



16 Park Place
Leeds, LS1 2SJ



PAUL KIRTLEY

Mediator

MA (Cantab)

1982 – Called Middle Temple

1999 – Recorder

2004 – Accredited Mediator in Civil and Commercial Disputes

2006 – Chairman of Bar Conference

Considered one of the leading civil barristers on the North Eastern Circuit

Fields of Practice

Employment

Personal Injury

Regulatory

Professional Negligence

Nature of Practice

Mediation: Paul is an accredited mediator (ADR). He acts both as a mediator in a range of civil and commercial matters, as well as appearing in mediations on behalf of the participants. Paul is well known for his open nature and analytical style and enjoys a reputation as one of the leading civil lawyers on the NE Circuit.

He brings his judicial experience sitting as a Recorder and his facilitative approach to the rôle as mediator.

Paul mediates particularly in all the areas of dispute listed below and enjoys a high settlement success rate.

Employment: Very well recognised for his Employment Tribunal and general employment work, particularly discrimination law. Has appeared in high profile discrimination cases. Regularly advises on restrictive covenant issues for both employers and employees.

Paul has brought his particular approach to mediation to excellent effect in challenging workplace circumstances. Recent cases involved a three day "in house" mediation in bullying/harassment counterclaims in a key department of a large public body; the risk of the claims "going legal" and the disruption and potential meltdown of the department were uppermost. The process involved gaining the trust of both "sides" before moving on to the mediation procedure. The outcome was to allow all parties to move on in a sustainable manner and averted the disruption and distress otherwise anticipated.

In addition to Paul's rôle as mediator, he often acts for parties in the Judicial Mediation procedure in the Employment Tribunal. Recent cases involved discrimination cases where the successful mediations obviated the need for six week trials.

Personal Injury: Regularly instructed as mediator in high value claims relating to both personal injury and clinical negligence. Recent cases have included cerebral palsy and para and quadriplegia claims in excess of £5m. Has experience of a wide range of employer liability, public liability, disease, equine and dangerous sports cases.

Recent Court of Appeal cases include successfully arguing liability of health trust for attack by psychiatric patients upon staff and the issue of delegation of responsibility of Defective Premises Act claim.

Has conducted occupational disease litigation involving noise-induced hearing loss, vibration white finger, work-related upper limb disorder, asbestos exposure, work-related stress and factory accidents for both claimants and defendants.

Regulatory: Substantial involvement in regulatory matters particularly relating to the Police, NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts. The benefit of mediation is particularly telling in what can be complex areas of legal and factual dispute. These are often cases of particular importance to both individuals and the organisations concerned, especially in pension-related issues.

Professional Negligence: An area of dispute where personal "disappointment" with the services provided is often key to unravelling the solicitor's negligence.

Additional Information

Member of Specialist Associations:

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Employment Law Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Former North Eastern Circuit Representative on the General Council of the Bar