

• Professional Summary

His background has, almost exclusively, been in personal injury, industrial and employment law.



- In 1981, he became the senior partner of Francis Hanna & Co. solicitors in Belfast as well as the senior partner of JCW Rea and Son Solicitors in Belfast. Much of his time was spent working in the industrial tribunal system and he was involved in many landmark cases in each of the disciplines covered by the industrial legislation as it developed from the introduction of the Contracts of Employment and Redundancy Payments Act of 1965 through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.
- He lived and worked in Belfast throughout the troubles which plagued Northern Ireland for 20 years helping him to deeply appreciate the effect and impact of conflict. His own office was bombed on 3 separate occasions. He had a very interesting perspective at this time as he worked both as a lawyer and a journalist eventually fronting his own Television programme with Ulster Television for 6 years.
- In the late 1980s and early 1990s he became enamoured with the potential of mediation as a way of resolving issues and offering a true alternative to litigation. He took time out to study and spent some time in Harvard Law School where he completed several courses in mediation. Subsequent to that he pursued further study at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.
- In 1999 he took early retirement from his law practice and moved to Arizona where he wanted to pursue his interest in mediation. He was invited to participate in a pilot programme being run by the United States Government through its Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. The objective was to create a mediation programme which all parties to a discrimination case could opt for as an alternative to pursuing lengthy litigation. The pilot programme was hugely successful.
- In early 2000 the programme was introduced throughout the United States and since it has become the most successful mediation programme in the USA, probably the world.
- Initially the Commission wanted two independent contract mediators to cover the states of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Nevada. Frank Hanna applied and was appointed. For the next six years he mediated many hundreds of discrimination cases throughout the South Western States in the USA. The success rate of these cases tended to be in excess of 90%.

- In 2003 he was elected President of the Arizona Dispute Resolution Association, the governing body of mediation, arbitration in the state of Arizona. He was the first elected President in 18 years.
- In his years in office he introduced two major initiatives in the State of Arizona. Mediation in Schools and a Statewide Community Mediation programme.
- He pursued studies with the Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana and in 2004 was awarded a Doctorate in Mediation.
- His thesis for the Doctorate was published in Book format, ***Conflict Resolution and Mediation in the Real World.***
- In addition to the above he has considerable experience in the Corporate world.
- 1986-1999 Chairman and CEO of Merge Management Limited and Merge Management (Ireland) Limited a specialist computer systems design organisation.
- Since 2007 Frank Hanna has returned to the UK where he lives between homes in Belfast and the Isle of Man. He practices as a professional mediator and is involved in assisting the IOM Government in creating a progressive mediation programme for the community.
- He has lectured, widely, throughout Ireland and the UK on every aspect of mediation. He advises many companies on the changing approaches to conflict resolution.

Education

- University College Dublin
- Queens University, Belfast
- The Institute of Professional Legal Studies, Belfast
- Harvard Law School, MA, USA
- Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, USA
- The Graduate Theological Foundation, Indiana, USA
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists since 1971