

LAURENCE KATZ

Civil and Commercial Mediator (CEDR accredited)

Registered Mediator with The Civil Mediation Council

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[LinkedIn profile](#)



I bring to my practice as a mediator my wide-ranging experience and perspective as a dispute resolution solicitor for over 30 years.

I mediate commercial disputes in a solutions-focused manner and bring a calming influence to tense situations. Building trust and rapport gives me a ready platform to support the parties through the mediation process, challenge their positions constructively and engage in reality testing. My empathetic, patient and thoughtful approach naturally encourages productive communication and negotiation.

My emphasis is on mediating disputes of up to £1 million involving SMEs and/or individuals. Typically, these disputes involve contractual matters between businesses or between businesses and consumers, debt recovery and landlord and tenant issues. I am proud also to be a community mediator (*pro bono*) with The Tower Hamlets Mediation Project.

My clients as a solicitor include insolvency office holders, banks, SMEs and large corporates, company directors and individuals. In the vast majority of cases, I have helped my clients to reach an agreed settlement, avoiding the need for a trial. My experience includes contract disputes, fraud and asset tracing claims, directors' liability disputes, insolvency litigation and shareholder and partnership disputes.

Qualifications

Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (**CEDR**) Mediator Accreditation (December 2016)

Solicitor (Qualified 1991)

Career

I have been a litigation partner since 1998 (variously at Paisner & Co, Holman Fenwick & Willan, Cawdery Kaye Fireman & Taylor and, since May 2014, *gunnercooke*)

Mediation publications

The Singapore Convention, Commercial Mediation Journal 2019 | No. 1-2

Testimonials for my work as a mediator

Party to mediation: "... we were heard and were given enough time to come to a decision that worked for us. Mediation worked well and a resolution was found which I am happy with."

Party to mediation: "Really professional...Wish we could have done it weeks/months before."

Irene Grindell (as The Tower Hamlets Mediation Project Manager <http://www.thmp.uk>):

“Laurence has been a volunteer mediator with THMP since 2019. He has a professional, confident approach and is calm, steadfast and respectful. He has the perfect temperament, knowledge and skills for mediating.

I have mediated with him personally which was a very positive experience. He was very supportive to both parties and instrumental in helping them to reach an agreement.

Laurence is a valued member of our team.”

Testimonials for my work as a solicitor

Managing Director of SME: “Your presence during the meeting with the other side where a settlement was eventually reached was invaluable. Had I been there on my own I suspect the meeting would have been shorter and louder with a far less successful outcome.

I cannot thank you enough for all your help and advice. I would have no hesitation in recommending you to anyone who is looking for a lawyer who is equally at home whether litigating or mediating, and who understands not just the law but also the commercial realities of running a small business.”

Commercial client: “What a great advisor to have on your team, sound logical advice with the right level of firmness.”

Co-founder and director of a corporate client: “I am very grateful for how Laurence handled this and how helpful he was - not only in getting a larger sum of the money claimed than I was expecting at various times but also in guiding my thinking in how to handle things. I really appreciated Laurence’s advice and patient approach along the way.”

Commercial client: “...I received exceptional legal service from day one and was very impressed with his meticulous approach. Laurence was always available for any questions regarding my case and beyond and explained the strategies and procedures necessary for a successful outcome. My overall experience with him ... was amazing. I highly recommend him... and extend a big thank you to him and his team.”

Instructing overseas lawyer: “I have had the pleasure to work with Laurence on a few occasions, but in particular on one bigger project... we had after years finally the opportunity to settle and Laurence had guided us towards the completion of such settlement. His advice was clear in his analysis, calm about our chances and risks and to the point which way to go - and in particular for the benefit of the insolvency estate... he easily understands and handles different legal concepts without making a fuss about it. To me, this is really important when working with co-counsel abroad. Much appreciated!”