

**Dr Vanja Bilić PhD**

CEDR Panel Admission: 2020

Languages:English, Croatian

**Overview**

Vanja Bilic delivers a quality mediation service, with 34 years of experience as a judge (in civil cases at Municipal court), private lawyer (in his office), assistant minister (in Croatian Ministry of Justice), arbiter, and mediator.

* Focused on alternative dispute resolution last 17 years.
* Certified mediator and arbiter, trainer for mediators.
* Has Ph.D. about mediation from 2008 – the first one in this region.
* Drafted Croatian Law on Mediation 2003.
* Mediates in commercial and property cases, as well as in family, labor, and consumer cases.

**Summary of Dispute resolution experience**

As an experienced mediator worked on commercial, property, labour, family business, and consumer cases.

* Most recently numerous cases about banking, changing airplane tickets, booking apartments, renting a car, or purchasing something online.
* Mediated the first online dispute in Croatia (with parties in Spain and Croatia).
* Worked on EU ODR scheme.
* Since 2018 mediated practically every banking consumer dispute in Croatia.
* Gets the best reviews after mediation, not only for cases that were settled.

As a lawyer (solicitor) always insisted that clients should consider mediation as the first and the best solution to solve the problem.

* Representing clients, more conflicts solved out of the court than at the court, especially after 2003.
* It showed that mediating the dispute works in best client’s interest and it is not just fast and inexpensive.

**Personal Mediation Style**

* As a mediator facilitates; evaluates or rather adjudicates if asked (consensual by all parties); drafts a settlement.
* Insists on impartiality of a mediator, as well as on confidentiality.
* In opening phases schedules a caucus with both (all) parties, after that, especially in the negotiation phase of the mediation could work with parties separately.
* Believes that the agreement from mediation should meet the best needs and interests of the both (all) parties and that it could be much more than just a compromise.

**Professional Background**

Working experience:

* 2014 August 1 – now: positions within Ministry of Justice

(Head of general civil process law department, Head of property management department, Head of public procurement department)

* 2013 June 11 – 2014 July 31: Minister’s advisor
* 2012 January 19 – 2013 June 10: Assistant Minister – Ministry of Justice, Civil Law department
* 2010 December 3 – 2012 January 18: Director of Civil Law department – Ministry of Justice,
* 2005 January 6 – 2010 December 2: Lawyer (private practice)
* 2002 April 18 – 2005 January 5: Assistant Minister – Ministry of Justice, Civil Law department
* 1993 May 5 – 2002 April 17: Lawyer (private practice)
* 1988 April 4 – 1993 May 4: Judge – Municipal Court of Split

1985 Sept. 16 – 1987 Sept. 30: Trainee – Commercial Court of Split

Education:

* 2008 July: PhD (civil law) at University of Zagreb
* 1989 July: Master’s degree at University of Belgrade
* 1987 May: Lawyer’s exam
* 1985 June: University of Split, Law faculty