

Charlotte Steinfeld

I am standing for election to the board of the Civil Mediation Council as I want to proactively assist our colleagues at the CMC with their mission of inspiring all sectors of society to use mediation when managing and resolving disputes.

I want to see the CMC thrive in inspiring real change in:

- 1) increasing understanding of both the benefits and process of mediation amongst our fellow countrymen and especially amongst those in the legal profession.
- 2) encouraging the use of mediation by all, whether through online/social media campaigns, government engagement, advertising or other means.

I am a CEDR accredited commercial mediator and mediation advocate practising from 10 King's Bench Walk Chambers in Temple, London.

I have been passionate about mediation since 2008, when I was first instructed as a mediation advocate for a commercial party. Immediately I, and my client, saw the great benefit of having a third-party neutral facilitate a negotiation between the parties. Since this time my work in mediation at various levels has led me to the view that this process ought not be seen as "alternative" to litigation but ought to be voluntarily utilised as a key part of the process.

Seeing what positive results could be achieved through mediation, yet simultaneously noticing how little it seemed to be understood (surely resulting in its lack of use), I set it a goal to be involved at the coalface in order to change the mediation landscape in the UK. This is what I will continue to do if you elect me.

- Since 2016, I have attended and engaged with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on ADR on the benefits of mediation across sectors and will continue to do so, with the view of helping our politicians and civil servants understand why promoting mediation is so vital to our economy.
- In 2017-2018, I assisted Sir Alan Ward, former Chair of the CMC, at board level as he worked on Lord Justice Briggs' County Court Mediation Pilot Scheme and then on the updating of the then Ministry of Justice Civil Mediation Online Directory.
- In 2018 I established a mediation specific Twitter account, which now has almost 500 followers, to increase understanding of mediation in the UK.
- In 2019, I went to the Harvard Law School to learn more about negotiation from Professor Bruce Patton, co-author of the seminal negotiation text: *Getting to Yes: Negotiating An Agreement Without Giving In (Penguin 1991, 2011)* on the Program on Negotiation. One of my goals whilst there was to also understand how our American friends have successfully promoted mediation in the USA. I came away with positive information to assist in the promotion of mediation here in the UK.

With your backing I can leverage these experiences further to aid the CMC in their mission to change the mediation landscape for everyone.

Please give me your vote for this progress.