



serle court

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## Paul Johnson

Year of Call: 2006 (Solicitor 1990)

*"Paul Johnson at is always very well prepared and completely focused on getting a deal. In my view, he is the best in the business"*

The Legal 500, 2023

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## Practice Overview

Paul Johnson 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.

He has mediated over 1000 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.

He has been described as: *“brilliant”, “sensational”, with a “wonderful understated” and “affable manner” that “belies his steely determination and intelligence”* together with a *“skill and expertise”* that *“inspires confidence in the process”* and *“makes mediation appear easy”*.

As a mediator, Paul Johnson’s success rate 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 exceeds £300m.

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

- Enforcement
- FSMA/COBS
- Fraud
- Hedging and derivatives products

#### Commercial/Contract

- Competition
- Defective machinery
- Franchises
- Logistics
- Mismanagement of a steam boiler plant
- Renegotiation of contracts: a luxury car design contract
- Service contracts; for example, the wrongful termination of a contract between a Greek co and UK company with a value of circa £37m
- Theft of valuable goods (£m’s) from safe in hotel accommodation
- Warranty claims

#### Construction

- Cases involving many of the large construction companies in the UK in both the commercial and domestic house-building sector
- Design and construction claims against subcontractors, architects and surveyors
- Development projects – value range in excess of £100m
- High value domestic property/construction disputes (£10m range)
- M&E claims

## **Divorce**

- High value ancillary relief disputes

## **Employment**

- Covenant claims
- Disability discrimination
- Fiduciary duties
- Race discrimination
- Share options
- Springboard injunctions
- Wrongful and unfair dismissal

## **Fraud**

- Financial advisers
- Local Authorities
- Insurance
- NHS trusts
- Supply chains
- Unlawful diversion of trade and assets

## **Group Action**

- Costs in a group action
- Noise nuisance
- Traveller's community against a local authority

## **Inheritance/Probate**

- Capacity
- Duress
- Farming partnerships and proprietary estoppel claims
- Forgery
- Fraudulent calumny

- Removal of Executors
- Trustee claims
- Undue influence
- 1975 Act claims

## **Insolvency**

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

## **Intellectual Property**

- Copyright and design
- Website ownership
- Branding

## **International/Overseas Parties**

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

## **Nuisance**

- Noise
- Odour

## **Partnership**

- Accountants
- Architects
- Doctors
- Farming
- Hedging and derivatives products
- Solicitors
- Surveyors

## **Personal Injury**

- Civil damages claim for alleged serious assault
- Disability discrimination

## **Professional Negligence**

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

## **Property**

- Boundary disputes
- Developments
- Dilapidations
- Forfeiture
- Hazardous waste disposal
- High value domestic property/construction disputes (£10m range)
- Mismanagement of commercial property
- Overage
- TOLATA

## **Sport**

- Cricket
- Football
- Rugby
- Triathlon

## Shareholders

- Directors' duties
- Shareholder disputes
- Quasi partnership
- Warranty claims

## Trustees

- Breach of duties
- Removal

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## Sports, Entertainment & Media

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## Group Litigation

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## Insolvency

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## Recommendations

Trusts: Mediators (*Chambers High Net Worth 2023*)

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## Quotes

### Legal Directories

Paul has been consistently recommended in Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 since 2008. He is also listed in the Legal 500 Hall of Fame, Dispute Resolution: Mediators Category.

*"Paul is really excellent, he is the mediator of choice for most of my disputes. He has excellent soft skills and is good at dealing with lay clients."* Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Paul is a very strong mediator - charismatic, effective and certainly on our team sheet of mediators."* Chambers & Partners 2025

*"Paul Johnson is someone who is very personable."* Chambers High Net Worth, 2024

*"Paul is fantastic and great at managing expectations. He is also extremely bright and personable. I would use him again in a heartbeat."* Chambers High Net Worth 2023

*"He would be my go-to. He somehow makes the process not as painful as it might be. It is charisma and the way he communicates, looking at the dispute in a sympathetic way."* Chambers High Net Worth 2023

*"Paul Johnson brings a vast amount of experience to his broad mediation practice, which includes trusts matters."* Chambers High Net Worth 2023

*"Paul Johnson is thorough, well prepared and personable."* Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023

*"He is a very strong mediator who does not let parties get away with taking unreasonable stances or refusing to engage."* Chambers & Partners 2022

*"Bright, reliable, trustworthy and fun to work with."* The Legal 500 2022

*"Always on top of the papers and very affable." "He is very good at de-escalating disputes."* Chambers & 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 & Partners 2020

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

## **Client Testimonials**

**Below are some extracts from comments received from parties and their lawyers:**

*"Paul's affable manner belies his steely determination and intelligence"*

*"Quick to engage with the parties and quick to identify and communicate the issues that mattered. Equally quick and adept at facilitating constructive negotiations"*

*"Brilliant"*

*"A wonderful understated manner"*

*"He was sensational. The most accomplished mediator I've ever come across"*

*"He is unfailingly charming and persuasive, even in challenging and seemingly intractable disputes"*

*"His style was very positive and encouraged open constructive dialogue. He was excellent"*

*"Very courteous, but tough when needed to be"*

*"The facilitative approach worked wonderfully ... settlement would have been far less likely within the time span we had, if you had not been the mediator"*

*"I liked the way he got to know everybody and got everyone talking without realising they were actually talking"*

*"(He) has a wealth of experience and knowledge and as a practitioner in this field he excelled"*

## 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

- Bar ADR Committee
  - Sport Resolution - Mediation Panel Member
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