



**RICHARD BUXTON LLB(Hons)**

**Accredited Civil & Commercial  
Mediator**

Recommended by Legal 500 and Advisory Excellence as exclusively recommended mediation expert in the UK.

### **Mediation experience**

Richard has conducted more than 40 mediations since it began mediating in 2014 firstly as a family mediator and now since 2019 as a Civil and Commercial mediator including employment and workplace. Richard enjoys mediating in London and has a very broad experience of parties in dispute- types.

### **Other dispute resolution experience professional background**

Richard's background is in property law and then litigation and advocacy in Singapore and has specialised in family law and mediation in recent years. He qualified as a Solicitor with Woodham Smith in 1977 and worked at Radcliffes & Co until moving to Field Fisher and Martineau in 1987. He was a partner at Fieldfisher from 1988 until 1991. Richard subsequently became an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore and was called to the Bar there in 1994. Richard became a partner at Hilborne & Co in 1995. His first major case was complicated maritime case involving piling with many disputes of fact. Up against senior counsel Richard successfully represented the plaintiff. The judgement took High Court judge Judith Prakash six months and ran to the 43 pages! Richard also

represented a diverse range of commercial companies in the High Court of Singapore including three fully contested trials. Richard also honed his negotiating skills in personal injury litigation. Richard moved back to London in 1997 and retrained in Family law and Mediation from 2012.

## Mediation style

Richard's approach is aimed at supporting higher quality decision-making. Sometimes this can involve empathic support, moving people into a more logical way of thinking; sometimes it can involve intellectual challenge, helping people to factor in matters which they might have good arguments against but which they should at least attach weight; sometimes equalising the information each party is considered key. Often all these aspects are required in the mediation in one room or another for the participants to achieve clarity as to how far they should compromise. Informed, logical decision-making within effective negotiating process almost always leads parties to settlement if that is in their interests, which it usually is. If it is not then the mediation should aim at delivering clarity and precision about why.

Richard as a mediator strives to achieve the following:

- ✓ Being professional, prepared, thoughtful, and attuned to behaviours and different styles.
- ✓ Analytical checking all the time that he has made parties consider all aspects of the risks they may face so they were making their own informed decisions and choices.
- ✓ Holding control of the process in a nuanced manner and really testing each party's assessment of their risk and confirming to the opposite side that they had done so.
- ✓ Building trust.
- ✓ Keeping the temperature down and getting the parties focused on the way forward, rather than the reasons for the breakdown in the relationship.
- ✓ Grasping the issues and details of the dispute in helping the participants narrow the issues and reach agreement parties.

- ✓ Being personable and understanding cases dynamics and tenacious never giving up.
- ✓ Being commercially astute and realistic, keeping that is moving preventing participants from getting bogged down over minor issues.
- ✓ Having creative ideas
- ✓ Allowing participants to have their say slowly before walking them to an acceptable middle ground.
- ✓ Coaxing people when they want to give up.

## Areas of practice

- Construction and Engineering
- Cohabitation
- Employment and Pensions
- Energy
- Fraud
- Intellectual property
- Neighbour and boundary disputes.
- Partnerships
- Professional negligence
- Property
- Sports
- TOLATA (Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996)
- Trusts Inheritance and wills

## Client comments

*"Up there with the best of them-he has the key skills required."*

*"Calm and persistent; brought difficult participants quickly to a settlement"* Partner, city law firm January 2022

## Talks/Books/Articles

Richard has recently done an article on mediation for Lawyers monthly in March 2024 and has been commissioned to do regular articles for this prestigious magazine (circulation 400,000+). Richard is enthusiastic about sharing experiences with lawyers and clients about mediation and about remote mediation. Richard is an active member of the Society of Mediators and the Civil Mediation Council ("CMC"). Richard has attended several worldwide conferences held by the CMC remotely.

## Contact details

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