

mediation / first

John Loram

Civil & Commercial

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As a fulltime mediator for over 20 years, John has mediated in excess of a thousand disputes with values up to £50 million covering a wide variety of civil, workplace and family issues. John is willing to mediate almost any type of dispute as he strongly believes that what clients need when they reach an impasse in their negotiations is not another “expert” in the area of their particular dispute but rather an “expert mediator” with the necessary skills and experience to help the clients get to a satisfactory settlement.

Professional Background

John qualified as a solicitor at the prestigious London firm Farrer & Co in 1990 and moved to Devon in 1994. He trained as a family mediator in 1997 and as a civil/commercial mediator in 2003. In order to concentrate fulltime on his mediation career, John set up Mediation First (formerly South West Mediation) in 2003 which is now one of the largest mediation providers in the country. John was personally recognised with the Leader of the Year Award at the 2019 Devon and Somerset Law Society Awards while South West Mediation also won the Team of the Year Award and was Highly Commended in the Law Firm of the Year category.

John has expertise in mediating:-

- Contract (commercial and consumer) disputes
- Cohabitee disputes and Trusts of Land (TOLATA) cases
- Disputes regarding ownership of property
- Negligence claims
- Share sale and breach of warranty disputes
- Judicial Review applications
- Court of Protection matters
- Will and contentious probate disputes
- 1975 Inheritance Act disputes
- Disputes regarding the care of vulnerable or elderly family members
- Landlord and tenant disputes
- Workplace disputes
- Employment matters
- All types of family issues e.g. financial provision and Children Act cases
- Neighbour and boundary/rights of way disputes.

Feedback

“Another great outcome and excellent service” **Solicitor**

“John’s style was excellent. He filled us with confidence” **Solicitor**

“Professional, discreet, pragmatic” **Client**

“Sympathetic and caring” **Client**

“Was impressed throughout...a positive experience. Good rapport with client” **Solicitor**

“As far as the mediation itself was concerned, I have to say that I thought it was conducted extremely well, not least because you seemed to be able to get across to my clients how the other side were viewing things in a way that they had perhaps not previously understood. With that knowledge on both sides a settlement became much more achievable” **Solicitor**

“Please thank John Loram once again for me. His assistance kept the whole process calm and fair and he enabled us to tackle a very difficult situation through his support during the process” **Client**

"I do not think (the service) can be improved. I was impressed by the skill and clarity of thought of the mediator" **Client**

"We thought John's grasp of the issues and the handling of this mediation were excellent" **Solicitor**

"We were very anxious about the prospect of mediation, as even with the advice from our legal representative we didn't truly know what to expect. On the day we were made to feel incredibly at ease however; which was in no small part due to John Loram, whose approach allowed us to temporarily forget the overwhelming dispute which had dominated our lives for the past few years, and instead focus on what was necessary to achieve settlement." **Client**

"For my part, I found your approach refreshingly modern; with the emphasis on resolving the dispute rather than adhering dogmatically to text-book mediation procedure, the parties were able to achieve settlement early in the day, when otherwise they might not have achieved it at all." **Solicitor**

Other Experience

John has in the past run workshops for the Legal Practice Course at the University of Exeter. John was a member of the government's Mediation Task Force led by David Norgrove.

Panel Memberships

Through the Devon & Somerset Law Society, John is accredited by the Civil Mediation Council and has accredited Senior Mediator status with the Family Mediators Association.