



**Dispute Resolution  
Conference**

On  
**Thursday 4 June 2026**

At  
**Registration:  
1.00pm**

**Conference:  
1.20pm-5.30pm**

**Networking Drinks:  
5.30pm-7.00pm**

Venue  
**VWV, Narrow Quay  
House, Narrow Quay,  
Bristol, BS1 4QA**

Pricing  
**Members Rate:  
£40 plus VAT per person**  
**Non-Members Rate:  
£80 plus VAT per person**  
Including refreshments &  
networking

**Target Audience:**  
All fee earners practising  
Dispute Resolution

**This is an in-person  
conference, hybrid  
facilities or recording will  
not be available**

**Programme**

**Registration & Networking 1.00pm**

**Welcome from the Chair including introduction  
to Sponsors/Exhibitors 1.20pm**

**CHAIR:**

**Ben Holt, Partner, Commercial Litigation Team, VWV**



*Ben is a past President of Bristol Law Society (2019-21). He is a Partner in VWV's Commercial Litigation team and leads the firm's Reputation Management team. Ben specialises in advising businesses, charities, and institutions on complex disputes. He has particular expertise in relation to claims arising from mergers and acquisitions, supply of goods and services (including procurement) and reputation management. Ben is a drummer in two covers bands and hosts the Bristol Law Society quiz nights.*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Looking to the Future in the Business and  
Property Courts 1.30pm**

This session covers the changes to the Divisions in the High Court, with the introduction of the new Business and Property Division, and the impact on BPC work in the regions; the increasing use, and dangers, of AI in BPC litigation; and dealing with querulous litigants in person, and their use of AI.

*Mr Justice Michael Green, Supervising Judge of the Business and Property Courts for the Midlands, Wales & Western Circuits*

*Mr Justice Michael Green was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1987. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2009. He was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge in 2018. In 2019, he sat as a High Court Judge in the Commercial Court of the British Virgin Islands. He was appointed as a High Court Judge, assigned to the Chancery Division, in 2020.*



*In 2024 he became Supervising Judge of the Midlands, Wales & the West. He is authorised to hear cases in the Financial List, the Competition Appeals Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (Tax & Chancery Chamber) and was recently appointed to the Commercial Court.*

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### **The Costs Update**

**2.00pm**

Nicholas will provide his annual update on costs. This update will include the pilot scheme for simplified costs budgeting, the fallout from Mazur and the latest with solicitor and client cost disputes.

*Nicholas Lee, Managing Director, Paragon Costs Solutions*



*Nicholas began his career in costs initially working in-house from 2001 becoming Director of Costs and a fixed share partner for a Top 100 law firm. In 2011, he created Paragon Costs Solutions. Advocacy, technical support, business development and client management are his primary responsibilities. Known for always being commercial and practical, colleagues and clients appreciate how thoroughly he assesses the merits in any claims, before giving his experienced and realistic advice.*

### **Security for Costs: Practical Tips for Litigators**

**2.30pm**

This session will cover Part 25 of the Civil Procedure Rules (Security for Costs). The session will provide practical advice to both Claimant and Defendant Litigators as to when such an application should be made, the criteria for the same and how litigation insurance products can be used to deal with such applications. The session will also extend to a review of the recent case law on the subject.

*Jamie Molloy, Head of ATE and Co-Founder, Ignite Specialty Risk*

*Jamie is a Tier 1 Chambers and Partners ranked individual. His experience includes underwriting and managing a significant volume of High Court and Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) disputes, as well as supporting a number of successful appeals to both the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Jamie sat as a member of the consultation group on the Civil Justice Council review of litigation funding in 2025*



### **BREAK**

**3.00pm**

### **Online Civil Procedure Rules Committee: Recent Changes and What's Ahead (Online)**

**3.15pm**

Brett draws on six years as a member of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee, where he championed support for vulnerable court users. In this session he will outline recent changes and what's ahead for digital, civil, family and tribunal justice in England and Wales, including the use of alternative dispute resolution processes.

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*Brett Dixon, Vice President, The Law Society of England and Wales*



*Brett is Vice President of the Law Society of England and Wales and Council Member for Personal Injury (Claimant). He is a past chair of the Society's Civil Justice Committee and a past president of APIL and current secretary of the organisation, and senior fellow. Brett was admitted as a solicitor in 1999, holds higher rights of audience in civil matters, and is an accredited mediator. He is a consultant solicitor at Scott Moncrieff & Co specialising in strategic litigation and runs a business delivering training and consultancy to law firms. Brett served six years as a member of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee and he is now the sole expert legal member of the Online Procedure Rule Committee, guiding the digital transformation of the civil, family and tribunal systems in England and Wales.*

### **High Court & Property Enforcement: What Really Happens**

**3.45pm**

We will cover High Court Enforcement Officers' powers, core processes, fees and common misconceptions in both debt and property matters. We'll share practical guidance, useful tips, real case studies and key legislative changes, enabling litigation and property teams to strengthen their approach and improve the effectiveness of enforcement.

*Michael Whitaker, Director, Wilson & Roe High Court Enforcement*

*Michael is responsible for all aspects of client management and development, where he has been since 2023. Michael's background and the main bulk of his career was spent in law firms on the legal recoveries side, having taken the CILEx route and previously managed Debt Recovery teams at 4 firms in Nottingham, his home city, over a 25 year period. This fee earning background gives him a good law firm client perspective and alignment with Wilson & Roe's focus on the legal services market.*



### **Mediator Selection: Diversity and Other Considerations**

**4.15pm**

Choosing the right mediator shapes trust, process, and outcomes. We will explore how diversity, lived experience, cultural fluency and subject expertise influence mediation outcomes. Participants will examine practical considerations on, client expectations, and inclusive decision-making strategies to ensure the chosen mediator is well suited to the dispute and participants.

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*Afsana Gibson-Chowdhury, Mediator/Solicitor, GC Mediation & Training Ltd*

*Afsana is the founder of GC Mediation & Training Ltd, an international dispute resolution practice serving clients based in England. A qualified solicitor, non-practising barrister, and accredited mediator, she specialises in human rights, workplace, civil, and commercial disputes. With extensive experience in litigation, dialogue facilitation, and multiparty conflict resolution, Afsana is widely recognised for her culturally informed and collaborative approach. She also designs and delivers workshops on mediation skills, equity, diversity, inclusion, and cultural competence. As a Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators, her work empowers clients to navigate complex disputes with confidence and culturally informed solutions.*



**The Misdescribed Machine 4.45pm**

Following hot on the heels of the main judgment in *Car-Wizard v Vixen [2026] EWHC (Ch)*, a case tried in the High Court in Bristol, Jay will consider key points of law and practice arising from the case, covering topics including the interaction and important differences between different contractually-based causes of action (including collateral contracts in a three-party situation), exclusion/limitation clauses, mitigation of damages, expert tampering and adverse inferences in the context of a failure to call relevant witnesses and destruction of disclosable documents. The talk will focus on important points of practice along with issues of substantive law.

*Jay Jagasia, Barrister, Guildhall Chambers*



*Jay is a commercial and chancery barrister ranked in eight practice areas across the two leading directories. He acts as sole and junior counsel in various commercial and banking and financial services disputes and has been involved in recent years in a number of significant and leading cases on novel points of law, including four appeals to the*

*Court of Appeal and two appeals to the Supreme Court. He has experience across the full spectrum of commercial disputes.*

**Chair Close followed by Networking drinks 5.15pm**

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