



Meera Lachani

Mediator since 2018

**Civil Mediation Council Registered Mediator
NHSR Approved Panel Mediator**

Specialist areas: Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Group Action & Multi Party

As a specialist Healthcare Solicitor with both Claimant and Defendant, Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence litigation experience, Meera is uniquely placed to sensitively conduct Mediations in this field and work positively, confidentially, and collaboratively with a range of stakeholders including clinicians, lawyers, claims managers, litigants in person, patients and their families. She has worked across private practice and within a leading international in-house medical defence organisation and has an all-round perspective of the Claimant journey and Defence position. Her background provides her with all the relevant attributes to Mediate effectively in a flexible and timely manner. Stakeholders trust her quickly and her written and oral skills are known to help put everyone at ease.

Approach

Meera recognises and respects that each dispute is unique. She encourages honest, open collaboration and is quick to address barriers to purposeful negotiations. She is praised for her poised approach to complex claims and is often selected for her emotional intelligence and ability to manage personalities. She can be trusted to create a safe space, for perspectives to be challenged and for difficult but necessary conversations to take place in a confidential environment.

Having worked in-house and managed high volume claims of varying sizes and complexities she has current and hands on experience of dealing with claims relating to a wide-spectrum of allegations, injury and disease. She has worked on claims involving Gastroenterology, Renal Medicine, Cardiology Medical Neurology, Oncology, Pathology and Radiology as well as Surgical claims including Trauma and Orthopaedic, Vascular, General Surgery and Plastic Surgery. She has also worked on high value GP claims (including the ELS scheme) and is mindful of the nuances that primary care claims can bring. She has considerable experience of representing parties at Mediation too and understands the working realities and challenges of multi-party claims. As a Mediator she is known to work well with Panel firms and Claimant representatives in equal measure.

As a result of her approach and highly relevant background, Meera maintains a very high settlement rate in Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence claims and has helped facilitate resolution of disputes ranging from £50,000 to multi-million pound claims.

Her practice

Meera founded a Civil and Commercial dispute resolution consultancy providing affordable ADR solutions through which she Mediates a breadth of claims. She also provides training to organisations looking to strengthen their conflict resolution skills and build resilience in the workplace, in public office, and within communities. She regularly presents to audiences within the Legal and Healthcare community in person and online.

Her experience as a Mediator includes conducting Mediations fully online using platforms such as Microsoft teams and Zoom as well as Mediating in person. She travels within the UK for in-person Mediations and will also conducts hybrid mediations, including those required to be held by phone. She has experience of conducting full day and half day Mediations and has worked as a co-mediator in complex, multiparty disputes

Qualifications and Registrations

Meera qualified as a Mediator in January 2018 with the London School of Mediation and is Accredited and Insured to Mediate Civil & Commercial disputes. She qualified as a Solicitor in 2010 having achieved her professional and academic qualifications to practice at the College of Law and Queen Mary University of London, respectively. She is a CMC Registered Mediator.

She has worked in Tier 1 private practice, as well as in-house at the world's leading member-owned indemnifier for doctors, dentists and healthcare professionals across the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, the Caribbean and Bermuda. She has worked as part of a team offering assistance with clinical negligence claims (medical and dental), complaints and ethical matters.

Meera speaks at Healthcare events, presents seminars on ADR and has published articles on various medico-legal topics and has been quoted in national newspapers in relation to patient safety.

She has been a Trustee of a local Citizens Advice Bureau and is fluent in multiple languages. She is an EDI and social mobility advocate and Mentors students from disadvantaged backgrounds through schemes administered by state backed schools and colleges.

Testimonials

What Claimant Solicitors say about Meera's value as a Mediator

"You made a massive difference to the tone of the negotiation, which was overwhelmingly positive and that will leave a lasting impression on my clients. My clients know they were listened to and treated with respect and that matters enormously."

"My client's case was emotionally highly charged, Meera conducted the Mediation in an empathetic way which undoubtedly did a great deal to facilitate settlement. In particular, Meera listened to what my client and I had to say and Meera's sympathetic manner took a lot of heat out of a fraught encounter. The mediation was conducted very well."

What Defendant Solicitors say about Meera's personal attributes as a Mediator;

"[Meera] handled the Mediation pragmatically and efficiently, steering the parties to the crux of the issues appropriately."

"Meera assisted in resolving a complex clinical negligence matter involving fertility issues and surrogacy. While emotions were running high, Meera's patient and empathetic manner put the Claimant at ease and her in depth understanding of the case brought about a settlement that both parties were ultimately happy with."

"Meera did tremendously well to facilitate settlement of a very tricky personal injury claim by a litigant in person. The Defendant and I felt the claim was substantially exaggerated but direct negotiations were fruitless. An in person mediation with a 2 hour time limit was agreed. Despite the very tight and perhaps ambitious timetable for the mediation, we settled for a costs inclusive figure much less than the Claimant's demand within the 2 hours allowed. Given the amount of quantum issues in the claim, that was an excellent achievement. The claimant and my client were both very happy with the settlement, and a costly case management conference and potential trial were avoided." Paul Hughes, Partner, Weightmans LLP

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July 2025