

Mediator Profile

Mark Manley

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ADR Accreditation:	1999
CEDR Panel Admission:	2000
Appointed Deputy District Judge	2004
CEDR Chambers:	2011
Established Mediata	2012
Appointed FA Chairman of Appeals	2021
Appointed Arbitrator Dubai	
International Arbitration Centre	2026

Overview

Mark Manley is one of the UK's most experienced mediators having conducted over 1000 mediations. The vast majority of these have been settled at, or shortly after, mediation. These have mainly been in the areas of media, entertainment, sport, IP and contractual issues though Mark has also mediated many complex commercial disputes including many shareholder and partnership issues. Parties to these mediations have included Plc's, mid-tier corporates, SME's, Partners, Directors, Premiership football clubs, managers and players, actors, musicians and TV and film companies, shareholders, Partners, constructors, contractors and charities.



Professional Background

Mark heads the boutique media and litigation firm Manleys, which is located in Chester. He has sat as a Deputy District Judge on the Northern Circuit since 2004 and in the Business and Property Division of the High Court in Manchester since 2023. He is annually recognised in the legal directories as one of the leading U.K. lawyers in the fields of defamation, media and sport and also has an excellent reputation for his work on disputes related to not only these areas but particularly heavyweight shareholder and contractual disputes.



Personal Mediation Style

Mark is recommended as a mediator in the Chambers directory. Feedback from mediations and in the legal directories has included:

- "robust style - gets the parties to settlement".
- "He quickly gets to the real issues, and focuses the parties' minds on solutions. "
- "One of the top mediators"
- "Has become our firm's go-to mediator"
- "He was on top of the facts and fitly understood that this was not a monetary claim but rather an issue surrounding the client's reputation".
- "He was very responsive and got on top of the issues".
- "Mark was straightforward and was firm as needed".
- "Pragmatic, practical and sensible".
- "Up there with my favourite mediators".

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“ One of the top
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Mediation Experience

Reputation Management

- Libel action about to go to trial involving well known celebrity and national broadsheet newspaper.
- Internationally known singer and soap star sued former agent for libel and breach of contract.
- Multi-party libel and publishing dispute between publisher and 12 claimants.
- Libel case between BA Pilot and National newspaper.
- Libel claim by Nobel Prize winner against a broadsheet newspaper.
- Premiership football Manager and tabloid over claim of accepting a bung.
- Libel and IP claims between Football Club and Regional Newspaper.
- Dispute between footballer and girlfriend - breach of confidence/privacy issues.
- Libel claim brought by football club against some of its major shareholders following comments on social networking site.
- Libel claim between former senior banking executive and national newspaper.

Commercial

- International trade dispute between US and UK aerospace companies £7.8million product liability claim.
- Breach of warranty claim involving option to purchase in a commercial lease
- Proprietary Estoppel claim relating to claim for declaration of interest in land
- Breach of contract / restrictive covenant claim/ springboarding allegations
- Building contract claim and counterclaim over JCT contract performance
- Breach of contract in supply contract in manufacturing industry involving complex machinery malfunction and battle of the forms
- Trust validity claim (Gibraltar)

Partnership

- Partnership dispute between partners in a theatre school. Allegations of fraud.
- Claim arising from the disbanding of a solicitor's practice.
- Claim by solicitors' firm against former partners.
- High court action involving dispute between property developers

Professional Negligence

- Professional negligence claim brought against accountants by FTSE top 100 company.
- Solicitors professional negligence claim relating to a failed football transfer
- Solicitors professional negligence allegation concerning acquisition of property without adequate due diligence/enquiries
- Family law solicitor's negligence claim regarding ancillary relief settlement

Shareholder / Share valuation disputes

- Share Valuation dispute in Scotland between two companies following acquisition.
- Many shareholders / unfair prejudice petition claims under s994 CA (old s459 Petitions).
- Breach of contract/share valuation dispute for £52 million between South African and Danish blue-chip companies.
- Directors misfeasance claim
- Derivative action (music industry)
- Accident claims Shareholder dispute.



Inheritance Act and Trust cases

- £Multi-million challenge to validity of trust case (Gibraltar)
- Inheritance Act dispute between beneficiaries including substantial issues over Company shares, ownership of the business and property
- Inheritance Act dispute between three beneficiaries in relation to business in North Wales
- £million disputes relating to proprietary estoppel/mining business (multi-jurisdictional)
- Numerous contentious probate cases

Media

- International Recording Artist v Trade Publication - matter settled shortly after the mediation
- Libel claim by leading Banking industry executive v national newspaper
- Artist/TV company action for breach of contract on TV commercials.
- Television agency dispute - dispute between actors in ITV Soap and BBC Drama series and their former managers and agents over significant commission payments and termination of contracts including Equity/PACT contracts.
- Contract dispute over commissions between well-known TV personality and TV company and agent.
- Multi-party broadcasting dispute over image rights infringement and format.
- Breach of confidence claim - allegations by former employee and revelations to media.

IT / Web design

- Dispute relating to website construction agreement and implementation project (£1.2 million)
- Claim involving alleged breaches of Service and Maintenance contracts
- Dispute over contract for creation of mobile phone app and related marketing

Sport

- Libel action between Premier League player and doping regulator
- Rule K Arbitration concerning allegation of one agent poaching a Premier League International footballer signed to another agent.
- Contract dispute following dismissal of Premiership Football Manager
- Dispute between Premiership Football Club and one of its players and his Agent over benefits and payments
- Sports dispute between athlete and governing body.
- Mediated dispute between Championship Golf Club and several of its members over implementation of the Constitution.
- Dispute between Championship football club and fans' representatives.
- High Court claim between kit manufacturer and Football club (breach of contract)



Music Industry

- Mediated dispute between international recording artist and well-known trade publication
- Recording Deal dispute between artist and management company on commissions due.
- Dispute between original artist and tribute band over moral rights

Intellectual Property

- Passing off and breach of copyright claim in textile industry
- IP / image right infringement claim - passing off - action by celebrity over unauthorised use of image/slogan.
- Claim between clothing manufacturers regarding infringement of design and trademark.
- Format dispute relating to car manufacturer advertisement
- Community Trade mark issue re branding issue

Health Sector

Mark has mediated disputes involving the NHS/various Trusts, and dental contracts as well as disputes between private consultants, patients and organisations.

Professional Skills and Background

Mark's professional practice includes the following areas:

Media and Sport:

Acts for major Media clients in radio and print media including national and regional newspapers, magazines, radio stations, celebrities. Major clients include members of the Royal Family, The Government, Trinity Mirror Plc, Bauer Media and all its radio stations, Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool FC, Everton FC, Lime Pictures (Only Way is Essex/ Geordie Shore), EN magazine, Insider Magazines. Acts for many high-profile clients in the Music, Sports and entertainment industries involved in contractual and other disputes. Has obtained several super injunctions/ injunctions/ privacy orders/ several reported cases in Court of Appeal and House of Lords (e.g. Cream Holdings v Banerjee and Liverpool Daily Post and Echo Ltd [2004] HL). Clients include Kylie Minogue, Tyson Fury, Amir Khan, Kerry Katona, Ricky Tomlinson, Ricky Whittle, Carlos Tevez, Edwin Van der Saar, Marouanne Fellaini, Catherine Tyldesley, Gerard Pique (Barcelona FC), Jamie Carragher, Micah Richards, Sven Goran Eriksson, Ross Barkley, several Open Championship Golf Clubs/players and many others. Commercial clients include national brands in retail, food and manufacturing. Ranked nationally in London and UK sections of Chambers Directory and member of Legal 500 Hall of Fame

Intellectual Property:

represents clients in copyright, passing off and trade mark infringement cases for many of the above-named clients including ITV Plc. Clients also include national brands in retail, food, property and manufacturing.

Commercial Disputes/Contract:

Acts in substantial breach of warranty claims/shareholder disputes/petitions/ contract claims/ professional negligence cases. SRA panelist for professional negligence claims.

Professional Background

- Managing Director of Manleys. Major clients include national and regional newspapers, radio stations, magazines and other publishers and TV Producers; computer software companies; several Premiership Clubs, Managers and Players and many celebrities in sport, music and entertainment industries.
- 1991-2012: Partner on the firm's Management Board for 10 years; Head of Commercial Litigation Department for 8 years.
- Deputy District Judge (Northern Circuit) since 2004
- Member of the British Association for Sport and Law.
- Member of the Association of District Judges.
- Mediator on Sports Resolutions Panel
- Court of Arbitration for Sport Panel Mediator
- Lectures widely for Kaplan Altior on Law Firm Management and Financial Services and to media clients and the College of Law on Media Law/reputation management/ privacy /confidentiality/ claims avoidance and Court Reporting.
- Appointed FA Chairman of Appeals (disciplinary)
- Appointed to the approved list of arbitrators at Dubai International Arbitration Centre

Mediation Fees

Preparation (up to 2 hours) plus Mediation from 9.30am to 5.30pm	Fixed fee £3,000+vat per party
Extra hours beyond 5.30pm	£300+vat per hour per party
Travel and accommodation expenses where necessary	(agreed/capped in advance)