

Commonwealth Mediation Conference

18,19 and 20 May 2022
Belfast, Northern Ireland



Law Society House, Belfast



Commonwealth
Lawyers Association



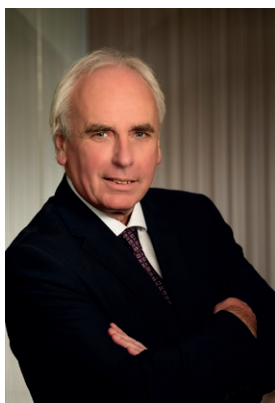
Law Society
Mediation Service

THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



100
YEARS

Welcome



As President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) and Chair of the Law Society of Northern Ireland Mediation Service (LSMS), it gives me great pleasure to bring together these two roles and welcome you to the Commonwealth Mediation Conference in Belfast. This is the second Commonwealth Mediation Conference. The first was also held in Belfast almost exactly eight years ago in May 2014.

That first conference was held on the 10th anniversary of the judgement in the seminal UK case of *Halsey -v- Milton Keynes NHS Trust*. Lord Dyson, who delivered the main judgement, provided a keynote paper reflecting on Halsey ten years on and maintained his position that mediation should not be compulsory or mandated but should remain voluntary and the court's role was to encourage and not to compel. Parties who unreasonably refused mediation could be penalised in costs.

Eight years from the first conference, questions concerning mandatory mediation and legislating for mediation remain relevant. In 2021 the Civil Mediation Council in England and Wales produced a paper questioning the current applicability of the Halsey decision regarding compulsory mediation and indeed concluded that mandating mediation is not unlawful.

The Law Society of Northern Ireland and the CLA have been interested in promoting and encouraging discussion about mediation in the Commonwealth for many years. It is a pleasure to welcome to Belfast an energetic faculty of speakers. All the speakers are experienced mediators who will share their experience and wisdom on a variety of current topics.

We are especially looking forward to three key note addresses. Sir Geoffrey Vos is the Master of the Rolls in England and Wales and will speak on day two of the Conference reflecting on the role of mediation in Civil Justice today.

Mr Justice Knowles, judicial lead for Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC), will share thoughts about the role of mediation in commercial disputes.

George Lim is Chair of the renowned Singapore International Mediation Centre and was actively engaged in what has become known as the Singapore Convention, otherwise the UN Convention on Mediation. His international perspective will resonate in the Commonwealth as trade between members becomes important in the current global economy.

In Northern Ireland the Law Society has recently invested in state of the art mediation facilities in what it calls the Meeting Place. Rooms attractively designed and laid out to facilitate earnest discussion both formal and informal have been provided. Delegates will have a chance to view this facility during the Conference. Committed to training and continuing professional development in all aspects of mediation, the LSMS are delighted to partner with the CLA in hosting this Conference.

Any gathering of mediators provides lively company, great insights and excellent collegiality. However it is also hoped that delegates take the opportunity to enjoy opportunities for site-seeing and excursions in Belfast and beyond. Northern Ireland has much to offer.

You are all welcome to the second Commonwealth Mediation Conference.

Brian Speers

President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association

Chair of the Law Society of Northern Ireland Mediation Service

Conference Programme

Wednesday 18 May

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration at Law Society House	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception at Belfast City Hall
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Thursday 19 May

8:45 a.m.	Arrival and Registration	11:30 a.m.	Panel 2 - Mediation Training
9:10 a.m.	Welcome and opening remarks	12:30 p.m.	LUNCH
9:20 a.m.	Conference Opening <i>Lady Chief Justice, The Right Honourable Dame Siobhan Keegan</i>	1:30 p.m.	KEYNOTE 2 - An international perspective on mediation development <i>George Lim, Chair Singapore International Mediation Centre.</i>
9:30 a.m.	KEYNOTE 1 - Making the most of mediation in commercial disputes <i>Mr Justice Knowles, judge with day to day responsibility for the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC).</i>	2:00 p.m.	Panel 3 - Unlocking Impasse and other key skills
10:00 a.m.	Panel 1 - Mandatory mediation discussion	3:00 p.m.	BREAK
11:00 a.m.	BREAK	3:15 p.m.	Panel 4 - International disputes
		4:15 p.m.	General discussion forum
		4:45 p.m.	Close
		7:00 p.m.	Conference Dinner

Friday 20 May

8:45 a.m.	Arrival	12:15 p.m.	Panel 7A - Confidentiality and ethics in mediation
9:15 a.m.	Welcome and opening remarks		
9:20 a.m.	KEYNOTE 3 - Mediation as part of Civil Justice <i>Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls</i>		Panel 7B - Mediation in Family Law cases
10:00 a.m.	Panel 5 - Should (sitting) Judges mediate?	1:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks and CLOSE
11:00 a.m.	BREAK		LUNCH
11:15 a.m.	Panel 6 - Legislating for mediation	Afternoon	Free for excursions and at leisure



Booking Form

Commonwealth Mediation Conference

18, 19 and 20 May 2022

Law Society House, Victoria Street, Belfast

<p>Delegate fee is £240 per person. (£200 per person for members of LSMS and for members of CLA)</p> <p>The day rates are £170 for Day 1 and £125 for Day 2.</p>	<p>The CLA Belfast Mediation Conference will provide 9.5 Group Study CPD hours.</p> <p>6 CPD hours for Day 1 3.5 CPD hours for Day 2</p>
<p>The Conference dinner will be £45 per delegate and for accompanying persons (book separately).</p>	

The delegate fee includes registration pack, Reception on Wednesday 18, attendance on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 May with lunch on both days.

How to book and pay

You should email a copy of this completed Booking Form to registration@commonwealthlawconference.com

On receipt of the form, we will send you a credit card invoice for payment. A receipt will be issued for all payments.

Booking Details

I wish to book the following places at the Commonwealth Mediation Conference.

(Please specify number required in the box provided).

Full Conference (£240 per person. For members of LSMS and for members of CLA the cost is £200 per person).

Day 1 only (£170 per person) Day 2 only (£125 per person)

Conference Dinner (£45 per person)

Name:	
Address:	
	Zip/Postcode:
Telephone:	Cell/Mobile:
Email:	
Special Dietary Requirements:	

All delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. We strongly recommend that delegates from abroad who require visas contact the in country High Commission as soon as possible to inquire about waiting times for this process which may be lengthy. Delegates requiring visas must make their own arrangements. We are not able to assist and cannot make refunds or transfer fees once the deadline passes.

Cancellation Policy

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to registration@commonwealthlawconference.com. If written cancellation is received before 30 April 2022, 90% of registration fees will be refunded. Cancellation and refund requests received after 1 May 2022 **will not be accepted.** Unfortunately, under no circumstances can we issue refunds for no-shows. The delegate fee is transferable to another person in your organisation if a delegate is unable personally to attend all the sessions. Fees may not be transferred to another event.