

A firm of litigators

Our litigators

In these more difficult economic times, businesses are becoming increasingly involved in disputes involving the courts. We have seen a sizeable increase in the number of disputes we are dealing with and now have over 140 lawyers who specialise in litigation. That's more than a third of our legal staff.

We specialise in many different areas of litigation. These include asset finance, banking, consumer, commercial, construction, defamation, employment, insurance, insolvency, intellectual property, public procurement, property, regulatory, shipping and transport.

Resolving disputes

Most cases by far are settled well short of trial. The courts certainly encourage parties to resolve their disputes. Our litigators regularly use Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to compromise matters. We have found that mediation is a particularly effective form of ADR. Through the help of an independent facilitator (the mediator), the parties are able to explore the respective strengths of their legal and commercial positions and help the parties reach an acceptable compromise. We have recently settled successfully for our clients several claims using mediation. These have included claims involving restrictive covenants in employment and commercial agreements, breaches of supply contracts, disputes with insurers over the extent of their obligations under their insurance policies, claims for professional negligence, misrepresentation claims, claims brought by shareholders.

Achieving the right result

We recognise that not all cases settle and we have had to take several to trial for our clients. These have included claims concerning the interpretation of provisions in contracts, the enforceability of restrictive covenants, the rights of minority shareholders. We have gone on to win some of our cases in the Court of Appeal. Many of our cases have been reported in the legal and other press.

Funding

How cases are funded remains a key consideration. Many of the cases we take on are done on the basis of fixed fees or estimates. Others are undertaken on the basis that we do not get paid unless we are successful. It is often possible to obtain insurance to cover payment of the opponent's costs in the event that we are not successful. The payment of such premiums is usually deferred.

We have the expertise to help you with any dispute you may be involved in. We will be able to agree with you an appropriate way to fund it and the best way to pursue it.

For further information please contact **Steve Goodrham**, partner on **0121 234 0098** or **SGoodrham@gateleyuk.com**.

