



Legal Week - 15th June 2007

Four top litigators launch mediation chambers

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Four senior mediators have launched a dispute resolution chambers as the battle to capture work outside of the courtroom continues.

The civil and commercial mediators are led by the former head of Littleton Chambers, Michel Kallipetis QC, and will form Independent Mediators, which will operate in the same way as chambers, with self-employed independent barristers.

The structure is different to other mediation providers such as the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution, which typically draw from panels of advisers who have independent legal positions.

Kallipetis set up and is chairman of the Bar Council's alternative dispute resolution group. He will work on the venture with rated independent mediators Charles Dodson, Bill Marsh and Nicholas Pryor. Former Littleton chief executive David Douglas will act as chief executive of the group.

Dodson and Marsh will start at the group on Monday (18 June). Although Independent Mediators was formed by Kallipetis when he left Littleton Chambers in September, the outfit has only now termed itself as a chambers.

Douglas said: "Clients want quick direct access to top mediators at an appropriate cost, and that is what we are offering. The set-up is designed to be convenient and easy to use - we can confirm mediator availability and make bookings immediately."

The group will compete for work with a number of other mediation groups including In Place of Strife incorporating ACI, where Kallipetis was formerly a specialist panel member.

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Littleton duo launch mediation service

The former head of Littleton Chambers Michel Kallipetis QC has teamed up with the set's former chief executive David Douglas to launch Independent Mediators, a mediation outfit. The duo has also joined forces with mediators Bill Marsh, a former director at the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution, and Nicholas Pryor, a former head of legal in the insurance market, to launch the new service. Douglas said the new mediation service is not a barristers' chambers as the team does not consist solely of barristers.

Although the setup of the service is much like that of other mediation services, Independent Mediators' functions are similar to a barristers' chambers in that all the mediators are self-employed, independent and share a central service to administer all their mediations.

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