Medico-legal expert courtroom skills course
Monday 10 February 2020
BMA House, London

Programme

9.30 – 10am
REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

10 – 10.30am
Welcome and introduction

10.30 – 11.15am
The role of the medical expert witness in court and the adversarial system
- The taking of the oath/affirmation
- The duties of the expert witness while under oath
- How expert witnesses should direct their answers

11.15 – 11.30am
REFRESHMENTS

11.30am – 1pm
Processes, procedures and preparation in giving evidence

Exercise: preparation
Seeing the pre-trial process as preparation for a court hearing, understanding the relevant legislation, processes and procedures. How to improve preparation for giving evidence by re-reading evidence, considering key issues and facts and becoming familiar with the practices and processes of giving evidence.

Exercise: cross-examining lawyers’ techniques
Considering lawyers’ techniques in cross-examination including specific issues for medical experts. Learn techniques for handling cross-examination and the dos and don’ts of giving evidence.

1 – 2pm
LUNCH

2 – 3pm
Mock court: cross-examination role play
Interactive session with attendees taking turns to be questioned. Illustrating a range of questioning techniques and how to effectively handle them. Delegates will receive supportive structured feedback based on objective Assessment Criteria for Giving Evidence.

3 – 3.15pm
REFRESHMENTS

3.15 – 4.15pm
Cross-examination role play continued

4.15 – 4.30pm
Objectives and close

4.30pm
CLOSE