



<b>Accreditation:</b>	2016
<b>CEDR Panel</b>	2022
<b>Languages:</b>	English
<b>Location:</b>	United Kingdom

***“Can’t recommend Harry Spurr highly enough. From speaking to him over the phone to dealing with him in person, it was clear, he’s at the top of his profession.”***

***“Very calm, efficient and effective. It felt almost like business therapy”***

***“Harry Spurr is a highly skilled professional mediator”***

Client Feedback

## Harry Spurr

### Overview

Harry is an accomplished and directory-ranked mediator in commercial, civil and property disputes. Described recently as “at the top of his profession”, “highly skilled” and “outstanding”, he is regularly commended by parties for his mediation style, and in particular his calming influence and capacity to challenge sensitively but robustly. This feedback, and his high settlement rate, speak for themselves.

His background as a barrister practising for many years from leading chambers, and as the former owner of two businesses, gives him a rare insight into the combination of legal and commercial influences that frame disputes.

Harry’s mediation practice extends across the commercial, civil and property spectrum. His commercial expertise is extensive and covers corporate and shareholder actions, boardroom conflict, share purchase disputes, financial sector litigation and insurance matters, in addition to general contractual disputes. He also mediates in employment and professional negligence cases.

In addition, Harry has extensive expertise in disputes concerning property, land and environmental issues. This includes land ownership and boundaries, rights of way, restrictive covenants and easements, water rights, options and overage, trespass, adverse possession and nuisance, construction, a wide range of landlord and tenant matters, and disputes in the planning, licensing and environmental regulatory contexts. Harry also offers substantial experience in conflict engaging public bodies, whether acting in a regulatory capacity or otherwise.

Harry is regularly instructed in high value / high stakes cases by leading firms on behalf of high-profile organisations. Many of his clients are large corporates. Recent examples include a major European airline group, a 'big four' accounting firm, a prominent property investment group, a high-profile London media agency, rail infrastructure and rail operating companies and a leading national hotel management group. Harry also mediates for SME's, law firms, shareholders, landowners, tenants and other occupiers of land, regulators, local government and other public bodies, schools, community groups and other organisations, professionals and private individuals.

The combination of his experience as a barrister and as a successful entrepreneur dealing with the realities of dispute and negotiation (he has founded and managed businesses in the energy and drinks sectors) means that he is unusually well-placed to understand not just the legal context that frames disputes, but also the commercial and other influences that lie at their heart. This insight often proves valuable in the deal-making environment of mediation.

Harry mediates in person in London and across the UK, and online where requested, such as in cases involving international parties.

Harry regularly delivers lectures and training sessions on mediation, including to high-profile organisations, and is the author of a substantial number of articles on the subject.

## **Professional Background**

Harry has been mediating since 2016. Before then he practised as a barrister; called to the Bar in 2001, he practised from leading chambers in London and Bristol. He has also been a successful entrepreneur, founding and managing businesses in the energy and drinks sectors alongside his legal career during the years 2007 – 2018.

2016 – present: commercial mediator (accredited by CEDR and ADRgroup) and lead mediator for two community mediation charities

2001 – present: barrister (Landmark Chambers, Francis Taylor Building, Hogan Lovells LLP, St John's Chambers)

2007 – 2018: business entrepreneur – founder and director of successful businesses in the renewable energy sector and drinks industry

## Expertise

- Agriculture
- Commercial Contracts
- Construction and Engineering
- Education
- Energy, Oil and Gas
- Environment, Planning, Licensing
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property
- Landlord & Tenant
- Local Government
- Partnership, Shareholder and Boardroom
- Professional Negligence
- Public Sector
- Real Estate and Property
- Sports
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Water

## Dispute Experience

### Property / land / environment

- Adverse possession
- Construction
- Compulsory purchase
- Dilapidations and repair
- Easements
- Forestry
- Forfeiture and relief
- Highways and waterways
- Infrastructure
- Landlord & tenant – commercial, residential and agricultural
- Mortgages and other charges
- Nuisance and damage to property
- Oil
- Options
- Ownership and boundary disputes
- Overage
- Party walls and neighbours

- Planning and development
- Premises licensing
- Professional negligence
- Public spaces, community assets
- Renewable energy
- Renewals and determinations under the 1954 Act
- Rent
- Restrictive covenants
- Riparian rights
- Rights of way and licences
- Rights to light
- Trespass
- Town and village greens
- Waste
- Water, drainage, sewerage

## **Commercial contracts**

- Automotive industry
- Breach of terms
- Construction / interpretation
- Construction
- Corporate finance
- Credit hire and debt
- Hotels
- Infrastructure
- International trade, international agreements
- Insurers
- Leisure and hospitality
- Media
- Management consultancy
- Manufacturing
- Residential and other care
- Retail
- Sale of businesses, sale of assets
- Sale of goods, provision of services

## **Shareholder / boardroom**

- Sale of shares
- Shareholders
- Directors
- Director and fiduciary duties

## **Transport**

- Railways
- Aviation, airlines, airfields
- Highways

## **Employment**

- Termination and dismissal
- Salary and bonus schemes
- Sickness, absence

## **Professional negligence / negligence**

- Solicitors
- Surveyors
- Financial advisors
- Schools / teachers
- Rail operators

## **Public sector**

- Local government (all tiers)
- Schools
- Environmental regulators
- Other regulators

## Personal Style

Fundamental to successful mediation is the need to design and deliver the process around the needs and interests of the parties, and a sensitivity to the evolving dynamic of a negotiation. Harry's approach is therefore characterised by flexibility, awareness and responsiveness. This is accompanied by a commercial insight that reflects his other career in business, and a sensitivity to the emotional aspects of conflict that he has developed from his work in the challenging community mediation sector. Parties often comment favourably about his mediation style, and in particular the calming nature of his influence in difficult disputes, and his ability to challenge robustly but gently.

Harry is particularly interested in the psychology behind the origins and pattern of conflict, and its effect on negotiation dynamics, and regularly exploits his insights in this field to encourage and maintain progress in mediation.

## Feedback

*"Reasonable, calming and not afraid to put forward opposing points of view in the hope it will lead to progress"* (Legal 500, 2023)

*"Can't recommend Harry Spurr highly enough. From speaking to him over the phone to dealing with him in person, it was clear, he's at the top of his profession."* (Director, leading London media agency)

*"Harry was great. He really grasps the positions of both sides, and spent a considerable amount of time with each party in order to facilitate successful settlement proposals. He was flexible throughout the day to party's requests which eventually meant that settlement was reached."* (Solicitor, London city law firm)

*"Excellent. Very calm but also direct when needed and a good facilitator. Managed the parties well and enabled a settlement to be reached in what looked to be very unlikely circumstances."* (Partner, regional law firm)

*"First time I had used Harry - I was very impressed and would be happy to recommend him in the future. Very user friendly, set the mediation well and went the extra mile to ensure settlement was achieved. A really nice tone was set for the mediation."* (Partner, leading national firm)

*"Harry was excellent. It is quite a skill to be able to point out weaknesses and be straight to the point without offending a client and putting them in defence mode. I would certainly use Harry again."* (Partner, regional law firm)

*"I don't think I properly thanked you at the time for your super work on the mediation [...] you did an outstanding job and was really grateful for your hard work and perseverance to get it where it got to. I know we are looking to use you where possible since."* (Partner, London city law firm)

*"Clear, level headed and empathetic. I would have no hesitation in putting your name forward for future mediations. Managed the process well and was skilful at facilitating dialogue and negotiation between the parties"* (Partner, leading national law firm)

*"You're a fantastic mediator [...] it's been a pleasure working with you; I've learned lots"* (Co-mediator in an education case)

