

Peter Atherton LL.B., Barrister and Mediator.

Deans Court Chambers
Manchester
M3 4DF

Personal and Professional Background

I was born in Wigan, Lancashire in 1952. I went to Mount St.Mary's College, Derbyshire and Birmingham University where I read law. I graduated in 1975 and went to the College of Law to study for the Bar Finals. After being called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1976 I started a civil/commercial pupillage in Liverpool. In the early years I had a mixed practice of civil, criminal and family work. I was appointed Junior of the Northern Circuit, responsible for organising weekly Bar Mess in Liverpool and Manchester and other Circuit events. In the late 70's I was elected to the Bar Council where I represented the interests of young barristers and eventually I became Chair of the Young Barristers Committee. In 1985, after 10 years in Chambers in Liverpool I joined Deans Court Chambers in Manchester. At about this time my practice developed mainly in the civil field representing both claimants and defendants in a wide range of 'common law/commercial' litigation. This has included insurance, commercial, environmental and professional negligence actions. In 1989 I was a member of Ingersoll Rand's legal team at the Piper Alpha Inquiry in Aberdeen. Apart from my civil work, I have also been instructed by HM Customs and DEFRA to prosecute complex fraud and CAP (milk quota) cases. In 2003 I was appointed by the Attorney General as Junior Counsel to the Crown (Crime). My current practice is wide ranging and interesting and includes professional regulation, insurance related disputes and professional negligence.

Professional Associations

I am a member of:

The Association of Northern Mediators
The Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association (Committee Member 1998-2007)
The Professional Negligence Bar Association.
The Civil Mediation Council

Appointments

I am Recorder authorised to sit in the civil, criminal and family courts and a member of the CRFP's Disciplinary Committee

I was accredited as a mediator by CEDR in 1999 and have successfully completed further mediation courses at Harvard Law School 2001, ANM Summer Schools and the M.A.T.A. Advanced Mediator Training Course in Italy in September 2007.

My mediation style is friendly, calm, clear and authoritative and I have assisted parties successfully to resolve many wide ranging and complex disputes.