

LAWRENCE KERSHEN Q.C.
Mediator and Facilitator

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Background

Lawrence Kershen has mediated in a broad range of commercial and other disputes since he was accredited as a mediator by the Centre for Dispute Resolution, London, in 1994.

His background is as a lawyer, with over thirty years' litigation experience. His practice has covered most aspects of common law work, including civil, commercial and criminal cases. In 1992 he was appointed Queen's Counsel. He also sat as a Recorder (part-time judge) of the Crown Court from 1987 to 1999, dealing both with jury trials and appeals.

At the same time, he has qualified in a range of training disciplines. Underlying this is his deep commitment to training to resolve conflict, to develop individual skills and for personal and organisational development.

He has visited Indonesia on a number of occasions, and has some knowledge (and great affection) for its culture and traditions.

Mediation Experience

He has mediated in many sectors of commercial disputes, including:

Acquisitions & Mergers

- logistics company and business agency over terms of introduction of airfreight co

Shareholder Disputes

- vendor of regional newspaper group agreed to sell to international media group but disagreed about value of £10 million-plus share options
- directors of an aviation company who were engaged in a £3 million dispute with their Finance Director over value of shareholding and commission/salary

Employment

- lecturer accused of sexual harassment by organizers of a multi-faith conference
- police authority & senior police officers in disciplinary proceedings

Community

- faith community (350 members) in conflict over appointment of senior minister

Professional negligence/indemnity

- dispute between an international bank and chartered surveyors over the valuation of a multi-million pound industrial estate
- owners of nursing home group claiming negligent advice by their accountants in the structure and sale of the group

Defamation

- premier league football club which had sued a national newspaper over allegations that it was unwilling to provide sufficient funds for new signings
- joint venture for large-scale diamond purchase and subsequent comments

Partnership

- building company owned by three brothers who had fallen out over future development of business
- family-owned farming business with 20 year history of dispute over ownership

He has also acted as mediator in a range of other disputes, including **human rights** and **family** issues.

He is one of the initiators of national mediation services for **religious** and **voluntary** organisations. He has been actively involved in the field of criminal justice in developing **Restorative Justice**, and was one of the organizers of the International Conference on Restorative Justice in March 2001.

Training Experience

He has been a **lead trainer** on CEDR's Mediator Training Course for some seven years. He helped to design the present course, as well as the CEDR Mediator Handbook. He has experience of **training the trainers**, e.g. CEDR's own training faculty.

He is a certified **trainer of Neuro-Linguistic Programming**, a highly effective system for skills-based learning. NLP now forms part of the Mediator and Advanced Mediator Training courses, with significant success. He is also accredited as a **trainer of Nonviolent Communication**, a vital tool in effective mediation.

He has experience of **cross-cultural training**, e.g. Commercial Mediation Training on behalf of the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, as well as for culturally diverse groups in UK, Switzerland and Finland. He also presents seminars for **management training** programmes, many of

which he has designed. These include leadership and team-building, as well as presentation, effective business relationships, and further communication and negotiation skills. Over the last few years he has also enjoyed coaching individuals on a one-to-one basis both in conflict resolution, change management, and personal skills.

Mediation Training Courses he delivers include:

- **Mediation Skills** – e.g. CEDR, Finnish Bar Assoc, Syracuse University
- **New Approaches to Dispute Resolution** – London University
Public Policy Seminars
- **Advanced Mediation** – Association of Northern Mediators

Other Training Courses include:

- **Communication Skills for Mediators**
- **Cross-cultural Negotiation and Communication**
- **Creative Problem Solving**
- **Strategic Planning**
- **Managing Corporate Legal Services**
- **Managing Effective Business Relationships**
- **Advanced Presentation Skills**

Further training courses in preparation include **Advanced Negotiation** (October 2001) and **International Advanced Mediation** (June 2002).

Academic and professional institutions for whom he has developed training courses include:

- **Institute of Advanced Legal Studies**
- **London University**
- **Middlesex University** (in preparation)
- **City University**
- **Syracuse University**
- **Middle Temple**
- **Law Society**

Training Qualifications include-

1973	Esalen Institute, USA - working scholar Group Process
1990	Neuro-Linguistic Programming - Practitioner
1990-2	NLP - Training Apprenticeship (Ian McDermott)
1993	NLP - Master Practitioner
1998	NLP - Trainer & Consultant Certification
2000	Nonviolent Communication – (Dr Marshall Rosenberg) Trainer Certification