



Nicholas Pryor is one of Britain's most experienced commercial mediators, and one of the pioneers of mediation in Europe. For the last 16 years, he has been consistently recommended as a mediator and ranked in the highest categories in 'Chambers & Partners' and 'The Legal 500'. He is noted for his commercial approach, his skill in resolving complex disputes and his ability to relate effectively with parties.

Mediation experience

Nicholas conducted his first mediation in 1986, and has mediated disputes in Britain, the USA, Europe and the Middle and Far East. He was involved with the foundation of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), and received CEDR accreditation in 1992. He was a founder member of CEDR's Training Faculty from 1991 and a non-executive director of CEDR from 1995 to 1998. He is also an accredited Mediator for ADR Group, and a member of the Mediation Panels of the Court of Appeal, the London Court of International Arbitration and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

He was the joint founder of the Lamport Hall Group, an association dedicated to the advancement of high standards of practice amongst leading mediators. In 2009, he was elected as a distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators. He is a registered Mediator with the Civil Mediation Council, and a registered Mediator for the International Mediation Institute.

He has been consistently listed by both leading UK Legal Directories as one of the leading English mediators since 1998. In 2011 he was included in the first edition of "Who's Who Legal International - Commercial Mediators" Directory as one of the world's most noted mediators and has maintained that listing in all subsequent years.

Other dispute resolution experience

He has extensive experience of successful mediation of disputes involving multiple parties, complex areas of fact or law and high value claims.

Mediation style

Approach to mediation is a blend of proactive and facilitative. His courteous style allows him to build an excellent rapport with the parties and to vigorously test their case to keep the mediation process moving forward.

Directories

Legal 500 2019

Nicholas Pryor *'really impresses with his ability to cut through difficult situations and get parties talking; he is extremely commercial and parties are made very aware of the financial implications of continuing with claims and the risks involved. He also spends considerable time on the phone to parties in advance of mediations to tee matters up, meaning that parties can really make the most of the mediating day when Nicholas focuses minds on settlement'*. Pryor has been appointed in over 1,250 mediations during his mediation career and over half of his practice covers a range of UK-based and international commercial issues, with a further 25 per cent involving insurance and professional negligence matters.

Chambers & Partners 2019

Nicholas Pryor is viewed as a "very well prepared, relaxed and calm" mediator who exhibits "an extremely friendly and gentlemanly style." He handles a diverse range of domestic and international mediations, including those involving banking, employment, medical negligence and partnership disputes.

Who's Who Legal: Mediation 2018

Listed as one of the World's top mediators in this International Directory. **Nicholas Pryor** is considered "a consummate professional" by respondents this year. He is "very highly rated" for "his calmness in situations of stressful negotiations" as well as his "ability to establish the trust of all parties involved". Nicholas has been listed in this directory since the first edition in 2011.

Areas of practice

He has to date successfully mediated approaching over 1,250 commercial disputes, including those referred to mediation by both the English and US Courts. These have included a wide variety of commercial and contractual matters such as:

- Arts, television and the media
- Banking and financial regulation
- Commercial property
- Competition Law
- Computer and IT
- Construction and Engineering
- Copyright
- Defamation
- Employment
- Entertainment
- Fraud
- Government, Local Government and other public authorities and bodies
- Group actions
- Insolvency
- Insurance market disputes involving both marine and non-marine insurance and reinsurance matters
- Intellectual property
- Medical Negligence
- Mis-selling of financial products
- Oil and gas
- Partnership disputes
- Pension funds
- Pharmaceutical
- Professional indemnity and negligence claims
- Public sector contracts
- Shareholders' disputes
- Shipping and aviation
- Sports
- Telecommunications
- Trusts and Probate
- Venture capital and project finance

Client comments

'Mediator was clearly highly experienced and excellent. Astute grasp of the issues at hand and the impact of those issues on both parties. Clear communication as to how the day would proceed and requirements for a successful mediation for both parties. Impressive control over progression of discussions through to offers.'

'An excellent mediator with outstanding qualities; particularly in communication. An ability to get a conclusion where many others would fail.'

'Many thanks indeed for your assistance. We are in no doubt that your proactive approach played a great part in the parties being able to reach a resolution; thank you ever so much and it was a pleasure to work with you. I am certain we will work together again in the future and will have no hesitation recommending you to my colleagues.'

'The deal was done. We wouldn't have been ready to make the most of the crucial first joint session without your help'

'Extremely well – made contact with all parties in advance, explained things on the day, kept a cordial atmosphere, kept up a pace but without anyone feeling hurried, spent all the time needed hearing my client's concerns and assisting with proposals for settlement.'

'I thought I would drop you a line to thank you for all your efforts yesterday. You did a fantastic job and we are very grateful for all your efforts in helping us to settle what was a difficult case.'

'You conducted a most impressive mediation yesterday and I would have no hesitation in recommending you in the future.'

'With all the skill, tact and courtesy for which Nicholas is known. The parties remained miles apart at the end of a gruelling day, but Nicholas's tenacity and patience secured a deal on the following Monday against all the odds. It just goes to show what a really experienced mediator can achieve, when (in the nicest possible way) he won't take "no" for an answer and is prepared to keep the process going on his own initiative.'

'Nicholas handled our client very well in what was a very personal dispute. The time Nicholas took to explain the process and the mediator's role at the start of the day undoubtedly put the client at ease and assisted in ultimately achieving a settlement.'

'I would not hesitate to instruct you to act as mediator in the future. If you can secure a settlement in these circumstances, surely, anything else would be a stroll in the park...!'

'The mediator was excellent. This dispute had a long historical background and the issues had become very personal to many of those involved. Both pre-mediation and on the day itself were handled extremely well.'

'All of these were handled very well. Explanations were good, thorough, the matter, which was delicate, was handled very well.'

'He was knowledgeable on the matters in issue and the relevant law and able to make a contribution on the basis of his own previous legal expertise; he was also very personable, which made unpalatable compromises and decisions easier for the clients to make'

'Nicholas's grasp of our case was extremely helpful during negotiations and discussions about our clients' proposals. His conduct ensured that both parties took the mediation seriously and attempted to reach a realistic settlement.'

'He demonstrated a good knowledge of the key issues in the case and was very professional.'

'He explained the process to our client and the other parties clearly. He has a very good manner with clients.'

'Just what I expected; the process was conducted professionally competently and brought about a result. All one needs!'

'Mr Pryor was excellent in all respects'

Professional memberships

- Member of the Mediation Panel, Court of Appeal
- Member of the Mediation Panel, London Court of International Arbitration
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Registered Mediator, Civil Mediation Council
- International Mediation Institute Certified Mediator
- CMC Registered Mediator
- Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators

Professional background

After being called to the Bar in 1970, he spent a period of postgraduate study at the London School of Economics. In 1981, he qualified as a solicitor, and practiced as a commercial litigation solicitor with Rowe & Maw (now Mayer Brown), and subsequently with Coward Chance (later Clifford Chance). His subsequent experience was as head of the UK Legal Department for a group of Lloyd's market reinsurance companies. Since 1997, he has been in practice as an independent commercial mediator and arbitrator.

Training/talks/books/articles

He has written and lectured widely on mediation and he regularly conducts training sessions for solicitors to enable them to represent their clients more effectively in mediation. He is a contributing author to Butterworth's "*Mediators on Mediation*" (Tottel 2005) and "How to Master Commercial Mediation" (Bloomsbury 2015).

He is extensively involved in student mediation training, and has contributed as an official and mentor to the ICC International Student Mediation Competition in Paris since 2010 and to the London and UK Students Mediation Competitions.

Contact details

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