



SEMINAR 3

Introduction to Civil and Commercial Mediation

Program Leader Corbett Haselgrove-Spurin

An NMA program on behalf of NADR UK Ltd.





Litigation and ADR contrasted

- * ADR Personnel, Peer Review
- Time and cost savings
- Privacy
- Adversarial versus co-operation builds relationship bridges
- Flexibility win/win wider options
- Informality
- Party autonomy



Disadvantages of mediation

- No guarantee of settlement.
- Only works if parties cooperate.
- Many lawyers are mediation adverse and will advise against it in favour of litigation.
- May add an additional layer of expense to settlement, both in time and money.



Misconceptions about mediation

- Mediation is NOT a simple process that you can wing your way through.
- Party Representatives must adapt to a new way of working.
- Mediation requires preparation examining strength of case and settlement options.
- If you don't prepare you are likely to be dissatisfied and it is highly likely the process will be blamed – wrongly for a bad result or a failure to reach a settlement.



Alternatives to litigation contrasted

See position paper on "Conflict management and dispute resolution".

- Dispute prevention avoidance
- Conflict Management containment
- Dispute Settlement by Agreement
- Dispute Resolution by Decision

 See ADR Matrix



Advantages of mediation for lawyers

Attractive service for clients

Vehicle for non-viable litigation cases –
 e.g. cost & time

More satisfied repeat clients



Advantages for lawyers cont'

Valuable preparation for trial

Test runs issues and credibility

Cuts issues down to bare essentials

Preparation work fulfils dual role.



Advantages for lawyers cont'

- Clients are often unreceptive to legal advice on benefits of settlement.
- Clients expect the lawyer to be fully supportive and to believe in their case.
- Suggestions of compromise convey a message of non-commitment to the client's interests.
- The message may be better received from an independent third party mediator.
- Clients hear what they want and may ignore their lawyer's warnings.