



# The Rt Hon Michael Tomlinson

**Year of Call:** 2002

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## Mediation

Michael believes that there are many disputes that are ripe for mediation and as a qualified mediator he is able to undertake work as a mediator for a broad range of property, commercial and civil matters. He has also appeared as an advocate at mediation.

Following the changes to the Civil Procedural Rules, coming in to force on the auspicious date of the 1st October (Michael's birthday) this year, 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.

## 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