examples include:

- An employment investigation involving a very high-profile organisation with both a national and international reputation where one of the senior managers was accused of serious sexual assault. At the conclusion of the investigation, an independent report was presented to the CEO who conducted a disciplinary hearing based on that report.
- Conducting a disciplinary hearing and make a finding, after the employer had conducted an investigation into a substantial fraud by a finance manager.
- Court cases involved investigation processes in matters from major crime to professional negligence where it was required to consider evidential issues in a number of different contexts.
- Conducting a number of investigations and disciplinary hearings for allegations of inappropriate conduct by a partner and dishonesty by a senior solicitor

Personal Style

Neil believes that mediation provides a perfect opportunity for meaningful dialogue, directly or indirectly, between the parties in a “safe environment”. His style is facilitative, with a willingness to intervene actively depending on the circumstances of the mediation. He is prepared to persist, challenge and take a firm approach to focus the parties on resolution, when required.

Professional Skills

Since qualifying in 1981, Neil has dealt almost exclusively with contested matters throughout his professional career. In the early part of his career these included commercial fraud and other serious criminal cases. He initially worked in Leeds and then Oxford before joining McCormicks, when the firm was founded in 1983, and becoming a Partner in 1986.

McCormicks is recognised as a leading sports law firm in the Legal 500 and the Chambers Guide and has a national reputation in this area. The firm has also been recognised by the Legal 500 and the Chambers Guide, for its expertise in employment law, media and entertainment law, as well as a number of other areas.

- July 1995: Higher Courts (Criminal Proceedings) Qualification.
- October 1997: Higher Courts (All Proceedings) Qualification.
- April 2000: Appointment to the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel of Mediators.
- August 2002: Practitioner Member of the Law Society Civil / Commercial Mediation Panel.
- October 2003: Member of the Panel of Mediators for the Court of Appeal Mediation Scheme.

Feedback

Directories

- “Peers report that he is great at the creative thinking that is sometimes necessary to eliciting the most useful information.” Neil’s approach is characterized as “accommodating, enthusiastic and fantastically persistent” and his style described as “very calm and commercial.” - The Chambers Guide notes

Clients

- “Neil helped the parties to focus on the critical issues of the dispute and had a calming influence, which helped achieve a settlement.”
- “His positive determination was conveyed in an easy manner and by the patient calmness which continued through the extended hours of his mediation.”
- "He got to the nub of the issues very quickly and painlessly and was very professional."
- "He was an astute man and got on top of what was going to cut the mustard."
- "The individual clients in this case were very hostile towards one another and very difficult, the mediator dealt with the personalities very expertly."
- "He is an experienced mediator who made them all think differently about key issues."
- "He reality tested well and tried to push our client, I assume that he was doing the same with the other side."
- "Neil was very conciliatory and that was a 'good foil' for the two of us."
- "The relationship between the parties was very strained. He dealt with it very sensibly."
- "There was a lot of history to this matter and a lot of animosity, but he controlled that very well."
- "Tempers were running high and parties were frustrated but Neil handled the mediation well."
- “The prospects for a settlement did not seem particularly high at the start of the day. Neil worked well to get the parties together and achieve a settlement.”
- "He was very courteous and very persistent this was very effective."
- "Neil treated the parties and the issues with respect. He was very practical and was there to get the job done."
- “One of his best attributes was his manner and that way he ensured that everyone was comfortable.”