



Profile

Janine Allen – Mediator

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Janine Allen is a practising mediator. She has trained with and is accredited by both CEDR and ADR Group.

Janine qualified as a solicitor in 1989 and has been a partner in Halliwells for the last five years. Janine was leading a team in commercial litigation in Manchester forming part of the firm's Dispute Resolution Group until mid-2006, and since then has been undertaking an in-house role advising the firm upon risk management and claims.

Janine has extensive experience in advising upon most matters which come within the ambit of a commercial litigation department (apart from RTA and personal injury claims). Her experience extends from high value contractual disputes and company law cases involving breaches of fiduciary duty under the Companies Act against directors through shareholder disputes and disputes arising out of business sales, to banking disputes, insolvency and enforcement.

Janine specialised in insolvency law for a number of years following qualification, and then broadened that area to include banking litigation. For the past 8 years Janine has been advising in the wider field of general commercial litigation.

Janine has acted for a variety of companies, financial institutions, insolvency practitioners and individuals in a range of cases both in the Courts locally and in the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

Janine believes that in facilitating settlement between the parties to a mediation it is important that the mediator builds the confidence and trust of each party from the outset, maximising opportunities to listen and understand the situation from each parties perspective, in order to appreciate what is important to them in any settlement.

This also allows the mediator to reality test each parties expectations' and let the party gauge whether they are being realistic as the process develops. The focus is on helping the parties to resolve their own dispute, and exploring all available options.

Janine sees the role as one demanding both autonomy and stamina. The mediator is acting as a neutral and is able to oversee a dispute not only from each party's perspective, but also with the benefit of the confidential sessions with each party. Stamina is needed to see the process to a conclusion as it takes time and effort by all. The reward is to see the fruits of the process.

Examples of mediation involvement include:

- Foot and Mouth-multi-million pound dispute over compensation
- A number of cases involving s459 Companies Act disputes
- Family company dispute
- Professional negligence claim against former solicitors
- Professional negligence claim against former accountants re tax advice
- Claim by bank against husband and wife involving security over matrimonial home in respect of husband's business
- Claim by individuals against non- insured retired solicitor re property entitlements
- Claim by brewery against individual in respect of alleged guarantee of indebtedness of his by then insolvent company
- Janine is a member of the Law Society and of Manchester Law Society and of the mediator panel run by the Manchester Court Service and a governor of a local school.