

### **Ben Waters Mediator Biography**



Ben is an accredited mediator, solicitor and senior lecturer in law at Canterbury Christ Church University. He is the founder member of the University's Mediation Clinic, the first of its kind to be based in a UK university.

He is an accredited mediator having trained with CEDR in 2006 and the ADR Group in 2007.

Having joined the world of academia from private legal practice in 2005, Ben has brought with him extensive experience of civil litigation including effective practical negotiation skills in the area of dispute resolution. Since becoming a mediator Ben has conducted numerous mediations in a variety of different conflict contexts ranging from construction, landlord and tenant, neighbour, disputes between colleagues and within organisations, as well as disputes of a general civil nature.

Ben's practical expertise is underpinned with a sound understanding of negotiation and mediation theory, areas in which he lectures. One of his areas of research is dispute resolution and he is published in peer reviewed journals and has presented papers on ADR and particularly mediation at conference.

Ben qualified as a solicitor in 1994, has a Masters Degree in Education, a Post Graduate Diploma in Law, and a BA (Hons) Degree in History & Education. He is also a trustee and current chair of the local community mediation service.

"Mediation is a highly effective way to resolve a whole range of disputes. Through mediation the parties are able to find the kinds of solutions which are not available through the court process and ones which are very much more tailored to the parties' needs. A measure of the success of mediation is the fact that a mediated settlement agreement has much more chance of enduring than a decision imposed by a court."