LAURENCE KATZ
Civil and Commercial Mediator (CEDR accredited)
Registered Mediator with The Civil Mediation Council
Email: Laurence@LaurenceKatzMediation.com
Mobile: +44 (0) 7977 007 552
https://laurencekatzmediation.com/
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/laurence-katz-3308164



Overview

I bring to my practice as a mediator my wide-ranging experience and perspective as a dispute resolution solicitor for over 35 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 involving SMEs and/or individuals. Typically, these disputes involve contractual matters between businesses or between businesses and consumers, disputed debt claims and landlord and tenant issues. I am proud also to be a community mediator *(pro bono)* with The Tower Hamlets Mediation Project.

My experience as a solicitor includes contract disputes, fraud and asset tracing claims, insolvency disputes, and a range of other commercial disputes (details below). I am well placed to mediate disputes in these areas.

Dispute experience

Non-neutral experience in italics.

My experience as a mediator includes:

- Dispute arising from non-completion of a property purchase
- Disputed debt claims including a claim arising from loans made
- Dispute between founders of a business
- Disputes between companies and former directors
- Dispute concerning a sale of shares
- Disputes concerning claims for payment by contractors (business to business)
- Disputes concerning the provision of services (business to business and business to consumer)
- Disputes arising out of building work at residential properties
- Neighbour disputes

- Dispute concerning service charge and the condition of a property
- Dispute between management company and leaseholder
- Dilapidations dispute

My experience as a solicitor includes:

- *contract disputes (including in relation to guarantees, business sale agreements, joint ventures, management agreements, patent licences, distribution agreements, commercial agency contracts and restrictive covenants);*
- *fraud and asset tracing claims;*
- *insolvency disputes (including preference claims; transactions at an undervalue claims; misfeasance, wrongful trading and fraudulent trading claims; and claims relating to the payment of dividends); and*
- *other commercial disputes (such as shareholder and partnership disputes; enforcement of foreign money judgments; directors' liability; and professional negligence claims against auditors, solicitors and valuers).*

Qualifications

Solicitor (Qualified 1991)
Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (**CEDR**) Mediator Accreditation (December 2016)
CEDR Workplace Mediator Accreditation (conversion course) (June 2025)

Career

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

Panel memberships

The London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation (Central London County Court Scheme Panel) (2025)
CEDR UK Panel (2026)

Mediation publications

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

Testimonials for my work as a mediator

Counsel to party to mediation: "I had a very positive experience in the virtual mediation conducted by Laurence Katz, which led to my client reaching a satisfactory settlement. Laurence was evidently well prepared and explained the process clearly. Laurence was appropriately neutral throughout and provided space for the parties to develop their negotiating positions. I would be glad to recommend Laurence as a mediator."

Solicitor to party to mediation: “Laurence was very pleasant and professional. Took a neutral position throughout and listened very carefully to the lay clients. Fully explained the process and showed empathy when needed. Did not rush any of the parties who were able to make informed decisions. Would recommend Laurence again.”

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.”

Solicitor to party to mediation: ““I was very pleased with the support my client received throughout the mediation process. Laurence was approachable, knowledgeable and always took the time to explain matters clearly, which helped my client understand their options and make informed decisions. He was well-prepared, responsive to my questions and remained calm and professional throughout what was a stressful dispute. During the mediation, our client felt supported and confident that our position was being presented effectively. I particularly appreciated his pragmatic and constructive approach to resolving the matter. I would not hesitate to recommend his services to others facing a similar dispute.”

Party to mediation: “Thanks again for your involvement. Mediation worked - hopefully a fair compromise for both parties.”

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.”

Co-mediator and barrister: “I had the privilege of co-mediating alongside Laurence. His calm and patient approach, blended with his ability to carefully uncover the personal and commercial interests of the mediating parties, helped bring about a meeting of minds.”

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!"