

Private & Confidential

Christopher Cox – CV

Consultant Solicitor & Registered Mediator

Name: Christopher James Cox
Marital Status: Married
Residing: Northampton
Qualified: April 1982

Career History

Reasonable Minds: September 2020 – present

Consultant Solicitor / Independent Mediator

From September 2020 I retired from my former firm and became a Consultant Solicitor. I continue to specialise in dispute resolution as a solicitor and as an independent mediator.

Cox Minhas & Co: 2005 – September 2020

Partner / Mediator

In 2005 I founded and ran a small niche law firm which started as Christopher Cox Solicitors and became Cox Minhas & Co Limited. This was a specialist settlement practice using negotiation and mediation techniques to resolve cases rapidly. It has now diversified into a transactional property law firm.

We specialised in cases for developers, past clients being mostly commercial or construction contracts, involving dispute avoidance and dispute resolution. We developed a specialist area in shareholder disputes for directors involved in the construction industry. We undertook advanced negotiation training with CEDR. Being based in the heart of Northamptonshire we developed a specialist area in disputes affecting farming partnerships, property, and planning. During this time, I indulged my interest in negotiation / mediation and my love of Istanbul, and with CEDR's support, I was able to present a seminar at the Kadir Has University.

From 1998 to 2020 I acted as mediator but more regularly prepared claims and defended for clients using mediation as the outcome forum. In February 2020 I was appointed as an independent investigator by the Civil Mediation Council Complaints and Discipline Panel.

Lafarge Aggregates Limited: September 2003 - June 2005

Consultant Solicitor

Assisting in-house Counsel Ray Elliott at Lafarge Aggregates Limited as a Consultant Solicitor. Advising on ADR, NEC 2, leasehold dilapidation, business interruption and environmental claims including applying for an Integrated Pollution Prevention Permit and various environmental, product testing and health and safety issues. Claims in professional negligence against geotechnical engineers and mechanical engineers. Helping to develop a competition law compliance program and advice on competition law aspects. Advice on risks and liabilities affecting the day-to-day operation of the business.

EMW Law: May 2002 - September 2003

Fixed Contract

Fixed contract to form a Construction Law department based in Milton Keynes and became a District Councillor.

Shoosmiths: September 1990 - May 2002

Partner / Equity Partner

Partner for 11 years with Shoosmiths & Harrison Solicitors (now known as Shoosmiths) based in Northampton and London. Wide property experience and enforcing security documents for building societies, court receiverships, advice on asset finance security document. Drafting of building contracts, professional appointments, and collateral warranties. Considering consumer credit and asset finance agreements and enforcement and recovery processes involving delivery up of vehicles and collection of sums due under various agreements.

Became an Equity Partner in 1996. Responsible for forming and managing a team of lawyers charged with the restructuring of a commercial debt portfolio in the leisure, pub, hotel, nursing, and care home sectors across the UK. In 1998 supervised the transfer of the performing aspects of the portfolio into a commercial mortgage bond issue, being the first commercial mortgage securitisation in the UK. Helped to form the Association of Midland Mediators in 1999.

Retrained in 1998 to become firm wide Head of Construction Law in 2001.

Acting for developers, private clients (motor manufacturers) and public sector Open University, contractors and specialist subcontractors in the acquisition, planning procurement and development of various educational projects.

Developed an interest in, and acted as, mediator in various construction and commercial cases from 1999. Before training as a Mediator with CEDR, completed two weeks in the USA in 1998, and in 2002 observed mediators in action at Resolution Resources Inc., Atlanta Georgia.

Raper & Co: April 1985 - October 1990

Assistant Solicitor

After joining Raper & Co in 1985, became a partner in April 1988. Dealt with personal injury claims inheritance claims, land disputes over access rights of way, landlord and tenant claims and defending Director Disqualification proceedings in the leading case on costs in re; Southborne Sheet Metal Co. Limited.

Durrant Piesse: April 1983 - 1985

Assistant Solicitor

Assisted with notable insolvencies for banking and accountancy clients of Durrant Piesse bankruptcy, receiverships and insolvency advice and actions for banks and for receivers appointed by banks including Mareva injunctions, search and seizure orders retention of title claims, liability issues affecting professional and construction disputes over commercial developments.

Various Internships: January 1980 – April 1983

Assistant Solicitor

From 1976 my mentor was His Honour Judge Michael Cook of 'Cook on Costs' (his firm being Ward Bowie) leading me to listen to tapes on Order 62!

Various internships at Blakeney Pride and Green (Reading) Louch Belcher & Co (Newbury).

In 1980, I became an Articled Clerk. Covering a wide variety of work from conveyancing / secured lending, litigation to probate.

In 1982, I qualified as a solicitor assisting in a wide range of commercial mortgage property claims, commercial agreements, and other litigation before being lured into the City. Represented Greenham Common peace campers.

Education

Conferences

May 2014, Istanbul

Kadir Has University: International Conference

Presented a paper entitled The Development and Use of Mediation

September 2013, London

British Turkish Lawyers Conference: Developments in Mediation in the UK

Published Articles

February 2003: Arbitration (the Journal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators)

Getting a successful outcome at Mediation

August 2014: **Mediation: A comparative discussion of the laws and practice in the UK and Turkey**

(Joint article with Karen Akinci and Dr Ceyda Sural)

Panel Memberships

Court of Appeal Mediation Panel administered by CEDR

Founder member of the Association of Midland Mediators

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Panel Mediator

Civil Mediation Council Registered Mediator

Professional Memberships

The Society of Construction Law

Civil Mediation Council – Registered Mediator

Professional Negligence Lawyers Association

Society of Construction Law

Education

2012: **CEDR**

Certificate in Advanced Negotiation

1999 - 2001: **University of London, King's College**

MSc. Construction Law & Arbitration

1999: **CEDR**

Mediator Training

1980: **The College of Law, Guildford**

The Law Society Part 2 Professional Examinations

1974 - 1979: **Keele University**

BA Joint Honours Degree in Law & American Studies

1969 – 1974: **The Oratory School, Reading**

Interests

Music, tennis, sailing, reading, travel and photography.