

ROBERT L LANGLEY, MA (OXON) FCI Arb. Solicitor

Current practice

1. Rob Langley is a practising solicitor in a medium-sized law firm with offices in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne but active throughout the country. Rob spends much of his time in London and occasionally goes abroad on construction and engineering disputes, most recently to The Netherlands concerning a major engineering contract. As a Mediator, he specialises in construction, engineering, technical, commercial, insurance and professional negligence conflicts.
2. As head of department Rob is responsible for the work of 21 qualified lawyers and in addition to construction and engineering law his personal practice also includes a large amount of professional indemnity work (both pursuing and defending claims for professional negligence against a wide range of professionals including engineers, insurance brokers, architects, accountants, surveyors, financial advisers and designers).

Background

3. Rob Langley read Law at Pembroke College, Oxford, became a Barrister in 1975, also qualified as a solicitor in 1979 and has over 20 years' experience of resolving disputes. He finds that while litigation, adjudication and arbitration can be effective, they are often in practice both messy and expensive. Mediation takes control back from the lawyers and gives it back to the people involved.

Mediation experience

4. Rob has carried out 27 mediations as mediator in the last four years, 23 of which were successfully settled. Rob has also represented clients in some 60 mediation referrals. The smallest mediation Rob has been involved in involved a tenant's complaint against a Housing Association arising from a broken gas heater. The largest was a complex hospital contract dispute for £24m, settled successfully.

Current working experience

5. Current activities range across engineering and construction contracts, oil and gas fabrication projects, major construction development drafting, resolution of numerous professional negligence disputes in the High Court and County Court and a range of commercial arbitration and litigation cases large and small. Largest current instructions are for overseas clients in power generation in 9 and 10 figure sums.

Mediation values

6. Rob regards the principal values to be brought to a mediation by the mediator as analysis, comprehension, objectivity, empathy, integrity, an ability to see both sides, coupled with commercial common sense.

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