



Julia Burns

MEDIATOR | CONFLICT COACH | SOLICITOR

I provide a specialist mediation and conflict coaching service covering all areas of private client and inheritance disputes, including Court of Protection.

Feedback confirms that I bring a high degree of empathy and emotional intelligence, which lies at the heart of my work for clients and lawyers. I am driven by a passion for my purpose, which is to help families achieve peace and to help family businesses thrive, free from conflict. 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.

I have been resolving disputes for private individuals in the field of contentious trusts and probate as a Solicitor since 2007. I am a Consultant Solicitor at Merali Beedle in London.

Born and bred in Kent, I now live in Ilkley in Yorkshire with my husband, two children and my co-mediator Rocco the Labrador. I provide mediation both online and in person and I am happy to travel to any location.

Qualifications

- CEDR trained & CEDR panel mediator
- CEDR certified private client mediator (first and only solicitor-mediator in the UK)
- Shortlisted for Civil & Commercial Mediator of the Year 2022 at the National Mediation Awards
- Ranked in Band 1 UK wide Chambers High Net Worth Trusts Mediators and Legal 500
- Contentious trusts and probate specialist Solicitor 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

Fee per party (up to two parties)

Remote mediation by Zoom £1375

In person mediation £1775 (including all expenses)

(No VAT applicable)

Fee (for a two party mediation) includes:

- Unlimited reasonable preparation
- 12 hours of mediation time including:
 - 1.5 hour pre-mediation call by Zoom for each party (30 minutes with lawyers and one hour with clients)
 - Attendance at mediation from 9:00am-6pm
- Attendance after 6pm charged at £230 per hour (split equally between the parties)
- Continued support after the mediation for a reasonable period of time if no agreement is reached
- Expenses including travel and accommodation (for up to two nights) for in-person mediations. In person mediations not involving a hotel are charged at £1,475

Multi-party mediations:

- Third additional party is charged at £975 (total fee normally split equally between the three parties)
- 4 parties or more - please contact Julia to discuss the fee
- Co-mediation with Oliver Hallam (recommended for 4 parties or more)

Conflict Coaching for Individuals

One to one conflict coaching: £250 for a 1.5 hour session or an agreed monthly retainer fee

Family/Family Business Conflict Coaching

Dove in the Room offers a bespoke service according to your family's specific needs. We begin with a complimentary first meeting to discuss the difficulties carefully and sensitively. I will then produce a bespoke proposal including my suggestions for moving forward and a cost estimate.

This will often involve multiple one to one coaching sessions with each family member over an agreed period of time. If appropriate and agreed by all, we will then hold joint family meetings with me present as a facilitator/mediator.

Testimonials from lawyers:

"Julia has a real talent for resolving difficult, complex and emotional disputes. I am endlessly impressed with her ability to quickly grasp the issues and go above and beyond to guide the parties to a successful resolution. She is highly creative in finding win:win solutions and is refreshingly committed to resolving disputes as constructively as possible"

(Solicitor, Leeds)

"A very steady pair of hands. Julia was great at managing my clients' expectations for the mediation and for putting them in the right mindset to reach a resolution. Julia has a natural ability to get to the underlying issues in the dispute which ultimately meant the mediation resolved the 2-year dispute."

(Solicitor, Guildford)

"My most painless mediation experience to date has been with Julia as the mediator. The parties reached an agreement in principle extraordinarily quickly, after just a few hours. As Julia had spoken with the parties ahead of the mediation, she understood exactly what my client's situation was and what the money in the estate meant to her. It also meant that my client felt that she had been heard and understood."

(Counsel, London)

"Julia has first class communication skills. She was forceful when she needed to be, in what was a very difficult and upsetting dispute that required a tactful yet very firm hand."

(Solicitor, Harrogate)

"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)

"Julia is a calm presence and an effective and efficient mediator gaining the parties trust easily and quickly. She is like a captain steering the ship safely and skilfully through stormy seas."

(Counsel, Leeds)

Testimonials from clients:

"We cannot thank you enough for your kindness and for having listened to us so attentively and with such sensitivity. You are wonderful, both as a professional and as a human being."

(Litigant in person)

"You achieved something that I honestly never thought possible and I am glad to tell you that your professionalism and caring attitude to both parties has started us on the road to healing our relationships and that so much more than any monetary value is priceless. I cannot thank you enough."

(Litigant in person)

"Thank you SO MUCH for everything you did yesterday. That was an incredibly challenging day, fraught with emotion on both sides, and you showed such tenacity, steering both parties to settlement with such care and sensitivity. You were amazing and we are incredibly grateful to you."

(Represented Client)