



"Global Mediator of the Year" 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019 and 2014

"Global Elite Thought Leader in Mediation" 2018-present

One of Europe's most experienced international mediators

Mediation experience

William ("Bill") Marsh is one of Europe's most experienced commercial mediators. Involved full-time in mediation since 1991, and independently rated by Chambers Directory as "*...one of the greats...*", he has successfully mediated a wide cross-section of commercial disputes. Six times as **Global Mediator of the Year** (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019 and 2014) (Global Who's Who Legal/Lexology Index).

Operating both in the UK and internationally, his mediation practice has included disputes and parties from over 50 countries including UK, Ireland, India, Cayman Islands, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Tunisia, Nigeria, Ghana, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and South Africa.

Parties have included national and regional governments, public bodies/authorities, public national and multi-national companies, private companies and firms, pressure groups, factions and individuals.

His mediations cover a broad cross-section of commercial disputes, and range up to multi-billion dollar in value.

Bill also acts as adviser to numerous governments on mediation issues, and mediates ethnic, religious and political conflicts as well.

Areas and examples of mediation practice

Sport

- Dispute between motor racing driver and sponsors
- Directors and shareholders dispute in ocean racing enterprise
- Long-running multi-party dispute over board and shareholder control of a Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club (multi-party)
- Dispute between directors of football club (multi-party)
- Dispute involving ticketing rights for a major sporting event

- Dispute between clubs and players' agents concerning transfers and transfer fees
- Dispute between rugby clubs and national authority
- Dispute between football club and sacked manager
- Dispute concerning image rights of a premier league footballer
- Dispute between motor racing champion and racetrack company

Cases which are in the public domain

- Long running dispute between Dame Shirley Porter and Westminster City Council
- Disputed take-over of Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club
- All claims arising from the Grenfell Tower fire, London
- Church of England's decades-long conflict about whether women could become bishops

Banking

- Numerous investment disputes
- Derivative product claims – eg swaps, etc
- Fraud claims
- Debt recovery claims

Commercial contract cases

- \$1.25billion pharmaceutical claim
- \$100m++ engineering disputes from the Gulf
- Claim concerning Russia commercial agency agreement
- Japanese/German engineering dispute
- Numerous disputes between telecoms companies
- Middle East/US/UK pharmaceutical business claim
- Russian JV transport facility dispute
- France/India JV dispute
- Ukrainian/Israeli/Dutch/Swedish shareholders dispute
- Italy/Spain/France pharmaceutical contract dispute
- Turkish/US media contract dispute
- Turkish banking claim
- Taiwan/US contract dispute
- Central Asian government banking dispute
- Polish distribution agreement dispute between US and Belgium companies
- English/Japanese dispute concerning distribution of luxury brand goods
- Oil futures dispute between international bank & African state-owned energy utility
- Open-cast mining dispute
- Gulf-based banking dispute
- Dispute concerning construction of Middle Eastern power station
- Claims between UK rail operator by French systems manufacturer
- Claim by US listed company against North African distributors
- Claim against French machinery manufacturer by UK companies and finance houses
- Dispute between a household name food producer and a distributor
- Several local authority waste disposal contract disputes
- Dispute over property development rights
- Termination of franchise arrangements

- Claim against national newspaper regarding confidential information

Commercial fraud

- 9-party £2million commercial fraud case
- £60million international banking fraud claim (4 party)
- US\$53million international fraud claim
- Multi-party and two-party UK fraud claims
- Multi-national asset-tracing claims

Company/shareholders

- Numerous shareholders actions (both two party and multi-party) including:
 - share valuations, share option agreements, minority shareholder actions, “misleading prospectus” claims (including a 6-party claim)
- Numerous breach of acquisition warranty claims:
 - involving listed companies
 - UK, French, Canadian, and others
 - two- and multi-party ○ ranging up to £32million in value
- Credit-trading disputed equity stake claim
- Disputed shareholder rights following take-over
- Break-up of family business disputes

Construction and Engineering

- Various claims relating to delays, defective design issues, engineering machine manufacture, construction of plant, etc
- Dispute over design and operation of high-tech defence equipment

Defamation

- Various defamation actions against media companies

Employment

- Senior executive employment disputes (usually coupled with disputed share options/ valuations disputes, bonus disputes, S. 459 petitions, restrictive covenants, etc)
- Unfair and wrongful dismissals including as part of larger claim e.g. as one component of a shareholders’ action, and as part of claims relating to the transfer of businesses including TUPE elements
- Discrimination covering race, sex and age claims
- TUPE issues relating to insolvency actions both in employment based and insolvency based mediations

Environmental

- Major multi-stakeholder environmental dispute in southern Europe

Insolvency

- Claims by and against liquidators /receivers and companies in liquidation/receivership former directors, and others

IT

- £12million claim by listed oil company against its IT suppliers
- Claim by local authority in respect of automated traffic control system
- IT contract management disputes
- IT license claim
- Numerous other IT-related claims

Insurance/reinsurance (see also Professional Negligence and Personal Injury below)

- £40million international re-insurance fraud dispute (4 party)
- Division of liability amongst insurers dispute
- Various reinsurance disputes
- Railway disaster claims

Intellectual Property

- World-wide trademark dispute between two household name companies
- Film copyright dispute
- Passing off action between household name retailer and branded food manufacturer
- Design rights dispute between designer and household name transport manufacturer
- Numerous other passing-off, trademark, copyright, design rights and other IP claims

Local and National Government

- Dame Shirley Porter and Westminster City Council
- Numerous disputes regarding waste disposal contracts with local authorities

Medical negligence

- The largest single medical negligence claim in UK history
- Various obstetric claims
- Plastic surgery claim

Partnership

- Removal of law firm partner
- Break-up of law partnership
- Break-up of interior design partnership

Pensions

- Numerous disputes concerning inappropriate administration and use of pension funds, fraud, etc, against former trustees and professional advisers – (including 3-party, 5-party and 6-party disputes)

Personal Injury

- Allocation of liability between defendants for mass tort claims (c. 30,000 claims)
- Employers liability claims (eg. factory accidents)
- Diving accident claim

Product Liability

- Class action against a pharmaceutical company
- Claim concerning alleged contamination of food products

Professional Negligence

- Numerous claims (both two- and multi-party) against solicitors, barristers, accountants, Insolvency practitioners, company directors, architects and others

Property

- A broad range of property-related disputes, including those involving development and planning issues, occupancy, dilapidations, etc

Regulatory

- Financial services regulatory disputes

Shipping

- Multi-million pound luxury yacht dispute
- Shipping re-insurance claims

Other dispute resolution experience

- Founder and Chairman of Inter-Governmental Mediation Forum for 20 Central and Eastern European Governments, and another one for 11 Russian-speaking countries
- Has advised UK Government (HM Treasury, Department of Health, and other government departments) and numerous leading insurance companies, banks, trade associations and law firms, on their use of ADR
- Represented UK government at the United Nations (UNCITRAL) negotiations regarding the terms of an international model law of International Commercial Conciliation.
- Mediation Advisor to Government of Russia
- Mediation Advisor to Government of Ukraine
- Mediation Advisor to Government of Slovakia
- Mediation Advisor to Government of Romania
- Mediation Advisor to Government of Bulgaria
- Mediation Adviser to Government of Turkey
- Advised the Financial Services Authority on, and designed and implemented, the FSA's new mediation scheme for enforcement cases (the first use of mediation by a UK regulator)
- One of the first mediators in the NHS pilot clinical mediation scheme
- Mediator under court-annexed schemes for Commercial Court, Court of Appeal and Central London County Court
- Mediated internationally at request of Archbishop of Canterbury
- In 2016 awarded The Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation by the Archbishop of Canterbury for services to reconciliation.

Professional memberships

- Distinguished Fellow of International Academy of Mediators

- PIM Senior Mediator
- Panel Mediator for Singapore International Mediation Centre
- CEDR Accredited mediator
- Mediator for CMAP (Centre de Mediation et d'Arbitrage de Paris), and speaks French
- ICC Mediator and Member of ICC's ADR Commission
- Court of Appeal Panel Mediator
- International Panel Mediator CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution
- International Mediation Institute Certified Mediator
- Member of IMI's Independent Standards Commission
- Law Society (England and Wales)
- Advisory Board Member, to the former UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues
- CMC Registered Mediator

Professional background

1985-1990: Before becoming a mediator, Bill practised as a solicitor in the UK (Osborne Clarke) and Paris (Linklaters), handling international and domestic corporate and commercial matters (acquisitions and disposals, flotations, partnerships, commercial agreements, joint ventures, agency and distribution arrangements, insolvency, etc.).

1991-2002: Executive Director of CEDR, London. Developing commercial mediation in the UK, developing CEDR as a leading service provider, mediating commercial disputes, training mediators, and promoting the growth of mediation in the UK and beyond.

2002-Present: Independent international mediator, and adviser on conflict resolution to governments, businesses and transnational institutions around the world – see www.billmarsh.co.uk

2008-Present: Founder Member of Independent Mediators, probably the leading private commercial mediation chambers in Europe – see www.independentmediators.co.uk

Education

1981-84: University of Durham, Honours degree in Law

1984-85: Solicitors (Lawyers) Professional Examinations

Training/talks/books/articles

As a leading mediation trainer, Bill has trained literally thousands of lawyers, judges, business people and other professionals as mediators and in the skills of using mediation effectively for their own disputes. He has trained throughout Western and Eastern Europe, Russia, US, Africa, and Asia. He also conducts extensive training in-house for law firms, insurance companies and others. He co-authored *The ADR Practice Guide – Commercial Dispute Resolution* (Butterworths, 1995 and 2000), and contributed two chapters to *Mediators on Mediation* (Sweet & Maxwell, 2005), as well as numerous articles, and lectures widely on the subject around the world.

Editor Kluwer Mediation Blog, and regular contributor.

Direct feedback from clients (small selection)

See www.billmarsh.co.uk/mediation/testimonials for detailed feedback

- “Bill was excellent. His approach was a breath of fresh air – very commercial. His energy, creativity and diplomacy were well received and I would have no hesitation in instructing him again.”

Client, Anglo-Chinese dispute

- “It was the first multi-party mediation I had been involved in and it was a very complex one...In my mind the way you set the tone and conducted yourself in your interactions with the parties was a major factor in reaching a settlement on the day (night!) and for that we are very grateful”.

Client, multi-party pensions dispute

- “Frankly, I being the lawyer for one of the parties had very limited hope [of success] for the entire mediation process. However, the moment Bill Marsh made his entry in the matter as a mediator the entire landscape of the matter changed...He had patience, tact, fairness, strength and efficiency...”
- I would *highly recommend* Bill Marsh to my future clients for the settlement of commercial disputes and working with Bill Marsh has changed my whole perception about the process of mediation and I would in future try my best to persuade my clients to choose mediation before initiating the legal proceeding for any commercial disputes.”

Mumbai Lawyers – French/Indian JV dispute

- “Our clients [a major corporation] were very impressed and believe me [they] are very hard to please! They commented on a number of occasions just how good they thought you were.”

Lawyer, multi-million pound international defence contract dispute

- “My sincere thanks to Bill Marsh for the excellent role that he performed last week in helping the parties to reach a settlement. I really thought that Bill was first class, measured in his approach and immediately gained the trust and confidence of my client. He will be top of my list for future mediations and I will giving this feedback to my colleagues at [international law firm]”

Lawyer, multi-million pound negligence claim

- “Your tenacity was much appreciated and was a major contributor to us resolving the matter.”

Lawyer, shareholders action

- “I am in no doubt that your input, ideas and energy helped to keep the parties talking throughout a difficult and challenging day (and evening, and night!). We will certainly look for an opportunity to work with you again as a mediator.”

Lawyer, world-wide trademark infringement dispute

- “[Our client] is very pleased to have settled the claim and most impressed with your help in achieving that.”

Lawyer, professional negligence/banking claim

- “I do not believe that the settlement would have been achieved without your skilful, persistent and patient intervention.”

Lawyer, 6 party pension fund dispute

- “Thank you for all your efforts in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion from both sides point of view. It was something of an unusual case which, without your skill and judgment, had the potential to go horribly wrong...my clients have specifically asked me to thank you.”

Lawyer, international banking claim

- “I left [the mediation] admiring both your skill and fortitude.”

Counsel, Share option dispute

- “Thank you for your skilful handling of the mediation and for your success in guiding the parties to an entente cordiale.”

Paris-based lawyer, international multi-million pound IT dispute

- “...write to say how impressed I was by your mediation skills...From being somewhat sceptical about the mediation process, I have become a convert and will be recommending you to my colleagues.”

Counsel, share option and employment dispute

- “Very pleased with Bill Marsh. He had a strong ability to keep things moving, and always kept calm in the face of strong-minded parties on either side. This did not appear to phase him and he kept things moving along at a good pace.”

Lawyer, multi-million pound credit-trading dispute

- “Most of the credit for the settlement must go to you for your skilful handling of the parties.
- Thank you for your patience and perseverance...I am certain that we would not have got there without your very significant contribution.”

Lawyers, US\$53 million international fraud claim

- “The negotiation phase was when he really got into his own... and was most effective.”
- “Bill was brilliant.”
- Lawyers, multi-party, multi-million pound acquisition warranty dispute
- “...Very good... patient...”
- “...extremely impressed...(and) now a bit of a mediation convert... having been (before the mediation) a bit sceptical about how effective it would be in a civil fraud case...”
- “...Thought Bill Marsh was excellent – he had a very hard job to do, dealt with everyone very fairly, took time to go through everything with them and was very thorough...”
- “...glowing reports of the mediator...”
- “...Thought Bill was excellent and did a good job.”
- Parties and lawyers, 9 party commercial fraud case
- “...expressing my appreciation for the way in which you conducted the mediation. It really was remarkable how such a bitter dispute was resolved in such a satisfactory way.”
- Lawyer, shareholder dispute
- “...Bill was excellent. I have seen him mediate before and was impressed again. He has an excellent touch, firm, calm, courteous and trustworthy. He has a great combination of elements and controls the day with ease. I will use him again.”
- In-house counsel, re-insurance dispute
- “Thank you for your extremely hard work yesterday in resolving the financial obstacle between the parties at the mediation.”

Lawyers, UK commercial fraud claim

- “...Thought that Bill was great... fantastically on top of the documentation...He understood the human issues on the claimant’s side and was very sensitive. Understood financial aspects, as well as legal aspects.”

Lawyer, largest medical negligence claim in UK history

- “It was a pleasure to work with you.”

Lawyer, European motor racing dispute

Feedback from independently-researched legal Directories

Bill is consistently ranked amongst Europe’s top mediators in the independently-researched *Lexology/Who’s Who Legal*, *Legal 500* and *Chambers Directory*. Examples below.

2025

- **Lexology - Mediator of the Year and Global Elite Thought Leader, and top ranked**

“Bill is a fantastic practitioner”

“He is a true leader, a talented mediator and an inspiration in the field”

“He is great all around”

2024

- **Lexology - Mediator of the Year and Global Elite Thought Leader, and top ranked**

“Bill Marsh excels at mediating high-value and international commercial disputes across a broad range of industries.”

“He’s one of the best-known mediators around. He has a good client manner and is excellent with lay clients.”

“Bill is really impressive. He’s very realistic in terms of setting expectations. He has a good manner and tests boundaries without being confrontational.”

“He is very connected to the mediation. He appreciates the tension and takes the time to understand frustration and what the clients are trying to achieve. He goes above and beyond and invests a lot of time in reading the material.”

- **Chambers Directory – top ranked**

“Bill has the ability to win the trust of all parties”

“He possesses immeasurable calm, authority and integrity paired with vast experience”

“Bill can praise a strong international reputation”

2023

- **Who's Who/Lexology – Mediator of the Year, and Top ranked**

- **Chambers Directory – top ranked**

“Bill Marsh excels at mediating high-value and international commercial disputes.”

“He’s simply brilliant! Bill got to grips with the issues quickly and was very effective at defusing a fraught dispute.”

“Bill is a very safe pair of hands for any mediation. He has gravitas and a wealth of experience behind him but is also very user-friendly.”

“He works hard in any mediation to persuade the parties to focus on achieving sensible and commercial settlements. He is calm and measured and manages to gain the trust and confidence of the parties.”

- **Legal 500 Directory – top ranked**

Bill Marsh is a leading European mediator. Bill’s ‘key skills are being able to distil down complex matters into the key issues facing the parties, and to explore alternative routes to bringing them closer together.’ Active in full-time mediation since 1991, Marsh’s practice covers a broad range of commercial disputes, including commercial contracts, product liability, insurance, reinsurance, professional negligence, shareholder issues, sports, medical negligence, pensions, IT and shipping; and his international practice covers parties from over 30 countries, including disputes in India, France, Canada, US, Switzerland, Spain and Italy, along with Turkey, the Gulf, the Balkans and the Caribbean.

2022

- **Who’s Who/Lexology – Mediator of the Year, and Global Elite Thought Leader**

Bill Marsh tops our rankings and is held in high esteem by clients and peers alike for his calmness, integrity and intelligence, which enables him to excel within the mediation market. He also features on the list of Global Elite Thought Leaders in mediation.

- **Chambers Directory - top ranked**

"Bill is an absolutely first-class mediator who adapts and adjusts to the dynamics of the people and the dispute." "He brought a strong measure of calm and authority to the negotiations and was able to gain the confidence of the opposing factions. He is superb at dealing with people and is willing to listen and sympathise but stays very commercial when it comes to the negotiations."

- **Legal 500 Directory - top ranked**

Bill Marsh “builds trust right from the start of the process, and is calm, professional, thorough, friendly and commercial – he is also extremely measured in his approach, while being direct with clients when required”.

2021

- **Who’s Who Legal - top ranked**

Bill Marsh has “a great reputation” among sources who note he is “simply one of the finest and always a pleasure to engage with.” He is a “go-to – his calibre and quality are simply fantastic.” Respondents “highly recommend his style and approach” and exalt his “very successful” mediation practice. He also features on the list of Global Elite Thought Leaders in mediation.

- **Legal 500 - top ranked**

Bill Marsh “builds trust right from the start of the process, and is calm, professional, thorough, friendly and commercial - he is also extremely measured in his approach, while being direct with clients when required”.

- **Chambers Directory - top ranked**

“He is simply one of the finest and always a pleasure to engage with”

“Bill has a great reputation”

“An excellent mediator”

2020

- **Who’s Who Legal – “Global Elite Thought Leader” and Top ranked**

The “excellent” Bill Marsh is a “go-to – his calibre and quality are simply fantastic”. Respondents “highly recommend his style and approach” and exalt his “very successful” mediation practice.

2019

- **Who's Who Legal: Mediator of the Year 2019-20, and top of the list of the ten most highly regarded mediators in the World for 2014**, having been listed in the World's top ten for the previous two years and listed at number two in 2015.

The 2019 Directory describes him as a "sensational" mediator who "gets very high-profile work and is extremely experienced and capable". Bill has been listed in this directory since the first edition in 2011.

- **Who's Who Legal: Global Elite Thought Leader - Mediation 2019**

WWL Thought Leaders is a new section launched in 2017. Bill features on the list of only a few individuals from around the World regarded as *Elite Thought Leaders in Mediation*. Who's Who Legal explain this new feature as 'bringing together for the first time the expertise and wisdom of some of the world's foremost practitioners. They state that these practitioners obtained 'the highest number of nominations from peers, corporate counsel and other market sources in their most recent research.'

- **Legal 500 Directory - Top ranked**

"Bill Marsh is 'one of the best mediators in the business – he has strong technical skills, a real understanding of the issues and works tirelessly with the parties to get a solution'. Marsh has been in full-time mediation since 1991 and he operates both in the UK and internationally. On the international side, recent instructions came from the Balkans, the Netherlands, Greece, France, Russia, India, Singapore, the US and the Gulf, and have involved areas such as banking, sport, environmental issues, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals and gold mining".

- **Chambers Directory - Top ranked**

Bill Marsh is an experienced and highly regarded mediator who *"knows how to bring parties together, and when to push and when not to push,"* according to clients. His exceptional international practice covers a diverse range of sectors in disputes occurring across Europe, North America and Asia.

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