

## [Mediation: a degradation of equality before the law?](#)

**March 2014**

**[Michelle Simpson](#), [Luke Gittos](#) and [Tanya Greaves](#) introduced a discussion on the impact mediation in family and employment disputes is having on the law**



In the wake of cuts to the Civil Courts, the coalition government have been arguing for mediation as an alternative to bringing cases before a Judge. In 2011, a new protocol in the Family Courts compelled parties to family law cases to consider alternative means of settling their cases. In January 2012 Kenneth Clarke, the then Justice Secretary, said that mediation was the best way to solve divorce cases 'cheaply and simply'. The focus on mediation has given rise to a lucrative area of business for lawyers, who can develop practices on the basis that they are robust mediators.





**Some background readings**

[Government-backed mediation pilots – one year in](#) , by Anna Shields, HR Zone 15 January 2014

['Magic pill' mediation is wrong prescription](#) , by Marilyn Stowe, The Law Society Gazette 27 January 2014

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Watch video of the speaker and audience discussion below. Thanks to Dan Clayton the [documentary filmmaker](#) from Leeds for this.