

BIOGRAPHY

DAVID WILLIAMS

COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PARTNER



David Williams

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Current

- Partner at Hammonds, Leeds, since 1991.
- Head of Hammonds' Leeds Commercial Dispute Resolution Department 2002 - 2006
- International Discipline Leader - Commercial Dispute Resolution Department – 2006 to date

Previous

- Assistant solicitor at Hammonds (Hammond Suddards), Leeds, 1988 to 1991
- Assistant solicitor at Addleshaw Goddard (Booth & Co), Leeds, 1985 – 1988
- Articled clerk at Walker Smith & Way, Chester

Qualifications

- BA (Law) Hons
- Admitted as a solicitor – 1985
- CEDR Accredited Mediator – 2005
- ADR Group Accredited Mediator - 2004

EXPERTISE

Areas of Work

David is a partner in the Commercial Dispute Resolution practice in Leeds office of Hammonds. His particular expertise covers a wide range of commercial dispute and regulatory work.

David has been a key player in ensuring Hammonds' national reputation for ADR and mediation, which has led to the firm winning the prestigious CEDR Award for Professional Excellence in ADR for three times in succession, retaining the title for 7 years in a row against very tough "Magic Circle" competition

His dispute experience includes:-

- Corporate disputes, including shareholder disputes, warranty and indemnity claims, business sale disputes, restrictive covenants, disqualification of directors and directors duties, partnership issues including dissolution
- Contractual disputes, including sale of goods and services, distribution and agency agreements, IT, telecoms and utilities
- Product liability, including product recalls, consumer protection, trade description, research and development and labelling issues
- Financial services, including breach of trust and investment fund mismanagement
- Professional negligence
- Judicial review claims
- Property disputes, including landlord and tenant, wayleave termination and compensation claims and easements

David has particular industry expertise in disputes across a variety of industry sectors including engineering, IT and telecoms, construction, utilities, retail, food and drink, healthcare and financial services.

Recent experience includes:

- Building products supplier – warranty claim and restrictive covenant dispute
- Financial services client – acting in multi-million pound legal proceedings in the UK and the USA relating to unauthorised investment activities against a firm of investment consultants and the recovery of monies paid.
- Investment bank – acted in a multi-million pound international negligence and breach of trust action
- Electrical goods retailer - acting for a director of a major Plc in connection with directors' disqualification proceedings brought by the DTI.
- Harrods Ltd – appeal to Court challenging refusal of Secretary of State to grant a lawful development certificate so as to permit the roof of Harrods store to be used for landing a helicopter.
- Swayfields Ltd – appeal to Court challenging the refusal of planning permission by the Secretary of State relating to the last motorway service station site on the M25.
- Acting for the UK's 3rd largest supplier of electrical equipment in successful defence of major IT claim
- Virtual internet service provider - £10m IT dispute.

- Water utility sector client – injunctive action against a trade effluent polluter.
- Engineering sector client - £2m+ contract dispute and product liability claim.
- Food sector client - £2m+ contract dispute relating to contamination of products with benzene.
- National Grid Transco plc - injunctive action against landowners and environmental protesters obstructing NGT from exercising statutory rights to construct an overhead power line.
- Partnership dispute – acting for partners in a leading regional solicitors practice in a dispute with outgoing partners as to financial obligations and possible dissolution, including the valuation of goodwill.
- E.ON A.G. / Central Networks plc - Advising on a £5M electricity power line diversion contract dispute.
- Global Energy Company - Advising this client in connection with its involvement in the UN Oil for Food Inquiry.
- Matalan Plc - Acting on a variety of commercial disputes with suppliers and providers of services, including a major dispute with its advertising agency, which was settled at a mediation.
- Austin Reed Group Plc - Acting for this client in an international sale of goods dispute including proceedings in the Italian Courts.
- Service Sector Plc - Advising this client in connection with its involvement in a major UN investigation relating to the award of supply contracts for UN peacekeeping troops.
- US Global Food Sector Company - Conducting an internal investigation for this client in relation to a £4M supplier fraud and acting in relation to internal governance issues and the recovery of losses sustained.
- GB Group Plc - Acting in a multi-party £6M software licensing dispute.
- Bimeda Animal Health Group Ltd - Acting in a regulatory appeal against the suspension of the market authorisation for sheep dip products.
- Nova Chemical Corporation - Acting for this client in proceedings relating to the termination of a major commercial agreement impacting on its UK operations.
- Landis & Gyr - Advising in a multi-party £6M sale of goods dispute relating to defective gas meters, including advice on related insurance issues.
- Money Controls - Advising on a multi-million pound pan European product recall claim.
- Carole Nash Insurance - Acting in a multi-million pound dispute relating to insurance claims referral agreements with panel solicitors
- European Commission - Acting for the Commission on a variety of claims relating to the recovery of grants and loans to UK businesses

Alternative Dispute Resolution

David has acted for a variety of clients in mediations since 2001 as legal advisor, across a wide range of commercial disputes, including:

- Supply of goods and services

- IT supply agreements
- Product liability
- Pollution incidents
- Insurance coverage
- Property damage
- Utility services
- Professional negligence
- Supply of goods and services
- Corporate sale and purchase

David also acted for one of the parties in the first ever mediation involving the Environment Agency and issues relating to their use of statutory powers.

Client and Media Comments

- Chambers 2006 - A Client's Guide to the UK Legal Profession - *"David Williams, the Head of Commercial Dispute Resolution is valued for his "balanced and insightful" advice, as well as the time he takes to understand the clients' business needs".*
- Legal 500 2005 – Recommended Law Firms – *"Hammonds dispute resolution team enjoys a strong reputation particularly for its mediation and advocacy expertise. David Williams heads the Leeds practice."*
- Legal 500 2006 – Recommended Law Firms – *"David Williams attracts praise for his case-handling skills."*
- Legal 500 2007 – Recommended Law Firms – *"Hammonds takes a somewhat different approach to disputes. It has a strong focus on ADR and a range of branded products to differentiate the firm's services.....two of the office's litigation partners, David Williams and.....are CEDR-accredited mediators."*
- Nicola Gifford – Legal Director and Company Secretary, DePuy International Ltd, a Johnson & Johnson company, commenting about David Williams – *"Hammonds is a great law firm to work with; their advice is commercial and timely. I really value the relationship I have with the client partner as this has been the backbone to our continued success together."*

Membership of Professional Organisations

- Member of UKELA (United Kingdom Environmental Law Association)
- Law Society
- Leeds Law Society
- Property Litigation Association
- CEDR

Contact Details

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