

# **Experts and Lawyers – Effective Team Working: Legal instructions and report writing**

**24 January 2018**

**Exchange Chambers, Liverpool**

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Dear Delegate

AvMA are delighted to welcome you to the Experts and Lawyers training event. We hope you find the evening informative and interesting. AvMA staff will be on hand to help make it so and we hope that the following information will help make the event more pleasant and productive. Contact Details at the Conference

The AvMA Registration Desk will be staffed from 17:00 – 20:05. If you have any queries or emergencies at any point during the conference, please go to the registration desk, or ask any member of the AvMA staff for assistance.

### **General Points**

To ensure that you receive excellent service whilst attending this event, we would appreciate your co-operation with the following:

#### **BADGES:**

Please ensure that you wear your badge at all times to help with prompt delivery of messages and as a means of identifying you to other delegates.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

Speakers are happy to answer your questions at the end of their presentation. We would be grateful if you could identify yourself and your company before asking your questions.

#### **DOCUMENTATION:**

All documentation received at the time before the event is enclosed within the online documentation pack. Any missing papers will either be distributed during the event or be available for download soon after the event. Please be assured that AvMA always endeavours to offer a complete set of speaker papers included within the documentation pack. However, due to other commitments by our speakers this is not always possible.

#### **MOBILE TELEPHONES:**

We would appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that all mobile telephones are switched off in the conference room.

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#### RESTROOMS:

There are restrooms located close by the conference room, please contact a member of AvMA staff who will direct you to the nearest facilities.

#### NO SMOKING:

There is strictly no smoking in the conference venue and we would kindly request that if you would like to smoke, you will have to go outside. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

#### EVALUATION FORMS:

Please be so kind as to complete and hand in the evaluation form before leaving the conference. All delegate packs should have an evaluation form in them, but if you cannot locate one then please collect one from the registration desk. We are constantly striving to improve our service to you and therefore value your feedback.

#### CPD CONFIRMATION:

APIL: 2 hours 30 minutes

Royal College of Physicians: 2 hours (applied)

SRA Competencies: B

Provider ID Number: 1051

The conference code is AC/AvMA 360

Finally, if there are any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ed Maycock  
Events Manager, AvMA

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### Speaker Biographies

**GILL EDWARDS** is a claimant clinical negligence solicitor with over 20 years' experience of litigation. Prior to studying law she was a vascular surgery nurse at Manchester Royal Infirmary. She acts for claimants in a range of cases but specialises in cases involving brain and spinal injury and amputations. She acted for the claimants in the leading human rights case of *Rabone v Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust* [2012], in which the Supreme Court extended the duty to protect life under Article 2 of the HRA to non-detained psychiatric patients; and *Sido John v Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust* [2016] in which Mr Justice Picken found that a negligent delay in diagnosing a sub-dural haematoma had materially contributed to the Claimant's brain injury.

**DR SIMON FOX QC** is a medically qualified specialist clinical negligence silk with over 20 years experience in this field.

In medicine he worked in the UK and New Zealand in emergency medicine, neurosurgery and terminal care and in Zambia treating casualties from the Mozambique civil war.

He qualified as a doctor in 1990, barrister in 1994, was made Assistant Coroner in 2010 and silk in 2016.

Within clinical negligence Simon specializes in cases with difficult and complicated issues on breach of duty where his medical qualification enables him to better understand the full breadth of the potential issues, get the most from the experts, present the client's case at its best and cross examine effectively.

He recently concluded a cerebral palsy claim in a lump sum equivalent value of £25m – believed to be one of the highest ever clinical negligence awards made in the UK. In addition to his specialist clin neg practice, he sits 2 days per month as Assistant Coroner.

**LISA O'DWYER** qualified as a solicitor in 1993 and specialised in claimant clinical negligence claims before joining AvMA in March 2009. Whilst practising she was a member of the Law Society Clinical Negligence Accreditation Scheme. She is an Accredited Mediator with Centre Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and is one of the assessors on AvMA's referral panel.

On joining AvMA Lisa was initially involved in advising and representing families at the Independent Review Medical Records at Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust. Her involvement with families affected by treatment provided by Mid Staffs continued throughout the Public Inquiry chaired by Sir Robert Francis and included securing a second inquest into the high profile death of one of the patients who had attended the A&E department.

In 2010 AvMA set up an Inquest project which Lisa pioneered and developed into the now well established, pro bono Inquest Service. The Inquest Service provides advice, preparation and representation in some 100 cases per annum; the service works closely with barristers in the leading clinical negligence chambers.

Lisa was appointed Director of Medico-Legal Services in September 2013, since her appointment Lisa has been responsible for restructuring the Lawyer Service and Advice and Information departments into a newly formed Medico Legal Department. The focus of the department is on increasing the availability of AvMA's services to the public thereby maximising access to high quality, independent help and advice on clinical negligence and professional regulatory matters.

Lisa believes that good quality healthcare should be accessible to all. She was drawn to working for Action against Medical Accidents as it offered her the opportunity to use her legal skills to make a difference and improve standards of care for patients and doctors alike.