

## **Caroline Thomas BSc ACA MAE QDR**

### **Professional qualifications**

- 2004 Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- 2006 Accredited as a Mediator by the Academy of Experts

### **Training and Memberships**

- 2009 Member of the Academy of Experts

### **Education**

- 2000 Honours degree in Economics, University of Wales, Swansea
- 2001- Training contract with Beer Aplin (now Thomas Westcott)  
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### **Professional experience**

Between 2000 and 2001, I was employed in the personal tax department of Ernst and Young, Exeter, specialising in the personal tax affairs of a wide range of employed and ex-patriot individuals.

From 2001 to 2004, I undertook a Chartered Accountancy training contract with an independent local practice, Beer Aplin (now Thomas Westcott), where I worked mainly in the audit department. I was also heavily involved with many of the firm's charity clients, auditing and dealing with charity structure issues.

In 2004 I was appointed by Reynolds, an independent Chartered Accountancy practice based in Exeter and dealing mainly with small and medium sized owner-managed businesses and the rural economy. From this time, I began to specialise in forensic accountancy. On 1 December 2005, Reynolds merged with Haines Watts. I am now a Partner of this firm.

Over the last 7 years, I have been involved in the preparation of hundreds of forensic accountancy reports for both Civil and Criminal trials. I am experienced in preparing reports both as a party appointed expert and as a single joint expert. I have led meetings of experts leading to the preparation of a joint memorandum. I have also attended Court on numerous occasions in support of colleagues.

I am a member of the ICAEW's special interest groups for forensic accountancy and valuation.

### **Mediation**

I am an accredited and experienced mediator in commercial disputes and am also trained to undertake workplace mediations. I accept mediation appointments directly from parties and their solicitors, from representative bodies and under Court annexed schemes. I am a member of the Civil Mediation Council.

**Areas of expertise**

- Personal injury and dependency
- Professional and clinical negligence
- The assessment of loss in commercial, agricultural, fishery, intellectual property, banking and lending disputes
- Periodical payment orders
- Share and business valuation
- Financial remedies and financial aspects of divorce
- Insolvency and wrongful trading
- Criminal/fraud investigations, including 'white collar' fraud
- Sale and purchase disputes