



CEDR Accreditation:	2002
CEDR Panel	2005
Languages:	English
Location:	United Kingdom, UAE, Singapore

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Client Feedback

Michael Cover

Overview

Michael Cover is a solicitor (now non-practising) and full-time independent ADR professional with 20 years' experience. He has undertaken over 260 mediations related to claims across a broad spectrum of sectors and is considered to be one of the leading mediators of ICT and Intellectual Property disputes. In addition to his CEDR accreditation, Michael has been accredited as a mediator by the International Trade Mark Association and also as a family and family business mediator. He now has a broad practice as a third party neutral, mediator, arbitrator (over 100 awards handed down) and adjudicator.

Michael has particular interest in international and cross-cultural disputes and, as a linguist, he has conducted mediations in French. He also speaks German.



Professional Background

Michael qualified as a Barrister in 1973 and a Solicitor in 1988. He spent 15 years as In-House Counsel and then moved into private practice. He has a wide interest in ADR and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Chartered Arbitrator, as well as a World Intellectual Property Organisation Domain Name Panellist. He was recently trained as an Investor State Mediator under the auspices of the World Bank/ICSID, IMI and CEDR.

Expertise

- Commercial Contracts
- Insurance
- Property
- Construction & Engineering
- Intellectual Property
- Sale of Goods & Services
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Maritime
- Sport
- Family and Family Business
- Partnership & Shareholder
- Trusts, Wills & Probate
- ICT

Dispute Experience

Commercial Contracts

- Dispute between a national sporting body and its IT supplier.
- Cross-border dispute between a supplier of raw materials and its customer in the pharmaceutical industry.
- Contractual dispute relating to exhibition bookings and services.
- Dispute between a major global telecoms company and a recruitment agency.
- International trade disputes.
- Costs dispute over unpaid solicitors' fees of £500,000. Ultimately, this was resolved.
- Contractual dispute between a UK utility and a supplier.

Competition Law and Public Procurement

- Dispute relating to data in veterinary pharmaceuticals.
- Dispute involving two pharmaceutical companies relating to pricing.
- Major public procurement disputes in a range of sectors.

Construction and Engineering:

- Disputes between employers and contractors. Disputes relating to construction and development projects.

Energy & Natural Resources

Oil and Gas

- Dispute relating to an insurance claim on production rigs.
- Dispute relating to undersea gas pipelines.
- Dispute in the nuclear sector.
- Dispute relating to defects in a power station.

ICT – Information, Communications & Technology

- Dispute between a US and a German software company.
- Multi-jurisdictional dispute between US and UK software houses.
- Dispute between an IT consultancy and a financial services institution.
- Dispute between a software company and a customer in the leisure sector.
- Dispute relating to a CRM system.
- This was a dispute between software/hardware company and its supplier over exclusivity and confidentiality arrangements.

Insurance

- Dispute relating to a major fire claim.
- Professional negligence claims involving solicitors and other professionals.

Intellectual Property

- Dispute between company and former employees/associates regarding confidential information and in medical services (in endoscopy).
- WIPO Domain Name Panellist.
- Dispute involving patents and designs between two competing companies in the engineering sector.
- Dispute involving design and copyright, for art and craft goods.
- Dispute relating to confidential information following a corporate transaction.
- Cross-border patent dispute.
- Dispute relating to technology in the healthcare sector.
- Dispute on mechanical patents and copyright.
- Dispute about registered designs for security clothing
- Disputes in the music industry
- Dispute relating to intellectual property rights in sports magazines
- Dispute relating to passing off and trade mark infringement in the design and branding sector.
- Dispute relating to ownership of IP in the international pharmaceutical industry and related shareholder issues.

Maritime

- Dispute relating to a contract for the supply of a large motor yacht.
- Dispute relating to a refit of a sailing yacht.
- Cargo Disputes.
- Charter Disputes.

Partnership & Shareholder

- A number of disputes relating to partnerships issues (solicitors, engineers, doctors).
- Dispute between two former partners in a niche law firm over a Deed of Retirement. The dispute also involved their former firm and the service companies they had both set up and other claims.

Property

- Dispute on a contract for the purchase of business premises.
- Dispute on property valuation.
- Dispute about unpaid services charges and ground rent.

Sale of Goods & Services

- Dispute between a firm of solicitors and a client over unpaid fees, with a counterclaim for professional negligence.
- Dispute on supply of goods containing allegedly toxic material.
- Dispute on alleged defective raw materials.
- Dispute between two shareholders of a 50/50 company in the cosmetics sector.
- Dispute between an energy supplier and a consumer.

Sport

- Dispute between a national sporting body and its IT supplier.

Trusts, Wills & Probate

- Dispute relating to the terms of a will relating to a farm (£1.8m).
- Dispute relating to the terms of a will relating to a farm and other property.

Personal Style

Michael seeks to build rapport quickly with the parties to a dispute but is prepared to use an evaluative approach and reality-test the parties' positions where needed.

Feedback – Clients

- *“(Michael’s) skills as a mediator enabled the ill-will that was evident at the outset to be diffused during the course of the day.”*
- *“...quickly understood the dispute and slowly brought the situation to an understanding between both companies.”*

- *"...showed a clear understanding of the facts and issues and had clearly done a considerable amount of preparatory work."*
- *"...successful in his efforts and both companies agreed a formula for settlement. He is to be commended for his patience and grasp of the problem."*
- *"My clients were certainly very happy with Michael and the process."*
- *"Very nice, pleasant and almost laidback." "First class. Effective and charming."*
- *"He was knowledgeable, and a good guy."*
- *"Very impressive"*
- *"The most helpful thing was that he was sensitive to how our clients felt. The dispute was quite personal and he dealt with this really well."*
- *"Michael was an excellent mediator who made remarkable progress given the issues and emotions tied up in the dispute"*

Feedback - Directories

- *"A rigorous, demanding mediator. While thoroughly prepared, on the legal issues, this 'commercial acumen' and the fact that he knows the intellectual property field 'inside out' make him an obvious choice for complex commercial matters."*
- *"Michael was great at managing the parties' time and ensuring that the settlement was secured and signed many months after the main mediation."*
- *"Enjoys an excellent reputation"*

- Legal 500, 2023

- Who's Who Legal- Mediation, 2022

Professional Skills

Michael is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is an IMI-Certified Mediator with the International Mediation Institute in the Hague.

He writes and speaks extensively on private dispute resolution matters and has acted as a judge in both the UK Mediation Skills Competition and the ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition in Paris. He has been the joint Lead Lecturer on the AIADR Mediation Training Course in 2023.

Michael also practises as an arbitrator, adjudicator and dispute board member.