

SILAS TAYLOR

Partner – Andrew M Jackson

Mediation Experience

Silas was one of the first solicitors in the UK to be trained as a mediator, receiving accreditation with ADR Net in July 1991.

Silas has successfully acted as a mediator in litigious cases involving all areas of the law. Recent such cases include:

- Boundary dispute between farmers
- Solicitors' professional negligence dispute following fatal accident claim
- Shareholder dispute between Directors
- Dispute between partners as to financial liability upon dissolution of partnership
- Personal injury claim with three defendants disputed as to both liability and quantum
- Personal injury claim involving complex issues in respect of future loss of earnings claim.
- Breach of contract claim in respect of fitted kitchen
- Dispute as to repairing covenant in lease
- Claim in respect of surveyor's negligence

In addition to his general mediation work Silas has become very well known as a mediator of significant shipping disputes in London. He has mediated many complex casualty, contract and insurance cases, involving claims in excess of \$20m. These cases have involved disputes as regards both liability and quantum and have in almost all instances resulted in a settlement.

Other shipping related cases have involved such matters as wreck removal, dry dock accidents and charterparty liabilities as to seaworthiness. Silas has a particular involvement with the fishing industry and has mediated cases around the Country in respect of such issues as repair disputes, fishing ground disputes and accident claims.

Professional Background

Educated at Bedford Modern School and graduated in Law from Hull University in 1974. Commenced articles with Andrew M Jackson in Hull which

included (by special dispensation from the Law Society) a six week trip to the White Sea on board a deep water trawler. Admitted as a solicitor in 1977 Silas was instrumental in the development of the firm's Shipping and Transport department from its then complement of 2 fee earners to its present size of 12 fee earners, one of the biggest shipping practices outside of London. He became head of the department in 1990.

Silas has a broad practice involving many areas of commercial litigation. His main specialism is in marine casualty work and general marine related litigation, where he has a broad client base of owners and insurers both in the UK and overseas. He has always had a particular involvement in all aspects of the fishing industry and acts for specialist insurers in respect of salvage, collision and groundings etc as well as total loss investigations. A significant proportion of his workload has always been in respect of personal injury claims. Significant reported cases include:-

"The Harcourt" [1980] 2 Lloyds Reports 589 – relating to the criminal liability of a ship's master whilst off watch.

"The Ignition" – Jenkins v Godwin [1983] 1 Lloyds Reports 382 – relating to the interpretation of an "offer" of pilotage.

"The Vegaland" Ravenscroft v Rederi AB Transatlantic [1991] 3All ER73, [1992] 2All ER470 – relating to proximity issues in claim for nervous shock following shipboard accident.

"The Progress" Gray v. Stead [1999] 2 Lloyds Reports 559 – relating to the liability of a fishing vessel owner to provide self inflating lifejackets.

Clark v. Perks and others [2001] 2 Lloyds Reports 431 – relating to whether a jack-up rig is a "ship" for statutory purposes. The Court of Appeal decision gave an entitlement to offshore workers to recover over £100M in overpaid tax.

Silas has been rated as a "leader" in his field by Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession for a number of years. Recent references include:--

Chambers 2001-2002

"An astute maritime lawyer, he's a realist but not afraid to knock heads together" A litigator with a fearsome reputation "as soon as his name is dropped into the hat, people shudder a bit!"

Chambers 2002-2003

"A hands on lawyer able to dovetail with the needs of his clients".

Chambers 2005

“Highly respected in admiralty circles and rightly so”.

Other Experience in ADR

Silas was actively involved with the ADR Group in the promotion of mediation in the 1990's. This included several presentations to P&I Clubs and other insurers. He also addressed a meeting of the LMAA when mediation was first being considered.

He is an enthusiastic member of the Association of Northern Mediators.

Interests

Silas is a very keen salmon fisherman and a passionate supporter of Hull City football club.

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