

**Helena De Backer**

CEDR Panel Admission: 2014

Languages: English, French, Dutch, Portuguese

**Overview**

Helena De Backer is a practising Attorney at Koan Law Firm in Brussels, Belgium. She has almost 50 years’ experience as an arbitrator and lawyer and has been a commercial mediator since 1999. She works on cross-border contract negotiation mostly related to mergers & acquisitions, intellectual property and new technologies projects. Helena holds degrees in law, economics and taxes and is a former Deputy Judge of the Court of Appeal of Brussels.

Helena is one of the founders and past president of bMediation, a Brussels based business mediation centre of which she is still director. She is a mediator certified by the Belgian Federal Mediation Commission, bMediation and various mediation institutions globally. Helena also serves on several ADR committees and is past chairman of the Mediation and conflict Prevention Commission of the UIA.

**Summary of Dispute resolution experience**

* Automotive
* Commercial Contracts
* Employment & Workplace
* ICT
* Intellectual Property
* Mergers & Acquisitions
* Partnership & Shareholder
* Sale of Goods & Services
* Trusts, Wills & Probate

**Professional Background**

Member of the Bar since 1971, Helena left DS De Backer & Bastin, a law firm she created in 1987 and joined the firm KOAN as of counsel in 2014. Helena’s expertise is focused on corporate and commercial contracts , helping companies develop major projects taking into account the legal and business aspects and in preventing and resolving disputes. Most of the disputes her clients were involved, were settled through mediation

She mainly works on business law, in particular acquisitions and international IT contracts.

Professional Skills

Certified IMI mediator and certified mediator by the Belgian Federal Mediation Commission, bMediation, VOBA (Flemish Mediation Centre), Camera Arbitrale di Milano and CMAP (Paris mediation Centre).

**Education**

* 1971 Law degree Katholieke Universiteit van Leuven
* 1973 Degree in Business Administration Université Catholique de Louvain
* 1980 Degree in Tax sciences UFSAL Brussels
* 1998 First 40 hours of Basic training in mediation by the Canadian trainer Serge Roy

**Membership of Professional Associations**

* Member of the Brussels Bar
* Former member of the bar council
* Former Chairman and Vice chairman of bMediation, the Brussels business mediation centre
* Former chairman of the Mediation and Conflict prevention Commission of the UIA
* Former member of the Belgian Federal Mediation Commission
* Member of the IMI (International Mediation Institute) Independent Standards Commission.

**Other Training**

1998-2020 several additional training in mediation techniques, related psychological subjects and principled negotiation.

**Countries of Work Experience**

Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, , Switzerland, United States of America, Canada, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, India, China, Brazil.

* 1998-2016: Organizer of and speaker at seminars on mediation in Belgium, Rome, Lisbon, Barcelona, Geneva, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Jaipor, Damascus, Bucarest Casablanca, Algiers, Ankara, Miami, Macao
* 2000-2020: Coordinator of trainings and trainer in mediation at bMediation (minimum 3 per year), the actual basic training of bMediation being 12 days of 8 hours
* 2000-2020: Responsible for the mediation course for the Flemish Brussels Bar
* 2001-2016 Trainer in commercial mediation abroad, in i.e. Lisbon, Alexandria, Casablanca, Rabat, Alger, Hong Kong, Milano
* 2014 -2019 Trainer in mediation advocacy for the Flemish bar.

**Personal Mediation Style**

Being based in Brussels Helena is often faced with cultural differences in her work as a lawyer and mediator. In mediation she will look to conduct the process in a way that is compatible with the parties’ cultural environment and values.

Helena can adopt a facilitative or evaluative style depending on the needs of the parties, the type of dispute and the timing in the mediation process. She is known as having a creative approach to dispute resolution and practice an interest based mediation focused on future interests, business needs and will try to help the parties to find, if possible, new business opportunities. The goal is to reach an outcome satisfactory to all parties within an agreed time frame.