



## **Olivia van der Werff**

### Mediation experience

Olivia has worked in dispute resolution throughout her professional life. The theme running throughout her working life has been one of helping parties in conflict work together and resolve their differences.

After twenty years of working in fairness Olivia has established herself as a trusted advisor in guiding individuals and businesses through challenging situations. She is an expert in resolving disputes in contentious and pressured situations.

Olivia is calm and pragmatic and used to dealing with high pressured and emotional situations and disputes. She has a relaxed and approachable style, fostering an environment conducive to open communication and constructive dialogue.

### Professional experience

Olivia practised as a solicitor in Bristol in family law, before becoming the first solicitor in the UK to be dual qualified as a solicitor and in health and safety. She established and grew a national health and safety consultancy through a franchise model before selling her company to an AIM Listed PLC in 2004. This has given her an excellent understanding of commercial issues.

In particular she has an excellent understanding of the pressures facing business of all sizes, and the individuals working within them, through the business life cycle from start-up to execution of an exit strategy, and the conflicts that arise throughout.

Since then she has run Beyond Dispute, a consultancy that provides safety and fairness advice. She is the industry leader in ensuring fair play and proper representation for contestants in tv gameshows. She works with stakeholders following broadcast in assisting with complaints and to this end, gameshows she has worked on have never been referred to Ofcom. She is generally accredited as having been the creator and instigator of fair practice systems now adopted throughout the broadcast industry and recognised as industry standard.

### Other information

- Civil Mediation Council Registered Mediator
- Chartered Member of the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
- Associate Member of BAFTA
- Non-Practising Solicitor