



Julia Burns

MEDIATOR | FACILITATOR CONFLICT COACH | SOLICITOR

I provide a specialist mediation, facilitation 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 on a long-term basis to facilitate difficult conversations and build positive family relationships. I also offer co-mediation for multi-party disputes with Oliver Hallam.

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 Accredited & CEDR Certified Private Client Mediator (first and only solicitor-mediator in the UK)
- CEDR Trust, Wills & Probate Mediation panel mediator
- 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, Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners
- 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)



How to contact me

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Mediation Fee Per Party (two party mediation)

In-person mediation:	£1975 plus VAT (including all travel time & expenses*)
Remote/Hybrid mediation (On Zoom)	£1675 plus VAT

Multi-Party Mediations:

Third additional party:	£1,175 plus VAT
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Total fee normally split equally between the three parties

Four Parties or More:

Julia recommends co-mediation with Oliver Hallam - see www.inheritancemediation.com

"Julia is distinguished by the time she spends with clients before the mediation, the effort she puts into understanding their side of the story and what settlement means for them individually." (Chambers & Partners Guide 2024)

Fee (for a two party mediation) includes:

- All 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)
 - Pre-mediation planning meeting with lawyers from all parties for up to 30 minutes (optional)
 - Attendance at mediation from 9:30am-6pm
- Attendance after 6pm charged at £400 plus VAT 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 within an hour from Ilkley in Yorkshire are charged at £1775 plus VAT and within an hour from Tunbridge Wells in Kent (excluding London) are charged at £1875 plus VAT

Conflict Coaching for Individuals:

One to one conflict coaching: **£375 plus VAT for a 1.5 hour session**

Three sessions booked upfront **£775 plus VAT**

Family Facilitation Work

I offer a bespoke service facilitating sensitive conversations around inheritance and succession according to your family's specific needs.

We begin with a complimentary first meeting to discuss the difficulties your family is facing 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 a period of time. If appropriate and agreed by all, we will then hold joint family meetings with me present as a facilitator

I typically offer this work with Oliver Hallam (oliverhallam.com), working as co-facilitators.

As the needs of each family are unique, please contact me to discuss your family's particular needs.

“You achieved something that I honestly never thought was possible and I am glad to tell you that your professionalism and caring attitude 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.”

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)

"Julia Burns is an outstanding lawyer and a brilliant mediator. She combines legal competency with a passion for actually understanding the emotional side of disputes. Both of these traits are essential for resolving probate disputes."

(Anonymous - Chambers & Partners 2024 Guide)

"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)*

"Thanks to her ability to talk to both parties with sympathy and a deep understanding of the case, not only did we achieve an amicable financial agreement but Julia managed to help me retain my contact with my Brother despite the 2 year long battle between us. Julia is a very special and talented Mediator who simply saved our family from entering into a very expensive Lawsuit and ultimately saved our family from ruin." *(Represented Client)*

"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)*