



# MORTLAKE LAW & MEDIATION

*Legal help with a difference*



## Introduction

I am an Advocate and Solicitor qualified since 1977. I now practice as a Family Lawyer Mediator (both as a Family Law Mediator and Inter-personal Mediator) and Wills expert with over 30 years experience of Property and Conveyancing as a Solicitor, mainly in Central London.

I was also called to the Bar in Singapore and practised in the High Court as an Advocate and Solicitor 1994-1997. I have conducted several High Court trials, some of which are reported in the Singapore Law reports.

In 2011, I decided to re-train as a family law specialist. I have been divorced twice and as a father of 3 children have experienced the consequences of the hostile adversarial system we have here in England and Singapore. I decided in 2012 to start my own practice being Mortlake Law & Mediation specialising in Family law Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney. I now have a comprehensive family law and mediation practice, specialising in divorce, financial remedy applications, applications regarding the property of non married couples and private Children law issues.

I have a range of skills, knowledge and experience which I use to maximise my clients own ability to reach agreement. I have in recent years completed open University modules on Social sciences and Psychology to help my legal work and to assist my clients. In 2012 I passed a level 2 course on counselling. I am committed to finding constructive solutions to clients family law problems.

In 2013 I achieved a long held ambition to become a trained Family law mediator with the Family Mediators Association(“FMA”) and I am also now qualified with UK Mediation as an Interpersonal mediator.





THE DEGREE  
OR  
BACHELOR OF LAWS

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
RICHARD EDWARD BUXTON

having pursued the prescribed course of  
study and satisfied the Examiners in the  
Final Examination was admitted to the  
Degree of Bachelor of Laws

with Honours Class II (II)

on the 26 day of July 1976



FAMILY  
MEDIATORS  
ASSOCIATION

Family Mediators Association

This is to certify that

*Richard Buxton*

is a

member of the Association

from 1st December 2013 to 31st December 2014

7728

*Beverly A. So*



This is to certify that

*Richard Buxton*

has successfully completed the UK Mediation

**Interpersonal Mediation  
Practitioner's Certificate**

October 2013

Awarded by  
**AIM Awards**

The Institute Regulation Authority - 26 CPD Hours

O'qual



**cpcab**

Counselling & Psychotherapy  
Council of Accrediting Body

**Richard Buxton**

has been awarded the

**Level 2 Certificate in Counselling Skills  
(QCF)**

a nationally-recognised qualification accredited by the regulatory  
authorities for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and has been  
awarded credits for the following units:

Unit	QCF	Grade Value	Points
Level 2	200	17 credits	1000000

Signed for CPCAB

Signed for regulating body

*Beverly A. So*

*J. M. ...*

**My Aim:** I do my utmost to minimise damage and to help people move forward with their lives when they are involved in divorce or separation or disputes with neighbours or in the workplace.

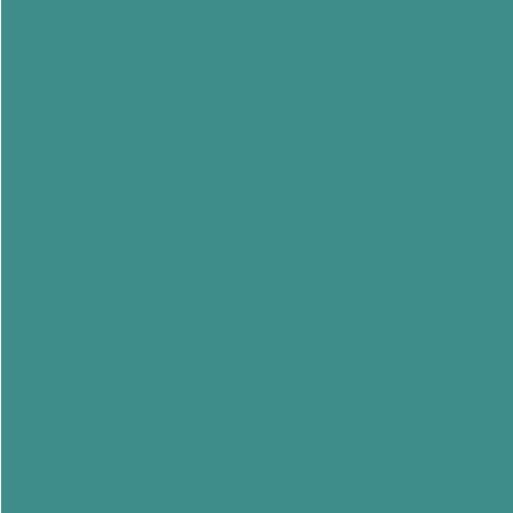
I achieve this by:

- Putting clients at the centre, enabling them to make informed future focused choices between options and delivering on them.
- Providing tailor-made solutions within the legal framework.
- Working in conjunction with other professionals for the benefit of each client.

**My Approach:** I put my clients first.

I am used to dealing with most types of family law issues and other interpersonal conflicts. I explore all the alternative processes with you before helping you to decide which process will be best for you.

I have strong relationships with a range of professionals who can provide you with specialist help, including barristers, accountants and independent financial advisers.



*I do my utmost to  
minimise damage and  
to help You move  
forward with your life*



## My Promise to You

**Commitment:** I will do what I say, I will do. I look for the best service to suit your needs; I will do all I can to assist you; I deliver on promises; I'm engaged in a continual pursuit of finding better ways of helping you through the divorce and separation process and interpersonal disputes.

**Child-centred:** the work I do and the way that I do it is focused on your needs and the needs of any children you may have.

**Ethical:** I enable you to make informed decisions; I exercise professional integrity; I do not litigate the sake of it; I look to do what is in the best interests of the family as a whole; I use only the professionals that are needed.

## Divorce and separation

The issues involved in a divorce and separation may range from children to dividing up assets; all can be difficult and distressing to deal with. I will do everything I can to achieve a settlement that works best for you and your family in a way that keeps emotional and financial cost to a minimum whilst helping you to obtain a fair and just solution.

As a trained insured mediator accredited by the FMA, I help many couples to find solutions to the issues they face at the time of divorce without the pain of court proceedings and in a way that focuses on the needs of any children. I also conduct mediation information and assessment meetings (MIAM's) and sole or joint mediation in other complex family disputes.

*I help You  
avoid swirling currents  
and help You gain  
peace of mind*



## Living together

If your relationship ends, you need to be sure of your rights. Whatever your situation, professional legal advice can make sure that your interests are protected. If your separation affects your home, your savings or even your children's future, I will work to help you reach a fair settlement. If your relationship breaks down and you were not



married or had not registered a civil partnership the legal issues you face may be complex. This is because there is no act of Parliament which specifically governs the law for people who have lived together and so the remedies are cobbled together in many areas of the law. I have a wealth of experience in advising individuals on the breakdown of these relationships. I will work with you to offer creative strategies to ameliorate the worst of the impacts. People who live together do not automatically inherit on the death of their partner. In the absence of a will, this may cause real difficulties. I provide specialist advice and representation in the circumstances. I use the latest technology to assist my clients and offer a fast and effective service. The lack of a family focused legal framework for people who have lived together means that many couples prefer to find solutions in mediation. I can provide the expert help that many couples need to find their own solutions. Similar issues apply if disputes arise over family property which is shared with wider family members or with friends. Inheritance disputes may also arise these circumstances. I will work with you to reach a fair settlement in these cases.

## Parenting issues

Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of divorce and separation. I can provide expert advice on contact (access) and joint parenting arrangements and a range of other concerns, drawing on strong relationships that I have with other professionals, where appropriate. I can introduce you to a specialist independent counsellors to help your family come to terms with the emotional issues involved to help you keep the impact to a minimum, using specialist support. I can advise you on appropriate financial provision for your children. I will work together with you to put in place the best possible arrangements for the long-term benefit of you and your children. One of the biggest concerns many parents at the time of divorce or separation is the impact on their children. When parents are unable to agree about the children, many find that mediation helps.



I can offer mediation, which involves direct consultation with the children to help parents focus on the needs of their children. Sometimes parents have no choice but to have the court make decisions concerning their children. When this happens, I work in tandem with counsellors to provide a uniquely rounded approach ensuring clients and their children achieve the best outcome for them.

*I give you expert  
advice and assistance  
from answering your  
questions to drafting  
your agreement*



## **Relationship agreements**

Relationship agreements (often referred to as pre marriage, prenuptial, pre-civil partnership agreements or cohabitation contracts) can give you peace of mind. First, through the clarification and support they bring to your relationship and, secondly, through the benefit they would have should either of you, at a later date, need legal protection. I can give you expert advice and assistance from answering your questions to drafting your agreement. I also offer a mediation-based service to couples who are thinking about

marrying or living together. This helps them consider the issues they may face during the relationship and if it comes to an end through death or separation.

## Civil partnership

Civil partnership is akin to civil marriage and, in almost all respects, is legally equivalent. I have extensive experience in dealing with all aspects of civil partnership negotiating civil partnership agreements to negotiating the dissolution and separation process.





## **Interpersonal disputes**

Conflicts in the workplace or between neighbours or in families can be immensely stressful and draining. Rather than endure the stress, I offer clients a fast informal mediation in a neutral venue which over the course of a day in the vast majority of cases results in agreement saving so much cost and worry.

## **Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney**

Using the latest specialist Q. C. precedents I can use my laptop to draft your Will or LPA within an hour and advise how to save Inheritance Tax (40% above £325,000 of your estate) wherever you maybe. This can be done face to face at your home or via Skype quickly and efficiently at rates far below charged by firms of Solicitors



## **Glossary of services**

I will help you to explore all the options, which may include any or all of the following:

### **Arbitration**

A specialist family arbitrator is appointed to settle the issues between the parties. It is a flexible and confidential process and can save time and cost.

### **Collaborative law**

Collaborative lawyers and clients work together to create a fairer and legally binding solution without the threat of court proceedings.

### **Counselling and therapy**

I can offer emotional support to clients and their families as a trained counsellor. I also make referrals to outside professionals.

## **Lawyer- led negotiation**

I am a skilled negotiator who can help you to agree solutions separately or in parallel to the court process.

## **Legal representation in the court process**

I will advise you about court applications and their cost, and will represent you in the proceedings as a McKenzie friend or organise the most appropriate counsel for you using Direct Access to save you costs.

## **Mediation**

A mediator, acting as a neutral third party to assist separating couples to create and develop their own solutions to child, relationship and financial issues.





# Mortlake Law & Mediation

19 Willoughbys, Priests Bridge,  
Barnes, London SW14 8DF

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**By Train:** Barnes, Barnes bridge, Mortlake

**By Underground:**

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or Richmond then 493 Bus

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