

# JAMES TORR

**Accredited Mediator and Chartered Civil Engineer**  
**Member of the Civil Mediation Council**



James spent over forty years in the construction industry working mainly as a Consulting Engineer with responsibility for the management of the design and construction of major projects both in this country and abroad. He was a Managing Partner of RT James and Partners, Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers, London. He acted as an Expert Witness in many construction disputes, giving evidence in the High Court, County Courts and the Technology and Construction Court. He frequently acted as a Construction Adjudicator, Expert Determiner and Party Wall Surveyor.

James trained as a mediator in 2001 with The Academy of Experts, of which he is a past Honorary Secretary. In 2002 he completed the MATA/TeCSA Advanced Multi-Party Mediator Training Course.

He is a Founder Member of the OxCHEPS Higher Education Mediation Service, Oxford and Cambridge Universities and Co-Founder of Middlesex & Thames Valley Mediators.

He was appointed by Her Majesty's Courts Service as the Representative Mediator for the Uxbridge County Court (2005) and Area Mediator for the Thames Valley Region (2006).

He is a member of the Mediation Providers Forum: the organisation responsible for liaising with the Ministry of Justice and the Civil Mediation Council on matters relating to the development and promotion of mediation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

James is a Panel Mediator of the Technology and Construction Solicitors Association, Clerksroom, The Academy of Experts, OxCHEPS and MTVM Mediators.

His experience as a mediator includes cases involving:

- Construction
- Hire Purchase
- Employment
- Commercial Leasing
- Boundary Disputes
- Training Race Horses
- Ownership of Religious Premises
- Insurance
- Landlord and Tenant Disputes
- Sexual Harassment
- Professional Negligence
- Neighbour Disputes
- Sale of Goods
- Inheritance
- Personal Injury

James has also represented clients at mediations in disputes involving:

- Contaminated Land
- Construction Disputes
- Professional Negligence
- Personal Injury

A particularly memorable case, where James' client was one of four parties defending a claim for £36M, was settled for £11M at the mediation.

Comments about James' performance as a mediator include-

*"... We would like to thank you for the preparation work you carried out before the meeting... you were clearly aware of the history of the dispute which was undoubtedly the key to negotiating the settlement ..."*

*"... It is a pity that the public are not aware that this service is available before spending so much money on litigation ..."*

*"... the mediation was conducted well and we are pleased at the outcome ..."*

*"... Mr Torr was excellent, he had prepared for the meeting well, he was totally familiar with the case... "*

*"... You have the ability to make all sides feel at ease and have faith in you and confidence in your ability to "fight their corner" but still remain an impartial mediator...."*

James' experience as an Expert Witness includes cases concerning:

- Collapse of Buildings
- Professional Negligence
- Personal Injuries
- Contaminated Land
- Failure of Airport Runways
- Piling Failures
- Foundation Failures
- Failure of Roofs
- Sub-standard Construction
- Contract Disputes

Professional qualifications attained during his career include:

Fellowship of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Association of Consulting Engineers and the Royal Society of Arts. The Freedom of the City of London.

Membership of the Panel of Adjudicators of the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Construction Industry Council and Membership of the Society of American Military Engineers, the Academy of Experts, Adjudication Society, the Association of Planning Supervisors and the Faculty of Mediation & ADR and the Society of Construction Law.

James was for many years a member of the Users Committee of the Technology and Construction Court.

He has been a Tutor on Expert Witness procedures, Expert Determination and Commercial Mediation for the Academy of Experts, Gray's Inn and in 2003 he was a member of a team presenting an Expert Determination and Mediation tutoring scheme to Members of the Hong Kong Legislature.

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