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Members Information

All of The Academy's information is available for Members from the Member Resources page of the website.

This includes:

- Guidance
- Publications
- Reports
- Model Terms of Engagement

This and past editions of 'update' are available from:
www.academyofexperts.org

Further information about anything contained in this publication may be obtained from The Academy of Experts

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'update'

From the Chairman



It was good to see so many members at the Chairman's Lunch at the RAF Club at the end of January.

Model Court CV

The Lunch was an opportunity to launch our new Model Format for Expert Witness Court CVs. No longer will Courts be regaled with the expert's love of hill walking and flower-arranging, but will be given a CV that summarises the relevant skills and experience of the expert in relation to the case at hand. I would like to thank our Judicial Committee for the work that it put in to developing this standard.

"...No longer will Courts be regaled with the expert's love of hill walking..."

Our lunch at the RAF Club has become synonymous with not only a great lunch, but Michael Cohen's annual presentation of case law relating to expert work. Once again this year we were treated to a whole range of cases

that demonstrated just how many ways there are for us to get it wrong.

Experts continue to make mistakes, often with the best of motives, and judges are increasingly content to point out the shortcomings of experts that do not meet the high standard of conduct placed upon them by the procedural rules. We like to think that our members are a cut above others due to our training and continuing professional development, but that can only continue to be the case if we continue to keep abreast of new developments and learn from them. TAE's programme of training and evening meetings are a great way of doing that.

Recruitment

Another way to improve the quality of experts in general is to bring more of them into the fold. With that in mind, we are shortly to launch a major recruitment campaign.

Our aim is to significantly increase the size of TAE and so we expect each and every member to take an active role in the recruitment process by introducing potential members to The Academy. I am certain that we all come across other experts on a day to day basis

continued inside...



From the Chairman continued

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who would benefit from membership of TAE, so I look forward to an enthusiastic response to our campaign.

Regional Meetings

April will see TAE venturing outside of London for our evening meeting. Thanks go to Simpson Millar LLP at whose offices in Leeds the meeting will be held.

I do hope that as many of our northern members as possible will join us for this the first regional meeting of the year. I would hope that our London-centric members will remember that the world extends further than Watford Gap and come along for what promises to be an interesting evening. We will be releasing details of more regional meetings as they become available later in the year.

**Dr Chris McArdle
Chairman
March 2015**

Civil Mediation Council

Individual Registrations

The CMC will shortly be sending notice to mediators about the registration scheme for individual mediators.

TAE mediators are reminded that as TAE Panel Members they will receive a discount on the cost of joining the scheme (note that this applies to TAE members who are TAE accredited mediators not TAE members accredited by other organisations).

Annual Conference & Dinner

12th May 2015 - Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London

Minimum 5 hours of Mediation CPD

The full programme is due to be published shortly and will contain parallel workshops, group sessions, panel discussions, plenty of debate and networking opportunities plus what next for the CMC?

For those travelling down to London for the Conference why not join the Speakers, CMC and other Delegates at the fabulous Cafe Spice Namaste, 16 Prescot Street the night before.



The price is £75.00 per person and includes drinks and canapés on arrival, 3 course dinner with wine and coffee.



President's Dinner 2015 - Painters' Hall

Wednesday 4th November 2015

Painters' Hall, London EC4V

New Venue

Tickets to the Academy's most formal function of the year - The President's Dinner - are now on sale. As ever the dinner is being held in the first week of November on Wednesday 4th.

After three hugely successful years at the Butchers Hall refurbishment works mean that we are moving just down the road to the beautiful Painters' Hall for this year's President's Dinner.

Your Ticket price includes:

- Pre Dinner Reception
- Dinner including wine & port
- After Dinner 'night-cap' reception

£96.50 + vat



CV's are more than just a marketing tool

New Model CV set to help the Courts & Experts

The Chairman's Lunch in January saw the official launch of the new Model CV for Experts to use in their reports. Designed to be used in conjunction with or as a part of the Model Form of Expert's Report the aim of the new model is to help judges.

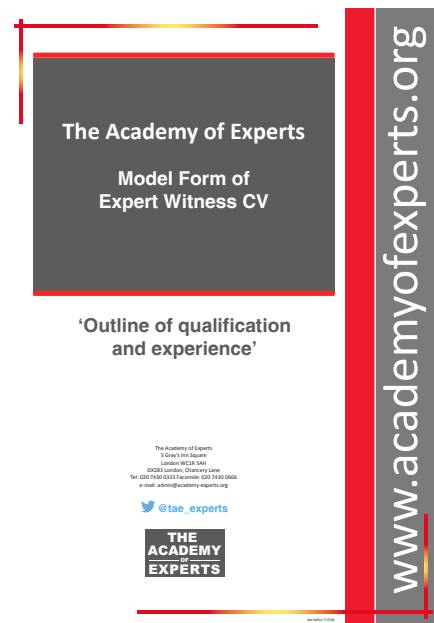
The Judicial Committee, which TAE President Lord Saville himself chaired, prepared the Model CV in response to an increasing number of concerns raised by senior judges about the quality and content of CV's in the reports they were seeing. CV's are often too long and do not contain information that would assist the courts.

- The Model Expert Witness CV is designed to help the courts.
- The Model Expert Witness CV **should not** be confused with your marketing CV which will be a separate document.

Above all - be accurate

The importance of an accurate CV was highlighted recently by an American case where an accountant has been experiencing the fallout for 'lying' on his CV. His CV claimed that he had received an MA, Accounting from Brooklyn College in New York. However, Brooklyn College only offers a MS in Accounting - there is no record of the expert completing such a degree.

It is not yet known whether or not this was a typographical error or a deliberate lie. In any event the Expert in question has already been removed from a number of cases on which he was acting despite his own instructing attorney saying of him *"His testimony to the best of our knowledge was truthful based upon the information that he had ... He is a very good forensic accountant, and he knows his stuff"*.



TAE Expert Witness qualifications are as follows:

Fellow:	FAE	- FBAE pre 1st July 1995
Member:	MAE	- MBAE pre 1st July 1995
Associate (AMAE):	AMAE	- introduced post 1995
Associate:		No designatory Letters

Note also that when referring to The Academy the correct format is either 'The Academy of Experts' or in shortened form 'TAE' - note the capitalisation.

Keep us up to date as well

In addition to your CV it is also important to keep your online presence up to date as this is frequently the first place a potential client or the 'other side' will look for you.

Although keeping up to date on all of the different websites and directories you subscribe to can be time consuming you should always ensure that your TAE online entry is up to date. More and more solicitors (and even potential employers and recruitment consultants) are now using our register to confirm that an expert witness is who they say that they are.

Updating your TAE online entry

- As part of your formal TAE accreditation we must receive proof of any additional or changed qualifications.
- If you do have a change to make to your qualifications please email us with a copy of your certificate or letter or entitlement so that we can validate and amend your record.
- Remember that you should not list qualifications within your online CV as we will remove them because they must be validated and will be listed separately.
- Address changes or changes to your online CV you should make directly on the TAE website.

'TAE'

Academy Qualifications

As well as degrees most experts are members of one or more professional institutions.

It is not uncommon for these bodies to either change their name or the designations (and subsequent post-nominal letters awarded) of their members. Do remember to keep up to date and also bear in mind that as this might be confusing to instructing parties you should present a clear indication or explanation where this has happened.

Whilst we can not advise on other bodies' qualifications we can certainly do so for The Academy of Experts which changed its post nominal letters in 1995. Twenty years on we still see regular references to the British Academy of Experts and members showing their qualifications as MBAE!

DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasury Solicitor's Department

The Treasury Solicitor's Department is changing its name from 1st April to the Government Legal Department. Treasury Solicitor Jonathan Jones said

"...it is an important step in the evolution of the department. It signifies our change in size and remit, and describes clearly what we are and what we do as a department"

Criminal Evidence

The Crown Prosecution Service has recently published a comprehensive 'Guidance on Expert Evidence' for the instruction of prosecution experts. Although primarily aimed at the CPS/Police instructing experts working for the prosecution it contains valuable information for all experts doing criminal work. The Guidance can be downloaded from:

<http://goo.gl/CvtK9x>

New incentive to Mediate? Price of Justice increases

With effect from Monday 9th March 2015 fees for issuing civil claims over £10,000 are increasing by up to 622%.

Value of Claim £000's	Old Fee £	New Fee £	Increase %
20	610	1,000	64%
40	610	2,000	228%
90	910	4,500	395%
150	1,315	7,500	470%
190	1,315	9,500	622%
200	1,515	10,000	560%
250	1,720	10,000	481%

Predictably there has been much discord and active protest from the legal profession regarding what is a very large increase in issuing fees. However, from an ADR point of view be it mediation, Expert Determination or otherwise, this can only add further weight to the 'quicker - cheaper - better' argument.

Timetable for Scottish court reforms announced

Justice in Scotland is set for a big shake-up akin to the changes in England & Wales since the Woolf report. Lord President Gill has announced the timetable for the implementation of the changes brought by the Court Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. Key dates are:

July 2015

- appointment process for first Summary Sheriffs to be put in hand

September 2015

- Sheriff Court - to hear claims with a value of up to £100,000
- New Scotland-wide Personal Injury Court to open in Edinburgh
- Establishment of a new permission stage for judicial review
- New Sheriff Appeal Court opens for new criminal appeals

January 2016

- New Sheriff Appeal Court to start hearing civil appeals

Spring 2016

- Simplified procedure for claims up to £5,000

Academy Research - RTAs

Do you undertake the assessment of mental health problems following a RTA? If so, researchers at the University of Huddersfield are currently recruiting Psychologists and Psychiatrists to help with a study that aims to improve this field.

Participants who choose take part will receive a best practice guide that will be constructed on the findings of this research project.

w: <http://goo.gl/eYSIGe>

e: ashley.cartwright@hud.ac.uk

Diary Dates

April		
Wednesday	1	↗ Expert Determination Assessment Deadline
Friday	3	Good Friday
Monday	6	Easter Monday
Wednesday	15	↗ Evening Meeting - Leeds
Wednesday - Thursday	22-23	↗ Foundation Course
May		
Monday	4	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	12	↗ CMC Conference
Tuesday	12	↗ Law for Experts
Wednesday	13	↗ Procedure Rules
Wednesday	13	↗ Evening Meeting
June		
Thursday	4	↗ Advanced Report Writing
Wednesday	10	↗ TAE Council
Wednesday	10	↗ Evening Meeting
Friday	12	↗ Into Court
Wednesday - Thursday	24-25	↗ Foundation Course
July		
Friday	24	↗ Gray's Inn Treasurer's Reception
Friday	31	↗ Expert Determination Assessment Deadline
November		
Wednesday	4	↗ TAE Council
Wednesday	4	↗ President's Dinner

Unless otherwise shown all courses/meetings will be held in London
TAE dates are published in the **Events Calendar** - www.academyofexperts.org

Key to events:
 ↗ Academy Courses
 ↗ Academy Events & Meetings
 ↗ External/Joint/Supported Events