



CEDR Accreditation: 2024
CEDR Panel 2024
Languages: English, Conversational:
French & Spanish
Location: United Kingdom

“Oliver ‘has endless patience, even in the most trying situations. He listens carefully, and can be trusted only to reveal what the clients want to say”

Legal 500 2024



Chambers
AND PARTNERS

CMC Registered
Mediator 2024



Oliver Hallam

“Oliver shows commercial awareness in understanding our stance on offers in addition to showing emotional intelligence, and he can put clients at ease.”

“He shows great emotional intelligence and is able to reality-test in a direct manner when it matters.”

“His likeable nature and ‘no frills’ demeanour belies his commercial astuteness.”

Chambers & Partners 2024 & Partners High Net Worth Trusts
Mediators 2024

Overview

Oliver has successfully mediated a wide range of private wealth, sport and family business disputes. He is a full time CEDR internationally accredited and CMC registered mediator. He trained as a solicitor at Allen and Overy LLP, London before joining Wrigleys Solicitors LLP, Leeds for ten years where he was a partner in the private client team.



With his background in private client law, he helps parties with their most sensitive, personal and private affairs within the complex framework of contentious trust and probate, tax, company, partnership, property, charity, Court of Protection, elder and sport law. Oliver maintains that no matter how complicated and entrenched the problem, it is nearly always possible for participants to achieve a mediated solution.

Personal Style

Oliver is an expert at helping families and sports people that are embroiled in highly emotional disputes and who wish to resolve their disputes privately without media attention. He helps UK and international families in single day mediations and also in longer term succession projects where a family is going through a time of change. He is a first-rate communicator and is quick to build trust. He uses a psychotherapeutic approach to mediation to help parties find workable solutions to a wide range of issues. Oliver is used to multi-party disputes and where there are more than four parties, he advocates co-mediation.

Oliver is a practitioner of non-evaluative mediation. With the help of the mediator, the process gives the parties the opportunity to find their own solution. It is not the mediator's role to express opinions on the relevant law or on the merits of particular positions. Oliver is an expert in reality-testing and challenging the parties' positions, to give the parties the best chance of negotiating a mutually acceptable solution.

Oliver tailors the format of each mediation to suit the parties' circumstances. The mediation can be held online or face to face or using a blend of both formats, with some parties attending online from overseas or from the emotional safety of their own home.

Dispute Experience

Private Wealth Disputes:

- Inheritance and contested probate
- Estoppel, constructive trust claims
- Family business, director/shareholder issues
- Partnership and professional negligence disputes
- Elder law, Court of Protection, Office of the Public Guardian, attorneys and deputies



Sport disputes:

- Premier league football player/agent disputes
- Football club boardroom disputes, board/manager disputes.
- Motorsport/Historic Automobile – racing, ownership, provenance and restoration
- Equestrian sport disputes – owner/rider/trainer disputes

Family Business Disputes:

- Inter-generational and inter-sibling succession disputes
- Family companies, partnerships, trusts, foundations
- Agricultural land, landed estate and farm business disputes including property and trusts, landlord/tenant, boundaries, rights of way, overage, restrictive covenants
- Trusts of land (TOLATA)
- Contractual and commercial disputes

Feedback

- *“Oliver was a tremendous mediator – he had an excellent grasp of the issues and documents, put the parties at their ease, and worked hard to bridge the gap between the two sides on what was an emotionally charged and quite difficult estate dispute.”*
- *“Oliver arranged a phonecall with ourselves and our solicitor the day before the mediation. We found this really beneficial and it allayed any fears we had about the day. Oliver was calm, reassuring and positive in what was a difficult and emotionally heightened situation. During complex legal conversations between our team and Oliver, he ensured we were included in the dialogue asking for our input and opinions. He created a balance between the rooms and kept the momentum going all day.”*
- *“Mr Hallam is an expert in getting the parties to “Yes”. He was conscientious and empathetic as to each party’s concerns and motivations, putting them and their lawyers at ease to enable them to reach an agreement they can live with, avoiding the costly and stressful litigation.”*
- *“The way he addressed our client and welcomed her to express her feelings about the dispute from a personal perspective, rather than trying to funnel the conversation towards purely legal considerations, enabled the client to relax and feel heard. I believe that was important for the client, whose main barriers to settlement were personal feelings she had in relation to the claimant.”*
- *“Oliver helped turn an embittered dispute (which I held little hope of being overcome at mediation) into a settlement which both parties could live with. His polite, affable and calming manner were key in helping the client feel heard and enabling them to make objective reasoned decisions freely.”*
- *“Oliver skillfully handled a difficult mediation involving significant emotional and financial barriers to settlement. His firm but collaborative style meant that the clients engaged with*

him and were prepared to think creatively to try and achieve a settlement. He clearly had a feel for inheritance act disputes and litigation generally."

- *"Having instructed many mediators on various matters, I would have no qualms in using Oliver again or recommending his instruction if a matter would benefit from a no-nonsense, robust, common sense approach tempered with sensitivity where required. He clearly has a firm understanding of the law in a difficult area (property/trust dispute). Oliver understood the legal issues, the papers and demonstrated acute insight into what was important to all parties. A very effective communicator."*
- *"Thanks for all your help yesterday, Oliver. You were patient and worked hard. Thanks too for your sensitivity. It was a difficult dispute on so many levels for the clients, and my room certainly found you very reassuring."*
- *"Oliver was extremely knowledgeable, helpful and efficient in our mediation which was subject to severe time constraints. I would have no hesitation in recommending Oliver as a mediator"*
- *"Very good, calm, friendly and possessing good technical knowledge and strength in the face of an uncompromising opponent. He did well in what was a tough mediation"*
- *"Oliver comes over as one of the most likeable people on the planet, in terms of his ability to get on with all parties involved in stressful disputes – a natural mediator."*
- *"I was very impressed with the way that the mediation worked on Zoom. I think that Oliver conducted the mediation with patience and common sense. He was clearly well appraised of the issues which resulted in us achieving a settlement that I had little confidence we would do, thus saving considerable time and costs to both parties and avoiding the stress of court proceedings."*
- *"Excellent. Very patient, thorough and understanding"*
- *"Very helpful and knowledgeable. Oliver had a good grasp on issues and the relationships involved and a very helpful manner which was fundamental in us reaching settlement."*
- *"Excellent. We felt that the mediator demonstrated a good understanding of our position and the issues involved"*
- *"Highly satisfied. He worked very hard to get a deal done"*
- *"Oliver provided an excellent service as a mediator. The process was undertaken via Zoom. Despite the clients having never used the format before it worked very well. Oliver's instructions were clear and the day was well organised. He spent a good amount of time making sure he understood my client's position, not just from a factual point of view but an emotional one. We achieved an outcome which the client was pleased with and in doing so avoided the need for protracted and expensive litigation."*
- *Following a high value, ten party online co-mediation - "Julia and Oliver worked well as a team during the 14 hour mediation of this 1975 Act dispute between 10 parties represented by 4 counsel. Mediating remotely worked well, with the parties being more relaxed in their homes and the mediators merging and splitting break out rooms as parties' positions aligned or diverged. Oliver and Julia were sensitive to the parties' needs and feelings and*

kept the process moving at a realistic pace. They won the confidence of the advisers and their clients, helping everyone make concessions and work towards an agreement."

- *"Thank you Oliver for guiding us through a tricky negotiation. Your polite and professional attitude made the negotiations a smooth process"*
- *"Very satisfied. A knowledgeable and caring mediator who had empathy for our situation and was patient and kind. Listened well to our expectations of the outcome. He was very good and helpful."*
- *"Oliver was extremely professional yet very caring and sincere in handling a difficult situation and without his abilities we would not have reached a satisfactory conclusion."*
- *"Oliver's professionalism, patience, commitment, integrity and support was felt throughout the whole process and greatly appreciated by my client who felt reassured and comfortable in the knowledge that his dispute was managed with the utmost care, diligence and sensitivity."*
- *"I did appreciate Oliver's considerable patience and clarity in what were lengthy and detailed negotiations in a remote mediation which took 12 hours, eventually enabling the parties to reach an agreement. Definitely a 10 out of 10."*
- *"Very competent mediator"*
- *"Very good, professional and calm. The whole day was managed well. The confident mediator made things easier"*
- *"Oliver has a very personable manner which instantly put me at ease. My solicitor referred to Oliver's excellent "bedside manner". Oliver took time to set out the arrangements for the day and stressed the importance of confidentiality with nothing being disclosed to the other party without my permission. Oliver had a structured approach and balanced his time appropriately between both parties. I was particularly struck by Oliver's empathetic approach: he was calm and respectful throughout. He listened carefully and was perceptive, making helpful assessments, referring back to points made when relevant. The process lasted for nearly 12 hours and although a long day I never felt rushed. Oliver was both persistent and patient and committed to ensuring a resolution was reached. I would not hesitate to recommend Oliver to you."*