



Trust Mediation

Paul Balen

Solicitor qualified in 1977

Mediator since 2004

Civil Mediation Council Registered Mediator



"Esteemed expert Paul Balen remains at the forefront of clinical negligence law, having handled the full spectrum of cases in his lengthy career. He is "very tactically minded," and "very much a respected opinion" on clinical negligence matters, sources say" (Chambers Directory 2016)

"Just wanted to thank you for your mediation yesterday. I have to confess I have hitherto been slightly sceptical of the value of mediation, working on the basis that 2 reasonable counsel could thrash out most issues."

"I have to say I was very impressed with the way you conducted matters and would be the first to concede that I very much doubt the claim would have settled but for your input." (Claimant's counsel 2009)

"For the record I have recommended you to several clients recently - you're a natural!" (Defendant's mediation counsel)

I'm most grateful for the work you did to bring this case to settlement. We did not expect to leave with a deal. (Defendant's solicitor)

I just wanted to thank you properly for all your hard work on my late husband's case,. It was nice to 'meet' you last Thursday. You put me at ease and I felt in very safe hands. I was very pleased with the outcome. (Claimant in a virtual mediation 2020)

- **Career History**

Paul was educated at Nottingham High School; obtained a First Class Honours degree in Law and was President of the University Law Society at Cambridge. He was articled 1975; qualified as a solicitor 1977 and became partner in 1980 where for the last 10 years he has been a Consultant currently on a part time basis.

He was President of the Nottinghamshire Law Society 2005-6; President of the Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society 2007-8; and Secretary of APIL 1998-2000. He was one of the first Senior Fellows of APIL; is a former Chief Assessor for the Law Society Clinical Negligence Specialist Panel and is accredited as a clinical negligence practitioner by APIL and AVMA.

He is the Editor of a text book "Clinical negligence" published by LexisNexis in which he personally contributes the chapters on inquests and on the use of ADR in clinical negligence cases.

- **Extensive Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence expertise**

As a solicitor Paul has long experience in advising in a wide range of complex clinical negligence and personal injury cases. He has a national reputation for the coordination of multi-party actions and the creation of compensation/alternative dispute resolution schemes in groups of clinical negligence and medical product claims.

He has been described in Chambers as "like a dog with a bone" when given a difficult case. "He's incredibly clever and hard-working and he gets results," "He is particularly commended for his strategic thinking". He "knows what's what," say commentators. He is famed for his "extremely professional" demeanour and his "sensible approach. He is consistently reported to be "one of the most highly rated practitioners in the country".

- **Holistic approach**

Paul's approach with clients is renowned to be holistic. He has been involved in the implementation of safer procedures within the NHS through meetings with the CMO; membership of the paediatric sub-committee of the former Patient Safety Agency and through the publication of case notes, lectures and training sessions. He has been commended for this in judgments in both the Court of Appeal and High Court. He routinely proposes ADR resolution of his cases. He recently received judicial approval of a multi-million pound cerebral palsy settlement achieved after adopting a collaborative approach with the defence solicitor which resulted in settlement without any relevant court directions, adversarial discussions or expert meetings.

- **Mediation**

It was building on his interest in and use of ADR settlement schemes that led Paul to qualify as a mediator with the ADR Group in 2004. Since then has mediated a wide range of disputes including personal injury, clinical negligence, probate and commercial disputes. He has also mediated a dispute between two national professional sports bodies and a multi party consumer action against a “Big 5” energy supplier. He has on occasions been requested to provide a neutral evaluation as part of the mediation process.

He has been invited to lecture on mediation to a national conference of forensic accountants and has devised and participated at mediation training sessions at solicitors and insurers.

He was awarded Mediator Achiever of the year at Personal Injury Awards ceremony in Manchester on 28th November 2018.