

# 2012 National Mediation Awards Announced

Submitted by: Professional Mediators' Association

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- Inaugural awards to celebrate mediation best practice
- UK mediators urged to apply for 6 exciting award categories
- Launch of awards coincides with growing trend towards use of mediation

Introducing the National Mediation Awards 2012

Today, The Professional Mediators' Association (<http://www.professionalmediator.org/>) (PMA) announces the launch of the inaugural National Mediation Awards. The awards have been launched to raise the profile of mediation and to celebrate the outstanding contribution that mediators are making to their organisations and to the UK economy.

Mediation is becoming a credible tool for resolving workplace disputes

Increasing numbers of UK businesses, public bodies and Whitehall Departments are now using mediation to resolve challenging and ongoing workplace, employment and consumer disputes.

The mediation profession is reaching a level of maturity as this innovative approach for resolving disputes gains credibility and recognition. Mediation is now becoming an important business activity delivering incredible benefits for companies and their employees. The benefits of mediation reported by many business leaders include reduced costs, reduced threat of court action plus a happier and more motivated workforce.

David Liddle, President of the PMA, commented at the launch of the National Mediation Awards:

“Every day, I meet professional mediators who make outstanding contributions to their organisations. Mediators are the unsung heroes of the modern workplace. The National Mediation Awards ensure that UK mediators, for the first time, will receive the acknowledgement and the appreciation that they rightly deserve.”

The six award categories are:

- In-house mediation scheme of the year
- In-house mediator of the year
- In-house mediation scheme co-ordinator of the year
- Independent mediator of the year
- Best newcomer to mediation

- President's award for overall mediation best practice

Each award will be assessed by a judging panel made up of some of the top names from the UK's mediation industry.

What is mediation?

Mediation is a process of dispute resolution whereby a neutral third party (the mediator) is invited to intervene in a dispute to support the parties to find a constructive resolution. Mediation is proven to avoid the emotional distress and costs of lengthy grievance and disciplinary procedures. Mediators are impartial and, unlike formal procedures, mediators do not make a judgment about who is right or wrong. Mediators facilitate open and honest discussions between the parties. The mediation process is voluntary and confidential.

How to make a nomination

If you believe that either your organisation, someone you know, or even yourself are suitable for nomination, please visit the PMA website ([www.professionalmediator.org](http://www.professionalmediator.org)) (<http://www.professionalmediator.org>) and complete the simple nomination form (<http://www.professionalmediator.org/event-list.php>). Nominations close on July 31st 2012.

The winners will be announced at the PMA's annual general meeting and awards ceremony to be held in Central London on 27th September 2012.

Notes to editors:

- Click here

(<http://www.professionalmediator.org/uploads/textareas/file/Press%20Release%20-%20The%20National%20Mediation%20Awards>) for a pdf version of this news release

- The Professional Mediators' Association exists to promote excellence in all aspects of business, workplace, employment and consumer mediation.
- Visit [www.professionalmediator.org](http://www.professionalmediator.org) for more information and to download a membership pack.
- Nomination forms can also be found here: <http://www.professionalmediator.org/event-list.php>
- For press and media enquiries, or to arrange an interview, please contact David Liddle on 020 7092 3184 or e-mail: [david.liddle@professionalmediator.org](mailto:david.liddle@professionalmediator.org)