

Dispute Resolution for Businesses



Forrester Sylvester Mackett

SOLICITORS

What matters to you matters to us



Dispute Resolution for Businesses

Becoming involved in any dispute can be unpleasant and time-consuming. Our team of specialists has extensive experience in resolving a wide variety of disputes and claims, negotiating settlements and, where necessary, handling court proceedings.

We provide practical, focused and expert legal advice to meet your needs and objectives, and do all we can to resolve your dispute swiftly and cost-effectively.

Forrester Sylvester Mackett provides specialist advice to help you to decide:

- whether or not to pursue your claim
- what the possible outcomes are
- what the risks are
- what strategies to adopt

Business disputes

Even with the best planning and procedures in place, most businesses will face a dispute at one time or another.

Disputes can involve a customer, a supplier or a competitor.

If they are not resolved quickly and effectively, they can be highly detrimental to a business and end up costing you time and money. Whatever the nature of your dispute, we have the expertise to help you resolve matters promptly, leaving you to concentrate on running your business and reducing the stress that these matters can cause.

Partnership disputes

Most partnership disputes arise when there is no partnership deed in place, setting out the terms of the partnership and what is to happen in a given set of circumstances. In our experience, this commonly happens when family or friends go into business together. Most do not consider the possibility that problems may arise in the future, or are confident that disputes will be sorted out amicably.

Our focus is on giving you practical advice, and working to resolve issues and negotiate solutions quickly and constructively, so that there is minimal impact on your business operations.

Debt collection and enforcement

Everyone expects their customers to pay their bills. However, the reality is that people do fail to pay. The time taken trying to get payment can be considerable and can be damaging to the successful running of your business.

Keeping debtor levels to a minimum and taking action to recover bad debt before losing out - perhaps to another creditor - is more important than ever to businesses. We will discuss the different types of enforcement action that you can take, depending on your own particular circumstances and advise you on when it is appropriate to serve a statutory demand prior to bankruptcy or winding up proceedings.

We can also help if you are served with a statutory demand by a creditor and advise you on what options you have.

Commercial landlord and tenants disputes

If your tenant is in arrears with their rent, we can help you get proceedings underway for recovering the money. We can also initiate possession proceedings on your behalf if you decide that you want to terminate the tenant's lease.

Some disputes involve damage to commercial premises. We have a considerable amount of experience in dealing with claims concerning dilapidations and can give you expert advice, whether you are a landlord or the tenant.

Commercial injunctions

Sometimes it is necessary to take urgent action in order to protect your business interests.

This might be because a former employee is unlawfully targeting your customers, or a competitor is trying to take advantage of your reputation.

We can help protect your business by seeking an appropriate injunction as quickly as possible. We will explain things clearly to you, tell you what the implications are and advise on any appropriate next steps that you can take.

Contractual disputes

Contract law is seldom black and white, even when a written and signed contract is in place. Contract terms are often open to interpretation, and depending on the circumstances a term may not be enforceable.

As every case is different. We always give advice that is specific to your situation. We will explain your options and suggest ways of resolving matters without having to go to court.

Our Dispute Resolution Team



Jeff Williams - Partner

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Jeff's entire career has been devoted to helping individuals and businesses with a dispute or claim that has arisen. He joined the firm as a Consultant in 2010 and 2 years later became a Partner in the Litigation Department. Dealing with all types of disputes as well as Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Claims, Jeff is a member of the Law Society Civil Justice Section and a member of the Association of the Personal Injury Lawyers.



Matthew Paterson - Partner

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Matthew joined the firm as a graduate trainee solicitor in 1993 and qualified in 1995. He undertakes a wide range of work, mostly involving civil and family dispute resolution, with his broad experience helping him devise creative and cost-efficient settlement solutions. He is also the firm's finance partner and thoroughly enjoys helping to run the business. Matthew has completed several professional development courses in dispute resolution and family law.

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