

# City duo lose top mediators

## White & Case and Morgan Cole hit by senior exits

White & Case and Morgan Cole are losing their top mediators to rival firms as the number of disputes settled by mediation continues to soar.

Morgan Cole partner Phillip Howell-Richardson is set to join SJ Berwin on 1 August. Currently mediating about 50 cases a year, Howell-Richardson is also the chairman

mediation practice when he steps down from management next spring.

Meanwhile, White & Case partner Jon Lang has become the latest departure from the firm's City arm. Lang, known for his IP/IT expertise, left the partnership at the end of April and is currently in discussions with a set of chambers with a view to joining the Bar.

'Basically, I left White & Case because I was plagued by conflicts and was having to turn away really good mediations – at least two or three in the last couple of months alone,' he explained.

Lang hopes to mediate 40 to 45 cases over the next 12 months and to broaden his practice to include more commercial disputes.

His departure from White & Case follows the resignations of Richard Bamforth, now at Olswang, and Margaret Cole, who is joining the Financial Services Authority. The litigation merry-go-round comes as Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution statistics reveal that its caseload for 2004 was up 8% year-on-year.

*Camilla Sutton*



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Jon Lang, ex-White & Case partner

of ADR Net and a member of the panel of the Court of Appeal mediators.

SJ Berwin mediator David Shapiro told *Legal Business*: '[Howell-Richardson] is a very good listener and very smart. He always asks the right questions.' David Harrel, currently the firm's senior partner, is also set to channel his energy into developing his