



**McFarlane Legal**  
dispute resolution



**Sharan Sekhon-Safe**

Contact:  
0409 425 855  
sharansafe@mcfarlanelegal.com.au

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Mediator specializing in Complex Commercial & Financial Conflicts, Farm Debt, Institutional Abuse, Estate & TFM Disputes, Building and Construction Disputes, Insolvency and Debt Recovery matters.

## **Professional Profile**

### **Core Mediation & Legal Expertise**

- Farm Debt Mediation: extensive agri-finance experience across VIC, NSW, TAS and QLD.
- Commercial & Corporate: shareholder, partnership and director conflicts; oppression and governance disputes.
- Banking & Finance: complex lending, guarantees, responsible lending, hardship and enforcement matters.
- Insolvency & Restructuring: administrations, receiverships and preference claims.
- Owners Corporation & Property: levy disputes, committee conflicts, defect claims and developer obligations.
- Institutional Abuse & Personal Injury: trauma-informed mediation of historical abuse claims.
- Estate & TFM Disputes: contested wills, family provision and blended family dynamics.
- Construction & Franchising Disputes.
- Motor Vehicle Accident & Insurance Disputes.
- TPD & General Insurance Disputes.
- Procedural Fairness & Ethical Practice.

### **Professional Experience**

- Mediator — McFarlane Legal Dispute Resolution (June 2021 – Present)
  - Mediates commercial, financial, corporate, community, estate and personal-impact disputes.
  - Specialist experience in farm debt, institutional abuse and TFM matters.
  - Drafts deeds of settlement, mutual releases and structured agreements.
  - Has presented on trauma-informed mediation, ethical obligations and good faith in dispute resolution.
- Sessional Ombudsman — Australian Financial Complaints Authority (**AFCA**) (September 2022 – September 2024)
  - Determined financial services disputes including lending, insurance and superannuation.

- Applied fairness-based jurisdictional reasoning under relevant regulatory guides.
- Contributed to systemic issue reviews and quality-assurance frameworks.
- Customer Advocate — McMillan Shakespeare Group (**MMSG**) (September 2024 – October 2025)
  - Led resolution of high-risk systemic complaints across salary packaging and novated leasing portfolios.
  - Oversaw AFCA escalations, procedural fairness reviews and engagement with Legal and Compliance teams.
- Senior Lawyer — ANZ Banking Group, Melbourne (February 2010 – June 2021)
  - Managed major litigation, insolvency and enforcement matters.
  - Handled Corporations Act matters including Part 5.3A administrations and statutory demand disputes.
  - Provided settlement strategy and dispute resolution guidance on complex borrower and guarantor matters.
- Earlier Legal Roles
  - Senior Associate — HWL Ebsworth (2009 – 2010)
  - Senior Associate — Gadens Lawyers (2005 – 2009)
  - In-House Counsel — State Bank of Victoria / Commonwealth Bank of Australia (1989 – 1999)

## Qualifications & Accreditations

- AMDRAS (NMAS) Accredited Mediator.
- Bachelor of Laws — University of Melbourne.
- Corporate & Personal Insolvency Course — Insolvency Practitioners Association of Australia.
- Panel Mediator: QRIDA (Qld), NSW and Tasmanian Farm Debt Mediation Panels.
- Member: Law Institute of Victoria ADR Committee Member.
- Member of the Magistrates Court LEMS Protocol.

## Selected Achievements

- Delivered specialist presentations on trauma-informed mediation and institutional abuse disputes.
- Contributed to national working group on the proposed National Farm Debt Mediation Act.
- Authored ANZ's Commitment and Principles for Managing Small Business Customers in Financial Difficulty.
- Participated in key rounds of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services.
- Appeared before the Supreme Court of Victoria and Federal Court of Australia.

## Languages

- Bahasa Indonesia – fluent (written & spoken).
- Punjabi – fluent (spoken).

## **Annexure A — Detailed Areas of Mediation Practice**

- Banking and finance disputes, including hardship matters, securities and guarantor disputes.
- Corporate restructuring and commercial litigation.
- Construction disputes.
- Franchising disputes.
- Testator Family Maintenance (TFM) and estate disputes.
- Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) and insurance claims.
- Personal injury and institutional abuse matters.
- Church-based and government-institution abuse claims.
- Farm debt mediation and agricultural finance disputes.
- Owners Corporation and body corporate disputes.
- Motor vehicle accident and insurance claims.

## **Annexure B — Representative Mediations**

- Farm Debt Mediations: multi-party agri-lending restructures involving inter-creditor negotiations.
- Banking and finance disputes: including mortgage and securities recovery actions, director and third-party guarantor disputes
- Shareholder Oppression: s 232 Corporations Act disputes involving valuation, control and governance outcomes.
- Institutional Abuse: trauma-informed historical abuse claims resolved confidentially.
- Owners Corporation: special levy apportionment and defect disputes, many resolved in single sessions.
- Estate Dispute: contested will and TFM matters involving blended family dynamics.
- Motor Vehicle Disputes including contested write-off valuations and liability apportionments.