

# Peter McHugh\*

## mediation

Specialist in commercial contract disputes

### CV

#### Summary

Peter McHugh is a solicitor, chartered arbitrator and accredited mediator. He strongly believes that any dispute is capable of being resolved by way of mediation.

Peter conducts mediations in many different areas and has a very impressive success rate.

As a solicitor he is a specialist in construction and property dispute resolution, acting on behalf of contractors, sub-contractors and employers in litigation, arbitration, adjudication and mediation. He advises in professional negligence claims, acting on behalf of businesses and individuals within the construction industry either defending or pursuing claims.

Peter has a relaxed approach and encourages the parties to engage in the process of mediation. His level-headed style draws out the strengths and weaknesses of each party's situation, enabling them to make reasoned decisions to come to an acceptable conclusion.

#### Professional Background

Qualifying as a solicitor in 1990, Peter was a Partner and the Head of the Dispute Resolution team of one of the leading firms of solicitors in the Midlands. He is now a Partner with leading national firm Clarke Willmott. He has nearly 30 years hands on experience of dispute resolution for construction and commercial property issues, including civil engineering disputes. He has been involved in heavyweight and high level negotiations with Chief Executives, top management and consultants on property and non-property related matters.

Peter has conducted a considerable number of mediations over the last 18 years. They range from commercial and construction disputes of high value, to matters of a general nature which he dealt with when he sat as a mediator in the Birmingham County Court. Examples of cases he has mediated are:

- Compulsory Purchase Order of £12m involving the Highways.
- Subsidence case with a property value of £2m, which involved the dredging of a stream and included five parties.
- Professional negligence claim involving a conveyancing solicitor in a residential property transaction.



- Professional negligence claim against an architect and a contractual claim against a contractor regarding a golf driving range.
- Breach of contract claim against a contractor for incorrectly fitting windows into a refurbished school.
- The failure of a refurbished printing press from an overseas supplier.
- Dispute regarding land ownership and rights of way over a farm in Yorkshire.
- A dispute that had been going for 30 years involving an inheritance claim over a large property.
- A construction dispute over an extensively refurbished old mill.
- A dispute relating to workmanship and breach of building regulations between a builder and the owner of a refurbished and extended farm in Essex.
- A dispute about a breach of contract involving the supply of scaffolding in Guernsey.
- A dispute about a retaining wall, between the owner of a residential property and the neighbouring property.

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### **Endorsements**

*"Had it not been for Peter's skill and expertise, we would not have reached a conclusion to the complex case."*

*"He is a very experienced and effective mediator."*

*"Peter is very easy to get on with, he listens and is quickly able to grasp the issues and deliver swift results."*

### **Other Experience**

Peter has delivered seminars to other solicitors on how to conduct mediations and written a substantial number of articles, on mediation and dispute resolution, and how to avoid construction disputes, many of which have been published, including some of the UK's leading magazines in construction and dispute resolution. He has also undertaken a number of national and international presentations on dispute resolution.

### **Panel Memberships**

Peter is Joint Chair of Boardroom Knowledge a specialist property forum and a Co-opted member and Legal Adviser to the Council of the Federation of Master Builders and President of the Birmingham branch. He is also a Director of Parle based in the International Dispute Resolution Centre London and a specialist provider of mediation services to individuals and organisations involved in the construction industry. In March 2012, Peter was appointed Chairman of the Forum for the Built Environment, Birmingham Branch.

### **Personal Interests**

Peter holds a Private Pilots License and is a coastal skipper and experienced off-shore sailor with an Atlantic crossing under his belt. He also plays golf and the guitar.

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