**Ilona Nurmela**

CEDR Panel Admission: 2020

Languages:English, Estonian, Russian

**Overview**

Ilona Nurmela is a CEDR-accredited commercial mediator with 20 years of experience in conflict resolution, incl. arbitration, and 7 years of experience mediating business divorces, employment conflicts and child support agreements. Ilona has been working as a legal adviser from 1999, counselling on corporate issues and dispute prevention, incl. de-escalating disputes and future-proofing partnerships. She has also trained judges and work tribunal professionals in mediation and principled negotiations, incl. how profiling beyond standard background checks.

**Summary of Dispute resolution experience**

* Mainly mediating dissolution of business relationships (business divorces) – shareholders of LLCs terminating or exiting from companies, business ventures, shops and/or partnerships;
* Occasional mediations of employee conflicts in the public sector (publicly owned companies and government offices);
* Occasional mediations of family disputes – alimony payments schedules and visitation rights;
* Occasionally serving as arbiter for the Arbitration Court of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry – online and regular sales contract / product liability disputes;
* Advising on commercial, lease, sales, utilities, building contracts and relevant disputes in real estate (2017-present);
* Advising on commercial contracts, negotiations & disputes in (regulated) utilities (2008-2013), incl. in-house general counsel for a party in ICSID international arbitration proceedings over a privatisation contract dispute in the water and sewerage industry;
* Consultant in the sales & negotiations team within the Financial Services division of a leading management consultancy firm (2007-2008); supported the negotiation of systems integration and outsourcing contracts with banking retail and wealth clients;
* Attorney-at-law (1998-present, membership paused while working as in-house for private companies) - acted as one of two local attorneys in the first Estonian ICSID international investment arbitration case *Alex Genin vs the Republic of Estonia* (1997).

**Professional Background**

12/2017-to date AS Pro Kapital Grupp, Legal Counsel

02/2014-to date Sommersby OÜ, self-employed commercial mediator, negotiator, coach

07/2014-to date Law Office FORT, attorney-at-law (membership stayed while working in the private sphere)

03/2013-03/2015 Baltic Institute of Corporate Governance, Board member

02/2012-01/2014 AS Tallinna Vesi, General Counsel, Member of the Management Board

05/2008-02/2012 AS Tallinna Vesi, Head of Compliance & Legal

03/2006-04/2008 Accenture Plc, Financial Services, consultant

09/1999-09/2007 University of Tartu, Estonia, lecturer of private international law

07/1998-09/2002 Law Office Tark & Co (now Tark, Grunte, Sutkiene), attorney-at-law (fully qualified member of the bar from 2008; membership stayed while working in the private sphere)

**EDUCATION**

2019- B.A. in Psychology, University of Tartu (in progress)

2014 ICF accredited coach

2012 CEDR accredited mediator

2006 PhD, law, University of Cambridge

1999 LL.M. (first class), University of Cambridge

1998 B.A. (*cum laude*), University of Tartu

**Personal Mediation Style**

Ilona’s mediation style is exploratory, solution-focused, kind, but concrete. She does a lot of the work beforehand individually with the parties to have efficient meetings (max 2 hours). At the meetings, she gives both parties equal attention and systemically goes through the issues, helping parties to come up with solutions that they can live with.