

# Stephen Twist

Barrister Arbitrator & Mediator

York Chambers, Toft Green, York, YO1 6JT United Kingdom  
and Rotterdam House, Quayside, Newcastle, NE1 3DY United Kingdom

**Professional area:** Barrister: litigation, arbitration and mediation  
**Practice area:** Administrative law, Professional Regulation, Employment, Family  
**Services:** Legal advice, services as independent arbitrator and mediator, representation in the English courts.  
**Hobbies/Sports:** early music, dance and environmental conservation  
**Education:** LL.B (Hons) Liverpool, Barrister, Inns of Court School of Law, FCIArb, Registered Mediator CEDR, CIArb, MedUK.  
**Publications:** General Council of the Bar and Home Office presentation paper 'ADR Management and Resolution of Complaints in relation to Police Misconduct' 1999, and 'A Guide to Panels under the Police (Conduct) Regulations', 2004.  
**Broadcasts:** BBC and Channel 4 on deafness issues and the law.  
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Profile of Stephen Twist



Stephen Twist has been in practice as a barrister since 1979, in London, York and Newcastle Upon Tyne. He has undertaken high profile fraud cases at the Central Criminal Court, and has assisted the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee (1982), the Institute of Internal Auditors, and the National Computing Centre on computer fraud and security. He now divides his time between litigation in several specialist fields, particularly on the interface between public authorities and claimants, statutory regulation, and working as Arbitrator and Mediator. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, an accredited Commercial Mediator with CEDR, a panel mediator with CIArb and Mediation UK, a member of the Association of Northern Mediators and the Dispute Resolution Group at York Chambers. For the General Council of the Bar he piloted the first two BarDIRECT schemes, giving direct access for the legal services of the Bar to corporate and institutional clients. He is a former member of the Public Access Committee.

Stephen Twist has practiced as a barrister from York Chambers, twin centre chambers in York and Newcastle since 1988. Stephen is listed in *Debrett's People of Today 2008*, *Empire Who's Who 2008* and distinction listing in [Legal500.com](http://Legal500.com).

## **Specialist areas of practice**

### **Adviser to Police**

Since leaving the Metropolitan Police Service, Stephen has kept close professional contact with police services and police officers throughout the county. He advises a number of constabularies on professional conduct issues, administrative law matters, licensing (liquor and firearms) and a range of other topics such as data protection and human rights. On police conduct, Stephen advises and represents both Complaints and Professional Standards Departments and individual police officers. He has had involvement in some of the most serious and difficult police misconduct cases in the North of England. He sits as an independent legal adviser to police misconduct panels and is the author of the definitive guide 'A Guide to Panels under the Police (Conduct) Regulations' published in March 2004 by the Police Foundation, with foreword by Sir Ian Blair, QPM [www.police-foundation.org.uk](http://www.police-foundation.org.uk). His other publications include the Home Office presentation paper 'ADR Management and Resolution of Complaints in relation to Police Misconduct' 1999. In 2004 he acted as a presenter to the strategic command course at the Scottish Police Collage, Tulliallan Castle, Fife.

### **Arbitration, mediation and ADR practice**

Stephen completed CEDR training as a mediator in 1999, advanced commercial mediation training in 2001, community and employment mediation training in July 2003 and is now listed as a panellist with CEDR London, Ch Inst Arb London, Mediation UK Bristol, Association of Northern Mediators Leeds, Court of Appeal London, and York Mediation Group York. This means he has triple qualification as a barrister, arbitrator and mediator in commercial, community and employment fields. He was a guest presenter on 'ADR Systems for the Public Sector' at the CEDR National Conference 2000 and is a former member of CEDR's public sector working party. He is non-executive director of UNITE Ltd, the premiere regional mediation service for the North of England. Although involved in the whole area of dispute management, in industry, commerce, the public and private sectors, Stephen is particularly interested in non-court based dispute resolution, and has been responsible for developing new applications for regional authorities and the Home Office. Stephen has worked with several public authorities in the development of ADR for their professional standards, complaints and grievance processes, involving internal and public disputes. He also undertakes work place and health service conciliation, early neutral evaluation and expert determination. On a day-to-day basis Stephen deals with a wide range of company, partnership, commercial, employment and property disputes, including ancillary relief disputes. He travels countrywide in relation to mediation issues and offers consultancy services in relation to dispute management, e mediation and conflict risk assessment through the Sutton Bank Consultancy [www.suttonbank.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.suttonbank.btinternet.co.uk).

### **Family law practice**

Stephen has practiced in family law throughout his career at the Bar, and this remains a dominant part of his practice. He has represented children charged with homicide (R v Howells and R v Walton), and those with significant disability (R v Alani: Pinderfields Hospital murders). He now undertakes family work in all areas: public and private law, for local authorities, parents, carers, grandparents, and guardians. Whilst regularly appearing in care cases throughout the North of England, Stephen frequently acts in private law residence and contact cases, including disputes involving foreign jurisdictions. Stephen also specialises in family finance cases (ancillary relief), negotiation and representation, and managing challenging clients from the professions. He has particular experience in dealing with corporate and partnership assets, pensions, Wills, inheritance and intestacy.

### **Disability practice**

Stephen has advised on deafness issues since the 1980's when he undertook training in signing at the City Literary Institute, London, leading to CACDP Part 1 in BSL. He is a former member of the Board of Management for England of the British Deaf Association and has lectured and presented on issues relating to the deaf. His broadcasts include BBC 'See hear', ITV 'Listening Eye' and deafness documentaries for Channel 4. In April 2001 he worked with Craig Flynn for 'Deaf Relay' at Lancashire College. He is interested to protect and facilitate access for deaf people to human rights and public services. He was keynote speaker at the national conference for the British Society for Mental Health and Deafness in June 2001 in Glasgow dealing with access to justice, and assists with the training of relay interpreters. Stephen has represented many deaf clients on a wide range of topics. He was a national conciliator with the Disability Conciliation Service under the DRC from 2004 to 2006.

### **Public Access**

Having led the way in public access to the Bar [www.windsorchambers.com/assets/public\\_access\\_article.pdf](http://www.windsorchambers.com/assets/public_access_article.pdf) , assisted the Public Access Committee and presented at the Bar Annual Conference on direct access, Stephen was one of the first wave of barristers to complete formal public access training. He has considerable experience of dealing with corporate, institutional and commercial clients direct. He is a member of Public Access Bar Association [www.paba.org.uk/](http://www.paba.org.uk/)