



<b>CEDR Accreditation:</b>	2018
<b>CEDR Panel</b>	2024
<b>Languages:</b>	English
<b>Location:</b>	United Kingdom

## Ryan Abbott

### Overview

Professor Ryan Abbott, M.D., Esq., Solicitor Advocate, has mediated domestic and international disputes with collectively hundreds of millions of pounds at stake. His focus is on commercial mediations, and he has particular experience in the fields of intellectual property and health care, and offers unique expertise in such matters as biologics, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, medical and life sciences, computer technology and distributed ledger technology.

Ryan has a reputation for rigorous preparation, engagement and adaptability. He brings passion and energy to every matter he is mediating, from those involving active litigation between large multinational companies represented by magic circle law firms, to those involving unrepresented individuals experiencing interpersonal disputes within family offices. Ryan takes a commercially oriented approach to resolving disputes, aided by his diverse practice and educational background. Ryan is also a member of the CEDR Training Faculty.

## Professional Background

Ryan has served as a law firm partner focused on dispute resolution in the life science and technology industries, and he has been general counsel to biotechnology companies. In these capacities, he has substantial mediation experience as outside and inside counsel for both claimants and respondents. He has also worked as an expert, including for the European Commission, the United Kingdom Parliament, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In addition to his mediation practice, Ryan is professor of law and health sciences at the University of Surrey School of Law and adjunct assistant professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California Los Angeles. He is a graduate of the University of California San Diego School of Medicine (MD), Yale Law School (JD), and the University of Surrey School of Law (PhD).

Ryan lectures frequently on mediation and alternative dispute resolution, and he has numerous publications in the field. Ryan is a solicitor advocate in England and Wales, a patent attorney and attorney in the United States (licensed in California and New York), and a licensed physician board certified by the American Board of Legal Medicine.

## Expertise

- Banking and Finance
- Biotechnology
- Board disputes
- Business disputes
- Contract disputes
- Derivative actions
- Distributed Ledger Technology
- Employment & Workplace
- Food Industry
- Franchise and White Label agreements
- Information and communications technology (ICT)
- Litigation in person
- Media & Entertainment
- Partnership, shareholder and joint venture
- Pharmaceuticals
- Private client
- Product liability
- Shareholder disputes
- Technology disputes

## Dispute Experience

### Appellate

- Chaired arbitral appellate panel

### Business Commercial

- Disputes regarding partnership agreements, joint venture agreements, and business dissolutions
- Disputes regarding licensing agreements, franchise agreements, supply agreements, service agreements, consulting agreements, scientific advisory agreements, commercialization agreements, development agreements, distribution agreements
- Board member disputes, disputes between boards and executives, inter-management disputes
- Claims of fraud
- Disputes involving auditing provisions
- Disputes involving commercially reasonable efforts
- Disputes related to asset valuations
- Disputes related to corporate (and personal) bankruptcy and insolvency
- Disputes related to service bundling
- Disputes involving misuse of confidential information and trade secret theft, patent, trademark, and copyright infringement
- Disputes over sales of goods and services
- Claims of fiduciary duty violations
- Disputes regarding stock options, equity valuation, and sales of unregistered securities
- Disputes involving asset (APA) and share purchase agreements (SPA)
- Shareholder and derivative disputes
- Breach of warranties and covenants
- Disputes involving mergers and acquisitions
- Disputes involving due diligence
- Claims of tortious interference
- Disputes between manufacturers, distributors, and sub-distributors
- Claims of statutory violations and usurious financing, violations of consumer protection laws, and marketing violations
- Claims of anti-trust violations and anti-competitive behaviour for anti-steering activity, pricing policies



## **Contracts**

- Disputes alleging breach of contract, third-party beneficiaries, contract validity and enforceability, oral and written contracts, performance and modification, interpretation and statutory interpretation, good faith and fair dealing, assignment, fraud, statute of limitations, waiver, novation, duress, mistake, damages, mitigation

## **Digital Assets and Web3.0**

- Disputes involving valuation of digital assets and non-fungible tokens
- Disputes involving cryptocurrencies and smart contracts
- Disputes involving distributed ledger and blockchain technologies
- Disputes involving initial coin offerings and security and exchange commission (SEC) investigations

## **Emergency Arbitration & Interim Relief**

- Resolved requests for interim relief as emergency arbitrator along with requests for interim and injunctive relief on a non-emergency basis

## **Employment Law**

- Disputes of wrongful termination, discrimination (including based on age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, religion), state and federal statutory violations, retaliation, whistleblowing, hostile workplaces, negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress, defamation and slander
- Pre-dispute interpersonal workplace conflict resolution and process management
- Disputes of non-payment of wages, non-compliance with state and federal statutory schemes
- Disputes involving employment classification, violations of non-disclosure, non-solicitation, non-competition agreements
- Disputes regarding stock options, vesting, bonuses, and loan forgiveness
- Claims under Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX), the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and state and local statutes

## **Information Technology**

- Disputes involving global licensing and distribution agreements
- Disputes involving licensing and sublicensing
- Disputes involving data access and misappropriation claims
- Disputes involving misuse of confidential information and trade secret theft
- Disputes involving copyright infringement, fair use
- Disputes involving systems integrators

- Disputes involving false advertising
- Disputes involving trademark violations
- Disputes involving breach of contract, good faith and fair dealing,
- Disputes involving software as a service (SAAS)

## **Insurance**

- Disputes involving coverage, bad faith, first-party claims, third-party claims, directors and officers (D&O) and errors and omissions (E&O) policies, reinsurance
- Disputes between brokers and carriers, carriers and reinsurers, policy holders and carriers

## **Intellectual Property**

- Patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret and confidential information, infringement, misappropriation, validity, license disputes, ownership, regulatory filings, technology transfer
- Patent infringement cases involving chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, telecommunication technologies, computer science technologies

## **Life Sciences and Health Care**

- Disputes involving pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, diagnostics, and vaccines
- Disputes involving R&D, commercialization, manufacturing, technology transfer, and intellectual property
- Disputes involving commercially reasonable efforts in a variety of contexts
- Disputes involving supply and distribution agreements
- Disputes involving commercialization agreements
- Disputes regarding sublicenses
- Disputes involving technology transfer and local manufacturing
- Disputes regarding funding and valuation of assets and intellectual property
- Disputes concerning physician practice breakups
- Employment disputes between health care providers and facilities, practice groups, and hospitals
- Disputes regarding plan participation and exclusion
- Disputes involving intellectual property between universities and private parties
- Inventorship and authorship disputes
- Employment claims involving senior executives
- Employment claims involving employees and contractors
- Claims of medical negligence
- Claims of product liability and design defects
- Disputes involving informed consent
- Disputes involving clinical trial enrollment



- Disputes involving violations of HIPAA and data privacy laws
- Disputes involving academic dishonesty
- Allegations of misappropriation of confidential information and trade secret theft
- FRAND/SEP disputes
- Disputes involving authorization for experimental procedures
- Disputes involving reimbursement and disputes between insurers, providers, and facilities

## **Property**

- Disputes involving commercial leases
- Disputes involving property valuation
- Disputes involving lending and financing for real estate
- Disputes involving unsafe conditions
- Disputes regarding liens

## **Professional Liability**

- Negligence, billing disputes, malpractice, accounting
- Medical malpractice
- Attorney malpractice and fee disputes, including multi-party disputes and disputes involving litigation finance
- Accountancy malpractice
- Disputes involving breach of contract, account stated, quantum meruit, promissory estoppel, and unjust enrichment
- Disputes regarding conflicts of interest

## **Regulatory**

- Adjudicated claim between a regulatory body and an applicant denied marketing approval for a medical device

## **Tort**

- Disputes alleging wrongful injury and wrongful death
- Claims of negligence comparative fault, customary practices, negligent hiring and supervision, superseding causes, complex causation, assumption of risk
- Claims for fraud, fraudulent inducement, conversion, theft, inducing breach of contract, intentional interference with prospective economic relations
- Claims of civil rights violations
- Disputes regarding agency and vicarious liability

## Personal Style

Ryan firmly believes that mediation provides all parties with the opportunity to achieve better outcomes than ongoing litigation—financial benefits, risk mitigation, and saved opportunity costs. He is driven to solve problems, and to help parties with ongoing collaborations preserve or rebuild important relationships.

Ryan brings a business-centric mindset and a variety of perspectives and techniques to mediation. He is a pro-active mediator who gets engaged early in the process to understand the background of the parties, the nature of the dispute, and what outcomes are possible. Leading up to the mediation he often works as a facilitator to clarify misunderstandings, explore new issues, and remain sensitive to unspoken matters that may be impeding settlement.

During mediation, Ryan works with the parties to safely explore their interests and entrenched positions and to reality test and realistically assess risks. Ryan does this flexibly, as every mediation is different and every party has their own interests, and because approaches that work for one case may not work for another. The process often involves resolving antagonisms that have impeded financially beneficial settlements.

Although it is often said that a good settlement is one in which both parties are equally unsatisfied, Ryan's goal for mediation is for both parties to end up satisfied and in a better position than before they started the process.

## Awards

- Strategy IAM Global Leader 300 2023 & 2024
- IAM Strategy 300 2022, 2023, 2024
- World Intellectual Property Review (WIPR) 2022 & 2023
- Outstanding IP Practitioner
- Managing Intellectual Property 2022
- Europe Cross-border Patent Litigation Team of the Year
- Managing Intellectual Property 2019 & 2021
- 50 Most Influential People in IP



## Select Publications

- Ryan Abbott and Brinson Elliott, Putting the Artificial Intelligence in Alternative Dispute Resolution: How AI Rules Will Become ADR Rules, 2 Amicus Curiae 4(3) (2023)
- Ryan Abbott, Jeremy Lack and David Perkins, Managing Disputes in the Life Sciences, 36 Nature Biotechnology 697 (2018)
- Frederick Abbott, Ryan Abbott, et al., International Intellectual Property in an Integrated World Economy, 5th ed., Aspen Publishers (2024)
- Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Artificial Intelligence, Edward Elgar (Ryan Abbott ed., 2022)
- Ryan Abbott, The Reasonable Robot: Artificial intelligence and the Law, Cambridge University Press (2020)

## Feedback

- “Intelligent, hardworking, and has a judicial temperament.”
- “Ryan brings considerable talent and intelligence to his dispute resolution practice. He astutely identifies issues and applies both knowledge and common sense to their resolution. He also has a natural ability to manage difficult conversations and lead the parties to a consensus that leaves them feeling their positions have been heard and considered.”
- “I am delighted to see that formidable brain was able to cut through to the salient points of our case.”
- “A victory for the legal process delivering 'fairness!'”