

Curriculum vitae

John has been a practising mediator for over 25 years. He initially trained with LEADR (now the Resolution Institute) in 1995, and is one of only 3 South Islanders on its Advanced Panel. He is also an associate member of AMINZ, and on several of its specialist panels.

He has combined mediation work with his practise as a barrister since that time. As most of his work is by solicitor referral, continuing in practise has been helpful in maintaining a thorough working knowledge of contract, tort, commercial, estate and environmental law, these being the predominant areas in which his mediation disputes arise.

In the last 2 years he has spent over 600 hours in mediation, and would have completed over 100 mediations in that period. Those mediations covered a wide variety of subject matter, but were principally in the areas of commercial, family (estate) and environmental disputes. John has been undertaking mediation work for the Government dealing with weathertight home issues since the inception of the Weathertight Homes Tribunal and mediation service in 2002. He is currently the legal advisor to the GCCRS, the Government body set up to assist in resolving Canterbury earthquake claims. He is responsible for the dispute resolution processes in that organisation, involving both mediation and determination.

As a matter of professional ethics, he never provides details of individual mediations. John regards lists of mediated cases in that category.

As to mediation style, John believes that the role of the mediator is determined by the subject matter of the dispute. But much of his mediation relates to commercial disputes where matters of fact and law are in issue. In those circumstances, his role would not simply be described as a “facilitator” of discussion between the disputing parties. He is prepared to challenge the views of parties on both law and fact, and believes in the power of private caucusing where much of that discussion is likely to take place. It is not a case of settlement at all cost, but every effort must be made to examine the stumbling blocks to settlement to find a path forward.

Since being admitted to the LEADR panel in 1995, John has undertaken additional training on a regular basis. To give some examples;

- In 1997 he undertook courses with Dr Dudley Weeks and Professor Robert Baruch Bush from the United States;
- In 1998 Christopher Moore of CDR Associates, Boulder, Colorado;
- In 2002 he attended the Bond University Masters Class in Wellington;
- In 2004 he attended the Auckland advanced program run by Judy Mares-Dixon of CDR Associates;

- In 2005 a two day course with Gary Fitzpatrick from Canada;
- In 2006 he attended American Dr Julie Turchin's course on the Psychology of Mediation and Negotiation.
- In 2008 he attended a course by American J Anderson Little "Negotiating claims for money".
- In 2011 he trained with Robert Benjamin, a leading mediator from the United States.
- In 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018 he attended conferences on dispute resolution.

He has been involved in the Resolution Institute at either a local or national level for some of the time since his initial training. He has also assisted with training for that organisation and AMINZ, and presented lectures and seminars on the subject for other organisations, including the New Zealand Law Society.

John charges a daily rate in preparing for and conducting the mediation (\$8000 to \$12,000 plus GST depending on numbers and complexity), and meets travel and accommodation costs incurred by him in undertaking mediations outside of Christchurch. Parties are required to sign a standard mediation agreement after an appointment is made.

If a personal recommendation is sought, John can provide names of practitioners who have mediated with him.