



Julia Burns

SOLICITOR | MEDIATOR | CONFLICT COACH

Dove in the Room is a specialist mediation and conflict coaching service. Its purpose is to help families achieve peace by resolving their disputes and to help family businesses thrive, free from conflict.

I am an experienced, specialist lawyer with a national reputation. I have significant expertise in resolving disputes for private individuals in the field of contentious trusts and probate. I am known for having a high degree of empathy and emotional intelligence, which are at the heart of what I do for clients and lawyers.

Services

- Mediation in all areas of private client and inheritance disputes including Court of Protection
- 1:2:1/collective conflict coaching for families and family business owners experiencing conflict
- Pre-mediation coaching for clients to help them prepare for an upcoming mediation with another mediator
- Conflict awareness training for business owners

Qualifications

I am the only accredited mediator in the UK with a specialist private client mediation qualification. As such, my expertise is not just helping families to resolve an existing dispute through traditional mediation; I also work with individuals and families more holistically and on a long-term basis to facilitate difficult conversations and to build positive family relationships.

- CEDR accredited mediator
- CEDR certified private client mediator (first and only solicitor/mediator in the country to hold private client mediator certification)
- Ranked in Legal 500 and UK wide Chambers High Net Worth Trusts Mediators Spotlight Table
- Practising Solicitor since 2005
- Contentious trusts and probate specialist since 2007
- ACTAPS qualified (Association of Contentious Trusts and Probate Specialists)
- STEP Advanced Certificate in Trust Disputes with distinction (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners)
- ConTra member (Contentious Trusts Association)

"The matter was highly sensitive and Julia's skill in dealing with the parties helped us bring the matter to a resolution that had previously been beyond the emotional capacity of those involved. Julia's own experience in trust and probate matters added extra strength to her role"

(Solicitor, London Law Firm)

Memberships



How to contact me



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Fees

Mediation in all areas of Private Client and Inheritance Disputes

Fee per party (VAT not applicable)

Remote mediation by Zoom £1075

In person mediation £1275 (including expenses*)

Fee (for a two party mediation) includes:

- Unlimited reasonable preparation
- 12 hours of mediation time including:
 - 1.5 hour pre-mediation Zoom meeting with lawyers and parties.
 - Attendance at mediation from 9am-6pm
- Attendance after 6pm (only one additional charge will apply):
 - 6-9pm £200
 - 9pm-12am £300
 - 12am onwards £500
- continued support after the mediation for a reasonable period of time if no agreement is reached
- expenses including travel and accommodation for in-person mediations
- * local in person mediations not involving an overnight stay charged at £1,175

Multi-party mediations:

- For a mediation involving more than two parties, each additional party is charged at £675
- Co-mediation with Oliver Hallam (recommended for 4 parties or more)

Conflict Coaching for Individuals

- Pre-mediation coaching by video conference: £200 for a 1.5 hour session
- One to one conflict coaching: £200 for a 1.5 hour session or an agreed monthly retainer fee

Family Conflict Coaching

Dove in the Room offers a bespoke service to assess your family's specific needs. I offer a complimentary first meeting during which we will discuss the difficulties being experienced carefully and sensitively. I will then produce a bespoke proposal including my suggestions for moving forward and a cost estimate.

For example, this may include:

- regular one to one coaching with each family member over an agreed period of time
- family meeting(s) with me present as a facilitator/mediator

Family Business Conflict Coaching

Fee to be agreed after discussion of specific requirements.

Conflict Awareness Training

Fee to be agreed after discussion of specific requirements.

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Testimonials

"Julia's role in our mediation was integral to the conclusion of an estate dispute that had run on for two and a half years. The matter was highly sensitive and her skill in dealing with the parties helped us bring the matter to a resolution that had previously been beyond the emotional capacity of those involved. Julia's own experience in trust and probate matters added extra strength to her role – which is part of why we sought her help, and why we expect to instruct her again in future."

(Partner, London)

"Julia is an agile and engaging mediator with an ability to quickly build rapport with the parties. Her approach allows those involved to focus on the bigger picture and the benefits that a settlement can bring"

(Senior Associate Solicitor, Manchester)

"Julia conducted an effective and successful mediation. She read the room well and tailored her approach to the different client and legal personalities accordingly. Everyone left relieved but slightly disappointed, which are the hallmarks of a successful mediation."

(Partner, London)

"I have great confidence in Julia's abilities as a mediator. She put my clients at ease and explained the process clearly. She was always available when we needed her throughout the day and she worked extremely hard during what proved to be a very challenging mediation. I would not hesitate to use her again or recommend her to colleagues."

(Partner, London)

"Julia was able to easily grasp what was going on with the situation and how to best tackle it so all parties were able to achieve what they wanted from the mediation. At all times Julia displayed great empathy and was kind and courteous to all involved. She made us both feel relaxed and comfortable enough to disclose information that was crucial to the case, yet difficult to say. We would highly recommend anyone looking for a mediator to use Dove in the Room as the level of professionalism from Julia was unparalleled. Thank you for everything!"

(Litigant in person)

"Julia is an impressive and effective mediator. When starting our mediation the parties were far apart and a settlement didn't look likely. Julia was re-assuring, sympathetic and constructive which ultimately led to a long awaited settlement between the parties. This was a remote mediation that our client was apprehensive about due to a lack of confidence in technology and because of her sight and hearing impairments which meant our client could not see us, and struggled to hear us. Julia was skilful in her approach and found innovative ways to engage with our client, despite the impairments, and whilst remote mediations could be considered impersonal this was not the case with Julia and I wouldn't hesitate to instruct her again."

(Associate Solicitor, Leeds)

"Julia has proved a very approachable, informative and understanding person whom during an exceptionally long mediation was able to gather in all the parties to a satisfactory conclusion to the matter involved in the mediation and at no time pressing the parties on time, either in discussing specific issues or in the length of the mediation which in our case commenced at 9am and finished at 01.35 the following day. Julia was able to turn what appeared had become an almost impossible resolution of a difficult matter to one where agreement was finally reached."

(Consultant Solicitor, London)

"Julia as a mediator was committed to achieving a settlement without putting too much pressure on my client to make offers she would later regret. An excellent outcome."

(Solicitor, Boston Spa)

"Julia was thoroughly prepared and had an excellent grasp of the case and the issues involved. Her sympathetic approach helped us settle a very difficult case where settlement had seemed most unlikely."

(Solicitor, Winton)