

Society of Expert Witnesses

INDEPENDENCE AND IMMUNITY

Spring Conference, Chilworth Manor, Chilworth, Southampton

Friday 6 May / Saturday 7 May 2011

Friday 6 May 2011	
9.30	Registration and Coffee
10.00	Welcome
10.05	Session 1: Independence – the Expert Witness' Obligations
10.05-10.45	Chartered Engineer and expert witness Christopher Boocock examines the moral and legal obligations incumbent on an expert witness, and the tests they may wish to use to determine and demonstrate their independence to themselves and others. Christopher is a board member of the Engineering Council and chairs their Privy Council and Regulations Panel who have developed the Regulatory Framework for Professional Engineers and a Statement of Ethical Principles.
10.45-11.15	Coffee
11.15	Session 2: Safeguarding Your Independence
11.15-12.15	Christopher Boocock chairs a session of contributions from members whose independence or professional credibility has been challenged. They will relate their experiences and how they dealt with these situations after which the floor will be open for discussion leading to strategies for experts to protect their independence.
12.15-12.30	Richard Cory-Pearce gives a list of Dos and Don'ts to enable experts to avoid exposing themselves to the criticism of partisanship or advocacy.
12.30-14.00	LUNCH
14.00	Session 3: Expert Witness Immunity After Kaney
14.00-14.30	Chris Pamplin gives an account of the historical course of witness immunity and a short factual summary of the recent landmark case of <i>Jones v Kaney</i> , which removed some of that protection from the expert witness.
14.30-15.00	Lea Brocklebank is the partner leading the liability team at Bond Pearce, Solicitors in Southampton. She advises insurance companies and commercial clients in connection with defendant catastrophic injury and high value/complex employers' liability, public liability and road traffic personal injury claims.
15.00-15.30	Augustus Ullstein QC is in chambers at 39 Essex Street. He has built up and maintained a wide ranging practice in a number of areas including personal injury, clinical negligence, product liability, sports law, construction, insurance, professional negligence and common law.
15.30-16.00	TEA
16.00	Session 4: The EWI Accreditation Scheme
16.00-16.30	James Badenoch QC, Chairman of the Expert Witness Institute, presents the Institute's proposals for an accreditation/certification scheme for expert witnesses
16.30	Open Forum
16.30-17.30	A panel selected from the day's speakers and the audience will lead conference participants in a discussion of the main issues addressed during the day.
17.30-17.35	CLOSING REMARKS
19.30	Drinks Reception
20.00	Society Dinner