

Stephen Twist

Stephen Twist has been in continuous practice as a barrister since 1979, in London, York and Newcastle upon Tyne. Formerly he undertook high profile fraud cases at the [Central Criminal Court](#), assisted the [Parliamentary Information Technology Committee](#), the [Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors](#), and the [National Computing Centre](#) on computer fraud and security

For the first nine years, Stephen practiced from Mitre Court and Essex Court, Temple, London before his move to York. He has been a member of the North Eastern Circuit since 1988. Until the demise of the publication in 2017 he was listed as one of



Britain's most notable and successful people in Debrett's 'People of Today'. Stephen's legal blog is to be found [here](#) :and dispute resolution blog [here](#).

He currently practices part-time.

Professional area: Barrister: litigation, arbitration and mediation.

Practice area: Family law, Administrative law, Professional Regulation and Governance.

Services: Legal advice, services as independent arbitrator and mediator, representation in the English courts.

Specialist areas of practice

Arbitration, mediation and ADR practice

Stephen completed [CEDR](#) training as a mediator (1999), advanced commercial mediation training (2001), community, family and employment mediation training (2003), NOCN Level 3 mediation skills (2004), restorative practices training with [IIRP Europe](#) (2014), and has been listed with [CEDR London](#), [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators London](#), Mediation UK, [Bar Council](#), Court of Appeal, and Dere Street [Mediation](#) Group. He has triple qualification as a barrister, arbitrator and mediator in commercial, family, community and employment fields.

YEAR OF CALL

1979

AREAS OF PRACTICE

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Mediation
Arbitration

FAMILY

Divorce & Domestic Violence
Family Finance
Public & Private Law – Children

Stephen Twist

He was a guest presenter on 'ADR Systems for the Public Sector' at the CEDR National Conference 2000, a former member of CEDR's public sector working party, and a former disability conciliator with the Disability Conciliation Service. He is a director of ['Divorce Without Pain'](#), and a former non-executive director of UNITE Mediation Ltd which was the premiere regional mediation service for the North of England. Stephen is a key practitioner in the restorative justice field, having assisted with the development of mediation schemes throughout Britain.

Although involved in the whole area of dispute management, in industry, commerce, the public and private sectors, Stephen's main focus is in non-court based dispute resolution. He has been responsible for developing new applications for regional authorities and the [Home Office](#). Stephen has worked with numerous public authorities in the development of ADR for their professional standards, complaints, governance and grievance processes, involving internal and public disputes. He also undertakes workplace mediation, health service conciliation, family conflict management, early neutral evaluation and expert determination.

He deals with a wide range of company, partnership, commercial, employment, inheritance, family and property disputes, including family finance. He records a considerable number of mediations with a 90% settlement rate. Stephen offers consultancy services in relation to dispute management, international e-mediation (for which he was a founding practitioner) and conflict risk assessment.

Stephen acts for a wide range of domestic and international clients in relation to dispute resolution and is commonly appointed as an independent neutral in the UK. He is a former member of the [European Forum for Restorative Justice](#).

Family law practice

Stephen has practised in family law for over 40 years, and this remains a principal part of his practice. He has represented children charged with homicide of a parent (R v Howells and R v Walton), and those with significant disability (R v Alani: [Pinderfields Hospital double murders](#)).

He now undertakes family work in public law for parents, carers, grandparents, and guardians. Whilst appearing in care cases throughout North East England, Stephen also advises on financial remedies following separation and divorce, involving corporate and partnership assets, trusts, pensions, Wills, inheritance and intestacy.

Minority and Disability practice

Stephen has advised on disability and deafness issues since the 1980's when he undertook training in signing at the City Literary Institute, London, leading to CACDP Part 1 in British Sign Language. He is a former member of the Board of Management of the [British Deaf Association](#) and has lectured and presented on issues relating to deafness, and mental health. His broadcasts include [BBC 'See hear'](#), ITV 'Listening Eye' and deafness documentaries for Channel 4, working with Craig Flynn for 'Deaf

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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 has assisted with the training of relay interpreters. Stephen has represented many deaf clients on a wide range of topics and is one of the few hearing legal professionals to have worked in this field for over two decades. He has undertaken training in listening therapy and was a national conciliator with the [Disability Conciliation Service](#) under the DRC from 2004 to 2006. He currently assists disadvantaged minorities to access opportunities to practice in the legal professions.

Governance and Regulatory

Formerly a police officer with the [Metropolitan Police Service](#), since practicing at the Bar Stephen has acted as specialist legal adviser to Cleveland, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, Cumbria and Derbyshire, Avon & Somerset and the Metropolitan Police on professional conduct issues, administrative law matters including data protection, firearms regulation, human rights and ADR. He has been instructed in some of the most serious, sensitive and challenging police misconduct cases in the North of England, including Operations Lancet, Eagle, Pool police corruption cases. He was appointed independent legal adviser to police misconduct panels and was the author of 'A Guide to Panels under the Police (Conduct) Regulations' published in March 2004 by the Police Foundation. His other publications include the Home Office presentation paper 'ADR Management and Resolution of Complaints in relation to Police Misconduct'. In 2004 he presented to the Strategic Command course at the [Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle, Fife](#).

Stephen is a governor of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Chair/moderator of their Audit and Governance Committee, and CDDFT Organ Donation Committee.

Public Access

Having pioneered [public access to the Bar](#) by incepting and piloting the first two schemes under 'Bar Direct' scheme in 1999, Stephen assisted the [Bar Council's Public Access Committee](#) and presented at the Bar Annual Conference on direct access. He was one of the first barristers to complete formal public access training. He has considerable experience of dealing with corporate, institutional and commercial clients direct. He was a founding member of [Public Access Bar Association](#).

Cyber Security

Building on his pioneering work with the [Parliamentary Information Technology Committee](#), the [Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors](#), and the [National Computing Centre](#), Stephen leads Dere Street Barristers in the fields of cyber risks and technology, digital implementation challenges and artificial intelligence. In January 2024, Stephen was one of the first barristers in England to

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attain Cyber essentials Plus through Evolve North marking his commitment to enhancing cyber security throughout Chambers. His certificate can be viewed [here](#).



Memberships

Past Member International Police Association

Honourable Society of Middle Temple (1977)

Honourable Society of Grays Inn ad Eundem (1978)

Council of Legal Education, London, barrister (1979)

Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People, certified communicator (1985)

CEDR Accredited Commercial Mediator (1999)

Fellow and Panelist of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2000-2019)

Med UK Accredited Mediator (2003)

National Open College Network Community Mediation Skills (2004)

International Institute for Restorative Practices – Facilitator – Distinction (2014)

European Forum for Restorative Justice skills training, Leuven, Belgium (2014)

Qualifications

Stephen Twist

LL.B (Hons) University of Liverpool (1969-72)