

The Rt Hon Michael Tomlinson

Year of Call: 2002

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ADR/NCDR

Michael believes that there are many disputes that are ripe for mediation and arbitration. As a qualified mediator and arbitrator, he works as a mediator and arbitrator in a broad range of property, commercial and civil matters. He has also appeared as an advocate at mediations.

Following the changes to the Civil Procedural Rules, coming in to force on the auspicious date of the 1st October (Michael's birthday) 2024, the Court will now promote the use of alternative dispute resolution in response to the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Churchill v. Merthyr Tydfil CBC [2023] EWCA Civ 1416*. The Court will further actively encourage mediation.

Michael undertakes ToLATA mediations, and believes that these disputes are invariably suitable for mediation. A successful mediation will inevitably result in a saving of costs, and in ToLATA cases ensure that there is more equity to go round. He has recently conducted a successful ToLATA mediation in Chambers, and with the changes to the CPR now in force anticipates that the need for mediation in this area will continue to increase.

As a Member of Parliament, Michael would often see the benefit of mediation in solving a range of disputes; from wider community disputes, to neighbour or more commercial matters.

Michael has taken part in legal projects in both Sierra Leone and Rwanda; and is part of a team leading mediation training sessions in South Africa.

Further to his work as a constituency Member of Parliament, working with the NFU and the local farming community during his time as MP in Dorset, Michael is developing a specialism in agricultural law and is a member of the Agricultural Law Association. Many agricultural disputes are particularly suitable for mediation.

Michael was trained by and is a Member of the Society of Mediators and is a Civil Mediation Council Registered Mediator and is a qualified Clarb arbitrator.

Recommendations

"I have had the privilege of instructing Mike since 2005 in a wide range of matters, including commercial and contract law, property and chancery cases and I can say without hesitation that he is one of the most outstanding counsel I have worked with in my career." **Instructing Solicitor**

"What sets Mike apart is his exceptional care of both the lay client and solicitor. Clients routinely comment on how approachable and reassuring he is, even when dealing with difficult or emotionally charged issues. He has a rare ability to

strike the perfect balance between professionalism and warmth, instilling confidence while remaining sensitive to the client's concerns. I recall one particularly anxious client who did not have English as a first language and who was reluctant to proceed with a final hearing considering opting for an very unfavourable settlement; Mike took the time to meet with them in advance, explain the process in a calm and respectful manner, and left them feeling heard, supported, and ready to proceed. He guided this matter through a complex five day trial with very difficult multilingual cross examination and obtained a very favourable judgement." **Instructing Solicitor**

"He is also a pleasure to work with as part of a legal team. Mike is refreshingly ego-free, responsive, and open to dialogue, always willing to pick up the phone to talk things. It is very easy to say to Mike that you don't understand something and he will take the time to explain it." **In-house Lawyer**

"Working with Michael Tomlinson is a blessing. He is tireless and hard working inside and outside the court. His advise is solid and based on the case strengths. He has assisted me in maters and question before and after the hearing. His performance in court is impeccable. I would consider that Michael Tomlinson is a Rolls Royce vehicle in the court racing." **Instructing Solicitor**

Academic qualifications

- BA (Hons) Classics, Kings' College London, 2i
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law and BVC, College of Law, graduated third top in his year

Scholarships

- The Malcolm Memorial Prize for Advocacy, College of Law, 2002
- The Sachs Prize, Middle Temple, 2002
- Rosamund Smith Mooting Cup, Middle Temple, 2002
- Queen Mother Scholarship, Middle Temple, 2001

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, 2024
- Appointed King's Counsel, 2022
- HM Solicitor General (SG), 2022-2023
- Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland, 2023
- Attorney-General's Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel), 2007-2012

Professional bodies

- Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
- Registered Mediator, Civil Mediation Council
- Society of Mediators
- Chancery Bar Association
- Agricultural Law Association