

Lord Hurd, Lord Irvine, Lord Griffiths, Sir David Edward and Sir Brian Neill become third-party neutrals for dispute resolution

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Grantee panel of third-party neutrals for dispute resolution announced by CEDR at annual mediation dinner 2005:

The Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution appoints Lord Hurd, Lord Irvine, Lord Griffiths, Sir David Edward and Sir Brian Neill

Some of the most senior figures in dispute resolution have been announced today as part of the first grandee panel of third-party neutrals for CEDR Solve, the independent mediation service. The panel includes former Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd, former Lord Chancellor Lord Irvine, former Law Lord Lord Griffiths, former judge of the European Council of Justice Sir David Edward and former appeal court judge Sir Brian Neill.

The grandee panellists are now available through CEDR Solve to facilitate in high profile disputes along with other distinguished public and business figures. CEDR envisages that these senior figures will be used as third party neutrals in major business and public sector disputes, board-level conflicts and high-level international cases.

Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of CEDR and former chairman of Barclays Bank said: "There are some situations where the neutral intervention of a well-respected figure becomes the dynamic in gaining the ear of parties, their buy-in to the resolution process and ultimately an agreed settlement. CEDR is fortunate to have worked with a number of high profile individuals who have extensive experience of resolving conflicts in sensitive situations."

The announcement was made at the annual mediation dinner 2005 for the mediation community, held this year at Vinopolis, London. The dinner was attended by over 150 senior figures in litigation and dispute resolution including the Lord Chief Justice Lord Woolf and Lord Justices Brooke and Ward.

Ends

Biographies of the grandee panel of third-party neutrals follow:

The Right Honourable Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, CBE, PC and Chairman of CEDR's Advisory Council
Lord Hurd retired as Foreign Secretary in July 1995 after a distinguished career in Government spanning 16 years. After positions as Minister of State in the Foreign Office and the Home Office, he served as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from 1984-85, Home Secretary from 1986-89 and Foreign Secretary 1989-1995 in the governments of Margaret Thatcher and John Major.

Lord Hurd became a member of the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords in February 1999 and a member of the Appointments Commission in the summer of 2000. In September 1999 he was appointed as the High Steward of Westminster Abbey and in September 2001 as a President of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. His other pursuits include wiring, walking and reading and his latest books include *The Search for Peace* (with the 1997 BBC TV Series) and *The Image in the Water* (2001). Lord Hurd

was CEDR Chairman from 2000-2004 and currently serves as the Chairman of CEDR's Advisory Council.

The Right Honourable Lord Irvine of Lairg, PC, QC

Lord Irvine was Lord Chancellor of Great Britain and head of the judiciary from 1997-2003. He was born in Inverness in Scotland and graduated from both Glasgow and Cambridge Universities before beginning his career as a Lecturer in Law at the London School of Economics. He was called to the Bar in 1967, he became a QC in 1978 and headed 11 King's Bench Walk Chambers from 1981 to 1997. He served as a Recorder from 1985 to 1988 and was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge in 1987. Lord Irvine became a Life Peer in 1987 and was appointed Lord Chancellor in May 1997 after 19 years practice as a Queen's Counsel. During his period in office, Lord Irvine played a major role as the Chairman of the Cabinet Committees settling the Government's programme of constitutional reform, including overseeing the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom law. Lord Irvine remained Lord Chancellor until his retirement from that office in June 2003. Whilst he was Lord Chancellor, he was a strong advocate for mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

The Right Honourable the Lord Griffiths of Govilon, Kt, MC, PC, CBE, MS, FRCS, QC

Lord Griffiths was called to the Bar in 1949 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1964. Thereafter serving a number of judicial appointments before being appointed to the Court of Appeal and Privy Council in 1980 and to the House of Lords in 1985. He has held many legal professional appointments including Chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Committee on Legal Education and Conduct from 1991-1993 and he was a member of the mediation panel on the Maxwell Pensioners Trust dispute in 1993. Lord Griffiths also held the position of the Chairman of the Security Commission from 1985-1992 and he acts as an arbitrator and as a mediator in international domestic commercial and other disputes.

Sir David Edward KCMG, CMG, FRCE, QC

Sir David retired as a Judge of the European Court of Justice in 2004, and now sits as a deputy judge of the Court of Session in Scotland, hearing civil appeals. He is a CEDR accredited mediator, and a member of the ICSID panel of arbitrators. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1962 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1974. Before his appointment to the European Court, he was Professor of European Institutions at the University of Edinburgh and a Judge of the European Court of First Instance. He appeared as counsel in a number of high profile cases in the Scottish courts, the House of Lords and the European Court. He also held a number of directorships. He is a Vice-President of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and has written extensively on a range of legal issues.

The Right Honourable Sir Brian Neill Kt, PC, QC

Sir Brian was educated at Highgate School and Oxford, of which he became an Honorary Fellow in 1986. He was called to the Bar in 1949 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1968. During his time as a barrister he was Chairman of the Foreign Office Advisory Committee on Rhodesia Travel restrictions from 1973-1978 and was appointed as the arbitrator in the Plover Cover reservoir arbitration between the Government of Hong Kong and a French construction company. Sir Brian thereafter served a number of judiciary positions before being appointed Lord Justice of Appeal from 1985-1996. Currently he sits from time to time as retired Lord Justice in the Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Sir Brian was accredited as a CEDR mediator in 1999.

Notes to Editors:

CEDR (the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution) is the leader in the development of neutral-assisted dispute resolution. It is a non-profit organisation and its mission is to encourage and develop cost effective dispute prevention and dispute resolution in commercial and public sector disputes and in civil litigation. CEDR operates in the UK and internationally and has been instrumental in helping to bring mediation into the heart of business practice and into the judicial system. CEDR Mediator Accreditation is recognised as an international standard.

CEDR Solve, the UK's leading commercial mediation provider, is CEDR's dispute resolution and prevention service and has managed over 10,000 dispute enquiries covering every industry sector and a wide-ranging cross section of disputes and case values. Case studies are available on CEDR Solve's website - www.cedr-solve.com.

In addition to managing mediation and other dispute resolution processes, CEDR Solve provides a range of consultancy and training solutions for business people and professionals.

For further information please contact:

Andy Rogers
CEDR
Telephone: 020 7536 6000
E-mail: arogers@cedr.co.uk