



## Paul Johnson - Mediator

Year of Call: 2006

*“Excellent at gaining the trust of all parties and very pragmatic and empathetic, which helps see where the settlement is likely to lie and encourage all parties towards it.”*

The Legal 500

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## Practice Overview

Paul is one of the leading mediators in the UK. He is a former solicitor/ partner (1990 to 2006) who transferred to the Bar in 2006 to focus solely on mediating disputes. Having mediated in excess of 900 disputes, Paul has a wealth of experience of many types of disputes in a wide range of areas. He has been listed as a Leading Mediator in Chambers & Partners and The Legal 500 since 2008, and is presently ranked as one of the top barrister mediators in the UK. Previously, during his time as a solicitor and partner in a major North West firm, he was ranked in the said directories as a Leading Lawyer for both Commercial Litigation and Corporate Recovery and Insolvency.

Paul's success rate as a mediator is very high. If the only benchmark of settlements mediated by Paul is the quantum of legal costs saved by the parties, then such amount is far in excess of £200m.

Paul endeavours to create a confidential and focused environment for parties to reflect on the issues and consider how they could agree solutions that work. He has helped many litigants achieve settlements that have enabled them to progress from the dispute, both personally and professionally.

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## Areas of Expertise

### Mediation

Paul has mediated many types of disputes within areas listed below:

## **Banking**

- Security
- Hedging and derivatives products
- FSMA/COBS
- Fraud
- Guarantees

## **Commercial/Contract**

- Logistics
- Mismanagement of a steam boiler plant
- Theft of £m's worth of goods from hotel safe
- Supply
- Renegotiation of a car design contract
- Sales and marketing
- Defective machinery
- Warranty claims
- Franchises
- Competition
- IT Infrastructure

## **Construction**

- Cases involving many of the large construction companies in the UK in both the commercial and domestic house-building sector
- M&E claims
- Numerous high value domestic property/construction disputes (£10m range)
- Numerous claims involving subcontractors, architects and surveyors

## **Divorce**

- Ancillary relief disputes

## **Employment**

- Senior employee claims
- Covenant claims
- Breach of fiduciary duties
- Springboard injunction claims
- Disability discrimination

## **Fraud**

- Supply chain
- Financial advisers
- Local Authorities
- Insurance
- NHS trusts

## **Group Action**

- Noise nuisance
- Costs in a group action
- Against a local authority

## **Inheritance/Probate**

- Capacity
- Undue influence
- Forgery
- Duress
- Fraudulent calumny
- 1975 Act claims
- Removal of Executors
- Trustee claims

## **Insolvency**

- Wrongful trading
- Fraudulent trading
- Voidable transactions
- Financial assistance
- Public interest winding up petitions

## **Intellectual Property**

- Copyright and design
- Website ownership
- Branding

## **International/Overseas Parties**

- Isle of Man
- USA
- Canada
- France
- Japan
- Belgium
- Ireland
- Italy
- Spain
- UAE
- Singapore
- Germany
- Greece

## Partnership

- Solicitors
- Accountants
- Architects
- Surveyors
- Consultants
- Doctors
- Farms

## Professional Negligence

- Surveyors/ SAAMCO
- Solicitors
- Accountants
- Architects
- Financial advisers
- Barristers
- Insurance brokers

## Property

- Dilapidations
- Forfeiture
- Negligent mismanagement of commercial property
- Hazardous waste disposal
- Numerous high value domestic property/construction disputes (£10m range)
- Numerous boundary disputes
- Overage claims

## Sport

- Cricket (commercial disputes involving county cricket)
- Triathlon (national association/club/coach)
- Football (commercial dispute)
- Rugby (competition dispute)

## Shareholders

- Numerous shareholder/ quasi partnership disputes
- Directors duties
- Warranty claims following sale of a shareholding/ business

## Trustees

- Breach of duties

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## Quotes

## Legal Directories

Paul has been consistently recommended for his work as a mediator in both **Chambers and Partners** and **The Legal 500** since **2008**:

*"approachable, commercial, pragmatic and persistent – if anyone can get a settlement, Paul can".* **The Legal 500 2021, Hall of Fame**

*"Always on top of the papers and very affable." "He is very good at de-escalating disputes."* **Chambers and Partners 2021**

*"Excellent at gaining the trust of all parties and very pragmatic and empathetic, which helps see where the settlement is likely to lie and encourage all parties towards it."* **The Legal 500 2021**

*"A mediator who 'doesn't take any nonsense from the parties. He gets them really focused on what they need to do, which makes him particularly good at handling disputes involving numerous parties.'" ... "He is capable of handling the full range of commercial disputes and has added experience of mediating clinical negligence and probate cases."* **Chambers and Partners 2020**

*"Approachable, commercial, pragmatic and persistent - if anyone can get a settlement, Paul can."* **The Legal 500 2020**

*"Valued by his clients for his ability to 'get the legal arguments and factual issues very quickly, and then concentrate on finding a pragmatic solution' ... and is 'very experienced and has a commercial approach that can cut through the issues.'" Chambers and Partners 2019*

*"A mediator of choice for complex and high-value disputes" ... who "understands complex factual and legal issues and has an enviable ability to digest and recall the facts of the matter being mediated."* **The Legal 500 2018**

Paul Johnson impresses market sources with his *"relaxed style which delivers results in difficult situations" ... "He can bridge the unbridgeable ..."* **Chambers and Partners 2018**

*"An excellent mediator for complex, multi-party disputes; he has the ability to cut to the chase and change the position of the most intransigent parties ..."* **The Legal 500 2017**

*"Well regarded"* mediator Paul Johnson has continued to build upon his Manchester-based practice. He has significant experience as a commercial litigation solicitor, having transferred to the bar in 2006. He has undertaken mediations in a number of areas including employment, healthcare and insurance disputes. One source states that his *"switched on, astute approach"* is particularly effective. **Chambers and Partners 2017**

Previous entries describe Paul as: attracting praise for his *'calm, realistic and measured "approach and his ability to engage with the parties" "the top choice for many with technically challenging disputes"; being "incredibly patient", with a "clear structure in mind"; an "ability to focus on finding a commercial solution"; and one who is "not afraid to tackle the big issues from the start"; whilst at the same time allowing parties "to feel that they are in control of the process"*.

## Education

- St Joseph's RC Comprehensive School Port Talbot
- Brunel University London 1983 - 1987
- College of Law 1987 – 1988

## Beyond the Bar

Paul and his wife Samantha live in Chester with their two children. His interests range from cycling, surviving on a snowboard, music, struggling to play the guitar and above all coping with the pleasure and pain of supporting the

Wales rugby union team.

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## **Memberships**

- Sport Dispute Resolution Mediator Panel (SDRP)
  - Bar Council ADR Committee
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