



Northern  
Ireland

# Northern Ireland - From Dispute to Resolution.

As Northern Ireland's economy has developed in recent years, thanks to record inward investment and an expanding private sector, so has its commercial dispute resolution sector.

Larger companies that have used Northern Ireland's courts to resolve their disputes cite lower cost, speed of resolution and the greater and more personal interaction with their NI counsel amongst its major attractive features. SMEs find that commercial disputes worth less than £200,000 can still be cost effectively pursued in the High Court in Belfast.

However, mediation is also growing in popularity and nearly 60% of Northern Ireland's largest businesses say that commercial mediation is their preferred form of dispute resolution.

With a reputation for a broad based commercial perspective, fearless advocacy and a pragmatic approach, Northern Ireland's lawyers can also offer cost-effective expertise on the law in England and Wales and Ireland, as well as NI jurisdictional issues.

Now could be the time to consult a Northern Ireland lawyer on your dispute.

## Did you know?

- Northern Ireland is a separate jurisdiction in the United Kingdom but shares a Supreme Court with England and Wales and Scotland. Around 80-90% of our commercial law is also shared with England and Wales (planning, property, employment and litigation are the main areas of difference).
- Northern Ireland's Courts can hear English cases and with low cost access to litigation, the NI High Court remains a viable option for SMEs.
- Northern Ireland's Courts operate a commercial list system which is highly flexible. Commercial cases are managed to a bespoke timetable – as fast or as slow as the parties want. On average in 2014, commercial cases were resolved in 31 weeks.
- There are nearly 100 trained commercial mediators in Northern Ireland, some of whom have mediated cases from the English High Court.
- Arbitration in Northern Ireland is governed by the UK Arbitration Act 1996 and NI courts will enforce arbitral awards. Northern Ireland has a small but growing band of qualified CI Arb arbitrators.

# Invest Northern Ireland is joined at the IBA Annual Conference 2016 in Washington DC by the following delegation of Northern Ireland lawyers with proven expertise in commercial dispute resolution:

## **A&L GOODBODY**

A&L Goodbody is a leading corporate law firm with dispute resolution teams in Belfast and Dublin who are able to provide a seamless and fully integrated all-island service for local, national and international clients. Able to resolve disputes whether by litigation, arbitration, mediation, or expert determination, the firm is particularly experienced in managing large and complex cases in a strategic and commercial manner.

[algoodbody.com](http://algoodbody.com)

## **CLEAVER FULTON RANKIN**

Cleaver Fulton Rankin is a leading commercial law firm, with a large and experienced team of specialists in dispute resolution advising local, national, and international clients from all sectors on a wide spectrum of matters. They have extensive experience of working on all sizes of cases and the experience and resources to manage, large scale, complex and high profile litigation involving, on occasion, class actions.

[cflaw.co.uk](http://cflaw.co.uk)

## **CARSON MCDOWELL**

Carson McDowell is Northern Ireland's largest independent law firm, with experts working across more specialist areas than any other local firm. The firm advises leading national and international clients across a full range of disputes and litigation. They have also been at the forefront of the movement towards alternative forms of dispute resolution in Northern Ireland and regularly represent clients in mediation, arbitration and adjudication settings.

[carson-mcdowell.com](http://carson-mcdowell.com)

## **DAVID SHARPE, BARRISTER**

Dr David Sharpe is a barrister and arbitrator practicing civil and commercial law within the UK and internationally. David studied medicine before re-qualifying as a lawyer and has expertise in healthcare, technology, pharmaceutical and IP law.

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## **EDWARDS & CO.**

Edwards & Co is a medium-sized innovative firm of solicitors in Belfast providing the full range of legal services. The firm's mediation service, The Better Way, provides bespoke training, facilitation and mediation for corporate governance, risk management and commercial litigation.

[edwardsandcompany.co.uk](http://edwardsandcompany.co.uk)

## **HOOL LAW**

Hool Law is a firm specializing in defence of personal injury, property and fraudulent claims against insurance companies and is one of two firms in Northern Ireland to represent Zurich. The firm also acts in the growing area of sports sector dispute resolution.

[hool-law.com](http://hool-law.com)

## **JOHNSONS / JAMS INTERNATIONAL**

Paul Tweed is internationally recognized as a leading practitioner in libel, privacy, data protection and intellectual property matters and has achieved landmark judgments in UK and Ireland. He heads up the media and dispute resolution practices of Johnsons law in Belfast and JAMS Ireland, an international mediation service

[paultweed.com](http://paultweed.com)

## **JOHN MCKEE SOLICITORS**

John McKee is a leading commercial law firm with a multi-jurisdictional team and specialist capability in commercial dispute resolution for international clients. The team are creative problem solvers - outside the box thinkers. They will avoid court intervention where possible by seeking constructive and early resolution to disputes but do not shy away from a robust approach when the client and the dispute so requires.

[jmckee.co.uk](http://jmckee.co.uk)

## **MICHAEL BREADY, BARRISTER**

Michael Bready is a barrister and mediator specializing in civil, commercial and matrimonial law. Michael has extensive experience of mediation disputes and regularly provides advice on high value matrimonial disputes, commercial and general civil disputes within the UK and Ireland.

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## **TUGHANS**

Tughans is a leading commercial law firm, ranked a 'regional heavyweight' by Legal 500. Their dispute resolution team draws on the firm's expertise across all sectors to ensure clients receive industry-specific advice from a purpose-built dispute resolution team. The firm's close client partnership approach means that it is often able to anticipate areas of potential disagreement and suggest ways to prevent them becoming a costly distraction.

[tughans.com](http://tughans.com)

For more information visit: [InvestNI.com/IBA](http://InvestNI.com/IBA)

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