



## ABOUT STEVEN MATHER, MEDIATOR

Your clients want a mediator who is calm but not too namby pamby, who is friendly but gets the job done, who knows their stuff but let's the parties have their day. That's what I do. I'm Steven Mather, The Right Mediator for You.

I prefer a 3 or 4 hour mediation day, rather than drag it out all day, but it is entirely up to you and your clients. I believe commercial parties in mediation are there to get a deal done, and not spend all day talking about their issues. Let's get the deal done .

Your clients will benefit from me being an expert in negotiation and the psychology of disputes. Having trained at the London School of Psychotherapy and using NLP techniques, I can usually breakthrough any blocks on settlement quickly. However, because I've been a commercial litigation solicitor for over 10 years, I understand that it's also about commerciality, costs, risks and time.

If you're a lawyer and are seeking a mediator, then what you should really be looking for are the mediator's soft skills, not their CV and previous experience matching the facts in your dispute. It's more important for a mediator to build rapport and relations quickly, to communicate effectively, to be able to get parties to move, to get a deal done.

I qualified as a Solicitor in 2008. For the first couple of years I was at a niche commercial firm BHW Solicitors. I then left, to train as a mediator (2010) and indeed I started some non-law businesses. In 2011, after a year out of legal practice, I joined Josiah Hincks in Leicester and quickly became Partner and Head of Litigation.

Over the last 8 1/2 years there, I managed a team of around 5-6 litigators. Being a high street practice, but an award winning one with a good reputation, I handled multi million pound disputes down to fast track matters across a very wide spectrum.

In 2020, I left that firm to set up on my own as a Consultant Solicitor, in order to focus more on mediation and some other stuff I like doing.

I'm based in Leicestershire and so I generally conduct mediations in Leicester or in the Midlands but of course I am happy to travel.

## PREFERRED SUBJECT MATTERS TO MEDIATE

As a high street litigation solicitor I've dealt with almost every type of civil dispute and therefore can mediate anything that would be County Court level and High Court chancery / business and property / probate disputes such as:

- contested probate disputes
- intellectual property disputes
- agricultural disputes
- property ownership disputes
- contract disputes
- professional negligence
- costs disputes
- partnership & shareholder disputes

I've probably dealt with a claim like yours before but if you're not sure then get in touch and we can have a chat about how your clients will benefit by instructing me as their mediator.

### **Contentious Probate Disputes**

I've dealt with a wide variety of contested probate claims, including challenging the validity of a will, Inheritance Act/dependency claims, promissory estoppel and trust based claims.

### **Intellectual Property Disputes**

I've been involved in a number of IPEC disputes, including copyright infringement, trademark infringement and passing off. Disputes involving patents, design rights, Amazon ASIN codes, eBay mis-selling, plus loads more.

I'd like to think I know my beans here, but importantly, I'm not there at mediation to give an opinion on the case. However, I do occasionally (where appropriate) use my knowledge and experience to challenge positions - whether the clients or indeed the lawyers, and I find that can sometimes help break deadlocks and progress matters to settlement.

### **Agricultural Disputes**

My previous firm was on the National Farmers Union (NFU) Legal Panel, and so I was exposed to a lot of agricultural disputes of all types. I was also one of few mediators with specific agricultural experience, and so other panel law firms referred matters to me to mediate and I also helped the NFU in mediating what they call "inter member disputes".

Accordingly, I've conducted mediations in all types of agricultural disputes; mostly contractual issues, such as the purchase of equipment or supply of contract services, but also things like rights of way, boundary disputes, milk contracts and tenancy renewals.

### **Property Ownership Disputes**

I'd like to think I was quite the specialist in what I call property ownership disputes - disputes between co-owners, TOLATA claims, beneficial ownership, constructive and resulting trusts - that kind of thing. I've done a lot of these claims, and they are always ripe for mediation.

### Contract Disputes

Standard bread and butter stuff for any civil/commercial litigator, I've been involved in hundreds of contract disputes. I've done loads of claims involving tradespeople and homeowners, claims over cars, investments, superyachts... anything, really. Misrepresentation and contract disputes are my bag.

### Professional Negligence Disputes

I have been involved in a number of professional disputes, claims against solicitors, accountants, R&D advisors, architects, financial advisors and much more. My experience will help me as a mediator understand the technical issues behind the claim and help get the deal done. I'm a specialist in financial services claims, as well, as while they are usually against an IFA for negligent advice, I can also get involved as between consumer and financial institution.

### Costs Disputes

I'm not a costs draftsman, but I have dealt with a considerable number of costs disputes including in the Senior Costs Court Office and High Court Costs matters. Mediating costs disputes just makes sense. There is limited costs recovery permitted, and the last thing anyone wants to do is spend money on legal costs arguing about the costs incurred in a dispute.

### Partnership & Shareholder Disputes

Saving the best to last, partnership and shareholder disputes are great ones to try settlement at mediation. By this stage, the parties usually hate each other, emotions are high and the "see you in Court" look gets stronger each day! Mediation can really help in these types of disputes, to get people that used to be friends back on speaking terms, or at least to try to bring an end to the dispute.

I'd also include things like Company Act claims, things like unfair prejudice and director/shareholder type claims here. Again, I've done my fair share to understand the technical nature of the claims, but my approach to mediation will hopefully be a benefit to your clients in seeking to resolve the differences between them.

## CONTACT DETAILS

I am an exclusive Clerksroom mediator. You can contact them on **01823 704 099**.

You can give me a call on 0116 3667 900 or email me [steven@stevenmather.co.uk](mailto:steven@stevenmather.co.uk)

My website is at <https://www.stevenmather.co.uk/mediation>