

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

DEREK MINUS

Barrister-at-law

Chartered Arbitrator

Nationally Accredited Mediator

Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner

I am a barrister-at-law with a specialist practice as a dispute resolver at Mediation & Arbitration Chambers. I hold accreditation as variously: a Nationally Accredited Mediator, Chartered Arbitrator, Expert Determiner and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP).

My professional profile is available here:

[Mediation & Arbitration Chambers](#)

Barrister-at-law

Called to the NSW Bar in 1992, I have had a continuous practice mostly in commercial law and especially representing SMEs.

Government Adviser

For a 2 year period from 1 December 2016, I was appointed as the Commonwealth Government's Mediation Adviser with responsibility for arranging the dispute resolution processes for the Franchising Code of Conduct, the Horticulture Code of Conduct and the Oil Code, which are prescribed codes under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*.

Commercial Mediator

I was an early adopter of mediation in 1992 and since that time I have conducted over 4,000 mediations and conciliations for all types of disputes. I practise a style of "transformative" mediation employing emotionally enhanced techniques to keep



people engaged and in contact and not separated on their own, in different rooms. I have taught this method to Australian lawyers as the "*Minus on Mediation*" programme for Legalwise Australia.

International Arbitrator

I have been qualified by The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) as a Chartered Arbitrator (their highest qualification). I am a panel member of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA).

Domestic Arbitrator

As an arbitrator I am engaged mostly in domestic commercial arbitral work for the New South Wales State government District and Local Courts. For the period 2020-21, I have been appointed as an arbitrator for each of the 141 Local Courts throughout NSW. I regularly conduct arbitrations by video-conference, which facilitates the just, quick and cheap resolution of disputes.

I am one of only 10 arbitrators appointed by the NSW Government to conduct land access arbitrations for the New South Wales State government as a member of the *Mining Act 1992* Panel, see: [Arbitrator](#)

Farm Debt Mediator

I have been a member of the NSW Government panel of farm debt mediators and the mediator with the Deputy Prime Minister's Farm Debt mediation roundtable.

Family Dispute resolver

Since 2007 I have been accredited as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP) by the federal Attorney-General's department and able to issue s60I certificates and was a member of the Relationships Australia mediation panel from 1993-1999.

Family Law Arbitrator

I am qualified to conduct Family Law Arbitrations and a member of AIFLAM. The enactment of the *Family Law Amendment (Arbitration and Other Measures) Rules 2015* introduced a new Chapter 26B in the Family Law rules. These Rules, which took effect from 1 April 2016 provide arbitrators appointed by the parties with the power to order disclosure and subpoenas that assist with the conduct of the arbitration of property only disputes,

Tribunal Member

I have spent over 12 years as an arbitration and mediation member of various New South Wales government Tribunals, including the NCAT (formerly CTTT) and the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC) doing consumer claims and workers compensation matters. I am also a specialist in the practice of combined mediation/conciliation–arbitration processes and I am graded as an expert determiner.

ADR Publisher and Promoter

I am a promoter of ADR resources and a publisher of the largest searchable listing of accredited dispute resolvers in Australia: www.adr.org.au

University lecturer

I am an occasional lecturer for the *Commercial Dispute Resolution* course at the University of Sydney Law School, a one semester program for undergraduate and *juris doctor* students. It is the only ADR undergraduate program offered at the University covering: negotiation, mediation, arbitration, family dispute resolution, and trade practices Codes of Conduct and is orientated to developing practical skills.

Mediation & Arbitration Centre

I am a specialist in the practice of combined mediation-conciliation-arbitration and have established a Centre to promote and administer these processes. The combination of these different ADR procedures allows for both flexibility and finality in the handling of small business and family disputes.

Dispute Resolution Associates

Twenty years ago, I established a business to provide dispute resolution services and dispute resolvers and mediators throughout Australia especially for commercial and organisational disputes.

The company was contracted by the Commonwealth government to provide the Offices for the Mediation Adviser in the franchising, horticulture and oil industries for disputes initiated under Codes of Conduct implemented under the *Competition and Consumer Act*.

Similar services and related websites have now been privately established for the franchising, horticulture, oil, food and grocery, dairy and wine industries to facilitate the management of disputes between industry participants by the processes of mediation and arbitration.