



Mark is one of the UK's leading mediators with a wide-ranging commercial practice and a recognised expertise in high-value professional negligence and insurance disputes. He is ranked in Band 1 of both Legal 500 (who describe him as "highly effective") and Chambers & Partners (who commend him for his "strong technical and commercial analysis and diplomatic style").

Mediation experience

Mark became an Accredited Mediator with ADR Group in 2001; he was a Panel Member and Registered Mediator with Littleton Dispute Resolution Services Limited from 2001 to 2009. He ceased practice as an advocate to devote his full time to mediation in June 2009 when he joined Independent Mediators.

Mark has acted as sole or lead mediator in over 90 mediations a year since joining Independent Mediators in 2009, covering a wide variety of disputes in all areas of law listed overleaf, but with a particular emphasis on commercial, professional negligence and insurance cases following his many years of specialisation in those fields while in practice as a junior and a silk.

Mark also acts as arbitrator in commercial and insurance based disputes as a member of Littleton Chambers' International Arbitration Group.

Mark mediates regularly in all commercial, common law and related fields but has a particular reputation in the fields of professional negligence and insurance. He regularly conducts mediations in values ranging between £10m plus to £500k or less in a variety of areas including those listed below. His largest mediation to date was a 7 party commercial dispute worth over £120m involving four international insurers, settled in 4 days of mediation over two weeks.

He has been listed for some years in the top tier of mediators in the UK section of both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, the well known international legal directories. Past comments include: His manner is *'amiable, polished and gentlemanly. He has a good sense of humour, and clients enjoy his company'*. He nevertheless *'asks tough questions, forces confrontation of issues'*, and wins confidence through a *'phenomenal grasp of detail'*. Strategically he has demonstrated outstanding creativity with great *'persistence and resilience'*.

Solicitors say he has *'a huge amount of legal experience'* and *'a clear grasp of complex issues with the right level of persuasion'*, and describe his approach as *'confident and always in control; helpful, no nonsense, and all with a touch of humour'*.

Directories

Legal 500 2024

Mark Lomas KC has been appointed in approximately 1105 mediations since joining Independent Mediators as a full-time mediator in 2009, he has the *'ability to grasp the key issues quickly and encourage the parties to consider both the strengths and the weaknesses of their case'*. Other clients appreciate Lomas for being *'thorough, calm, personable, and hugely experienced'*. An accredited mediator since 2001, Lomas averages approximately 70-80 mediations a year; and his recent mediation work includes disputes involving professional negligence claims against solicitors, accountants, architects, financial advisers, and insurance brokers, as well as claims concerning insurance, probate, property, trusts, commercial matters, and insolvency.

Chambers & Partners 2024

Mark Lomas KC is considered a go-to for the mediation of significant commercial disputes. He is particularly experienced in professional negligence disputes, and is also strong in financial services and contractual cases. *"Mark is fantastic; he's the best mediator I've worked with. He's able to cut through the issues in no time and ensure parties get to a resolution pretty quickly in the same day. His legal knowledge and views on a claim influence you as a solicitor and help to resolve the matter."* *"Mark is a highly experienced and wise mediator."* *"He's the best commercial insurance and professional negligence mediator out there. He's a good evaluative mediator and tells you what he thinks. He's completely trustworthy and has a wonderful manner with both sides. He's always prepared and is wonderfully hard-working."* *"The grand master of professional liability mediation."* *"Mark is one of my go-to mediators. He's probably one of the leading mediators in his area. He's very good with all sorts of disputes and gets to the heart of the issue really quickly. He breaks the complex disputes down, is excellent at multiparty disputes and is extremely strong."*

Who's Who Legal: Mediation 2023

Listed as one of the World's top mediators in this International directory. Mark has been listed in this directory since the first edition in 2011.

Who's Who Legal: UK Bar: Mediation 2023

Mark Lomas KC is a leading mediator with an enviable track record in disputes across a range of sectors, including insurance and finance.

Areas of practice

Mark has acted as sole or lead mediator in a wide variety of disputes ranging from multi-million pounds to tens of thousands of pounds in areas including:

- **Commercial contract disputes** involving sale of goods and businesses, property development, construction and sale of property, information technology, intellectual property, commercial supply, publishing, joint venture agreements and other areas;
- **Solicitors' negligence** in the conduct of litigation, mortgage lending, conveyancing, sale of businesses, commercial deals, taxation, probate, divorce, bankruptcy and other areas;
- **Barristers' negligence** in the conduct of litigation and advice in various areas;
- **Surveyors', Quantity Surveyors' and Architects' negligence** in building design, valuation, construction, mortgage lending and sale of residential, commercial and development property;
- **Accountants' negligence** in auditing and accounting services and advising on tax and other matters;
- **All aspects of Lenders' claims**, including issues as to scope of duty, securitisation and recoverable loss;
- **Financial Advisers' negligence** in advising and selling pension and tax management schemes, and the mis-selling of investments generally;
- **Banking and Financial Services**, including the mis-selling of swaps and other financial instruments;
- **Insurance disputes** in the commercial and professional indemnity fields;
- **Common law and tort-based claims** in a wide variety of matters both corporate and personal;

- **Property dispute** arising out of a criminal confiscation order, in what is believed to have been the first mediation in which the Serious Fraud Office was a party.
- **Contested Wills and Probate**
- **Construction dispute** in the residential, commercial and developments fields;
- **Trusts**

Clients comments

Comments relating to performance as a mediator include:

"The mediator's entire process was outstanding both before the mediation day and during the mediation. The mediator was very effective in getting the parties to understand each other's positions and the risks, very involved, well read in and prepared, across the detail of the claim."

"In a word: brilliantly. Mark's strong and impressive presence and sense of authority and experience impressed all attendees, and secured far more progress than my clients and I ever thought possible. He instilled complete confidence in my clients, who listened hard, carefully, and modified strategy and expectations in consequence. This was a complex claim, with many elements, but Mark soon distilled it to its essential elements and had parties focussing on those, with great success. His calm and considered manner instilled confidence in me also, from the pre-mediation call, through to his very welcome initiative of following up with a potential solution to the relatively (relative to where we had started from) small gap."

"Mark Lomas has to be one of the best mediators I have instructed in the last ten years. I am amazed I haven't used him before. He helped the parties achieve a fantastic result."

"Mark is pre-eminent and he was great on the day. Clear, concise, friendly but firm."

"Excellent. Papers delivered very late, but was on top of issues and brought a case that was not going to settle to the settlement table. Clients are delighted."

"Very good. Mark Lomas KC was well prepared and able to establish a relationship of trust and openness with both parties which contributed greatly to the settlement."

"Absolutely brilliant. His legal knowledge commanded respect from three aggressive solicitors and he had excellent communication skills and determination to succeed."

"Tested the case firmly and kept the parties engaged and moving towards a deal. Great job."

"Very good. He grasped the issues quickly and was effective in making the client and the opposition see the risk factors, which helped facilitate a speedy settlement."

"Obviously, Mr Lomas has a huge amount of legal experience. An iron hand in a velvet glove. The case settled which was the aim of the day."

"Very good. Clear grasp of complex issues and the right level of persuasion."

"Excellent. Mr Lomas had a very good way of handling our clients and wears his learning lightly."

"Mark Lomas was confident and always in control. Impressive performance in a delicate case. Would use him again."

"Excellent. Established as informal an atmosphere as possible in the circumstances. Sensitive and clear understanding of the issues and personalities in the room."

"Very good approach to a complex case. Worked very hard to bring together parties with extremely divergent views about the likely outcome at trial."

"Very good. Helpful, no nonsense, and all with a touch of humour."

"Excellent. Mark Lomas has a very easy manner and encourages frankness without appearing to exert pressure."

"Excellent. We thought the claim would be difficult, if not impossible, to settle and were extremely pleased that the mediator was able to prove us wrong."

"First class. Exceeded my expectations and achieved a most satisfactory result where it hardly seemed possible. His doggedness paid off. 10 out of 10."

"Excellent – achieved the impossible!"

"Please extend our sincere appreciation to Mark for the way he mediated this dispute. Mark's grasp of the issues, his considered presentation to the parties at the outset and skilled interaction with all parties to bring about a resolution is why we recommend him time and again. Without the result that Mark helped to achieve, our client's business would not have survived."

"He was extremely helpful in moving the parties toward settlement and helping us to fully consider the strengths and weaknesses of our respective positions. He contacted me the night before and I felt completely assured that he understood the salient issues. The facts of the case were complex but he understood the respective parties' positions and helped us achieve settlement."

"The Mediator was very competent and pragmatic. He emphasised the elements of the case that most needed addressing and prevented the parties from being side-tracked by less important issues. He made sure that all parties were making constructive offers and that momentum was maintained. He managed the expectations of the parties very well and assisted the parties with resolving the issues."

"Mark called me the evening before and it was clear from our conversation that he had already worked out what the central issues in the dispute were. ... Mark certainly gained the confidence of my client quickly. I thought he did an excellent job. He has a good way of getting to the nub of the dispute and he also has a good way of telling off the lawyers if he thinks they are being unreasonable!"

"Very impressive. He kept the momentum going and the pressure on both sides in a calm and relaxed manner. Adopted a firm approach with the client and with each side, and was very hands on, which is what was needed on the day."

"Excellent. Thoughtful, experienced and effective. Resulted in a good outcome for both sides."

"I was very impressed with how Mark moved the parties beyond the initial impasse to a settlement. I found him to be a very effective mediator and would not hesitate to recommend him."

"Mr Lomas dealt with the matter professionally and sympathetically throughout. The mediation on the day was extremely well structured and he built an excellent relationship with both lay clients and lawyers. Everyone came away from the mediation feeling that real progress had been made."

Professional memberships

- International Mediation Institute Certified Mediator
- CMC Fellow
- Member of the London Court of International Arbitration
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member of PNBA
- Member of Association of International Arbitration

Professional background

Mark was called to the English Bar in 1977 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2003; he practiced as junior and leading counsel at the Commercial and Common Law Bar for over 30 years with a particular specialisation in Professional Liability and Insurance.

Mark has been mediating regularly since 2001, in combination with continuing practice at the commercial and common law bar. Since taking silk in 2003 mediation made up an increasing part of his overall practice, combined with the conduct of a number of large cases in the High Court. A recent reported case in the commercial field was *Mainstream Properties v Young* IRLR [2005] 964 in which he successfully defended a claim for deliberate inducement of breach of contract in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal, during which the test for intent in the tort of inducement was re-defined and subsequently upheld by the House of Lords. His most recent professional negligence case was *Daniels v Deville* in 2008, where he achieved summary dismissal of all claims against a firm of solicitors in the second week of a multi-party multi-million pound claim.

In June 2009 Mark ceased practice as an advocate to devote his full time to mediation and arbitration.

Training/talks/books/articles

He regularly conducts training sessions for in-house for law firms, insurance companies and Others to enable them to represent their clients more effectively in mediation. In 2016 he chaired the annual conference of the PNLA in Southampton.

Contact details

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