



**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. He 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. He is a drummer in two covers bands and hosts the Bristol Law Society quiz nights.

**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 & 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.



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



Nick 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.

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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 & 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 & Wales, including the use of alternative dispute resolution processes.

Brett Dixon, Vice President, The Law Society of England & 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 & 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.

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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 Michael a good law firm client perspective and alignment with Wilson & Roe's focus on the legal services market.



Nathan Jowett, Senior Enforcement & Compliance Manager and Trainee High Court Enforcement Officer, Wilson & Roe High Court Enforcement



Nathan joined Wilson & Roe in 2016 as an Enforcement Administrator, later moved into client relationship management, and became Senior Client Relationship Manager in 2020. He oversees both enforcement and compliance, balancing policies, audits, processes, and writ enforcement. Nathan is a Trainee High Court Enforcement

Officer working toward Level 4 HCEO qualifications, after completing CILEx Level 3 in 2020. He believes effective enforcement relies on clear communication, practical judgment, and getting processes right.

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.

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

Afsana is the founder of GC Mediation and 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.



Case Law Update: Local Chambers

4.45pm

Conference Close: Remarks by Chair

5.15pm

Networking drinks

5.30pm

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