

Medico Legal Advisor: Background Information

Applications

Closing date for applications: 5.00 pm Wednesday 1st May 2019

Interviews planned for: Tuesday 14th May and Thursday 16th May 2019

About AvMA

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) is the independent UK wide charity for patient safety and justice, established over 30 years ago. AvMA is widely credited with both having put "patient safety" on the map and having brought about huge advances in access to justice for those patients who have been affected by lapses in patient safety ("medical accidents").

AvMA provides a unique medico-legal advisory service to people affected by medical accidents. Help is available to the public through our Helpline and written casework service including support with inquests. AvMA helps over 3,000 people a year. We are constantly reviewing how we can develop services to best meet unmet needs.

AvMA also enjoys a unique relationship with lawyers practising in clinical negligence and medical law. We accredit specialist clinical negligence solicitors and provide information and advice to help lawyers do their best for clients.

AvMA's Medico-Legal Services

AvMA's Services are provided through the Medico Legal Department (ML Department). There are two aspects to our services, services provided to support the public and services provided to lawyers who have Lawyer Service Membership. Medico-Legal advisors are involved with all aspects of AvMA's services which provides for greater variety and job satisfaction.

The core services can be described as follows:

Services to support the public:

- (i) A national helpline,
- (ii) Written advice and information casework,
- (iii) Inquest service and

Services to clinical negligence lawyers:

- (i) Providing expert witness recommendations to our Lawyers Service members.

We also provide advice to lawyers (who have varying degrees of expertise in medical negligence litigation) to help them handle their clients' cases.

The charity for patient safety and justice

Lawyers pay an annual subscription to be members of our Lawyers Service. We monitor feedback from lawyers in order to assess the availability and standards of our experts.

- (ii) Arranging regular Lawyer Service Group (LSG) meetings around the country throughout the year with presentations by medical experts and counsel on topical legal subjects
- (iii) Publication of the AvMA Newsletter
- (iv) Information gathering and dissemination (such as on group actions) and training.

The Medico–Legal Services department seek to identify trends and issues which help inform AvMA’s campaigning agenda and policy development, we are currently focusing on improving our data collection and feedback from our clients.

The Post

We are currently recruiting for a Medico Legal Advisor, the position is full time although **applications for part time will be considered.**

Training will be provided on our services although some prior knowledge of clinical negligence is required.

We are particularly interested in candidates who have a legal background and who have experience of clinical negligence litigation. A medical background would be an asset although is not essential for this position as we already have a strong team who have medical experience (currently three doctors and a radiologist).

You should be able to identify the appropriate medico legal experts to advise on breach of duty and/or causation issues as well as condition and prognosis. You will be involved in monitoring and keeping the medico legal expert data base current and maintaining a high level of service to our Lawyer Service Members.

You will be involved in providing support to members of the public by way of providing written advice and information on a range of issues from accessing the NHS complaints procedure to more in-depth analysis of cases and referrals to our panel solicitors. You will also be expected to advise on the AvMA Helpline and with the Inquest service which may include travelling around the England and some overnight stays while an inquest is being heard.

You will be involved in AvMA’s accreditation and referral panel meetings but especially in rolling out AvMA’s Certificate of Competence scheme for junior lawyers

This is an interesting and demanding role which will enable the successful candidates to gain experience in clinical negligence litigation, inquests and supporting clients. An understanding of the NHS hospital system, in particular complaints and regulatory work would be beneficial.

As well as having good communication skills and the confidence to deal with lawyers and medical experts alike you should have an interest in all aspects of clinical negligence litigation (including costs); Human Rights Act issues and Coronial Law.

The charity for patient safety and justice

Freedman House, Christopher Wren Yard, 117 High Street, Croydon CR0 1QG

www.avma.org.uk

DX: 144267 Croydon 24 Tel: 020 8688 9555 Helpline: 0845 123 2352 Fax: 020 8667 9065 Email: office@avma.org.uk

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) is registered as a charity in England and Wales (299123) and in Scotland (SC039683) and is also a company limited by guarantee (2239250). Registered office: Freedman House, Christopher Wren Yard, 117 High Street, Croydon CR0 1QG.

As a Medico Legal Advisor you will have a varied work load with opportunities to use existing skills and develop new ones. You should be hard working, enthusiastic and prepared to embrace the opportunities on offer.

The position would suit someone who has the determination, ability and confidence to contribute to the department. An empathy with patients/potential claimants and recognition of the importance of gaining client trust and upholding confidentiality are essential to these positions as is a commitment to patient safety and access to justice.

You will be working with a highly respected team of professionals who have specialist knowledge and experience in clinical negligence matters. You will be supported in a friendly and collegiate team environment.

People

Our people are our greatest asset. AvMA currently employs approximately 24 staff (many of whom are part-time), bringing a wide range of skills, experience and passion for what AvMA stands for. AvMA also benefits from a pool of dedicated volunteers and an excellent board of trustees. Feedback invariably suggests that AvMA is a satisfying place to work.

Location

AvMA is based in a modern, well equipped office building in central Croydon, which is accessible for wheelchair users and people with other disabilities.

Croydon enjoys excellent transport links. East Croydon station provides frequent trains with access to central London in just 15 minutes.

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