Susan Gatford Owen Dixon Chambers

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MEDIATION PROFILE

When you engage me as mediator, I bring a wealth of experience and key strengths in:

- active listening and understanding
- attention to detail
- patience and tenacity
- value for money
- appreciation of the strategic and other dynamics involved in assisting parties to reaching a negotiated outcome

My background knowledge and experience

I have worked as a commercial litigator for over 20 years. I was a solicitor for 10 years and was partner in a law firm for three years of those years. I became a barrister at the Victorian Bar in 2002.

For over 30 years I have been assisting businesses and individuals to resolve their commercial disputes. I understand the importance of personal relationships and of open and effective communication in business. I also have a deep understanding of the legal issues and the alternatives to a mediated outcome, including the approach that Courts, Tribunals, and other decision makers are likely to take if a dispute is unable to be resolved.

I have been an Australian National Mediation Accreditation System accredited mediator since 2011. I have mediated disputes large and small over many years and have also represented numerous parties at mediations both in Australia and overseas. I appreciate both the commercial realities and clients' needs, and the need to explore the underlying basis for and assist parties to balance often competing needs and objectives.

Tertiary qualifications

Bachelor of Science (Honours) majoring in Genetics and Botany (University of Melbourne); Bachelor of Laws (Monash University); Master of Laws (University of Melbourne); Trade Mark Attorney

Areas of expertise

- General commercial law, including franchising, partnership, property, and contract disputes
- Trade practices, competition and consumer law
- Corporations, securities, banking and finance
- Trade marks, designs and patent law
- Copyright, moral rights, confidential information, information technology and privacy
- Cross-jurisdictional issues, including as a result of the use of domain names, sponsored and organic online searches, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and other online activities