

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MEDICO-LEGAL ADVISER

The role of a medico-legal adviser is a challenging one that combines experience of medicine with the application of legal principles. A medico-legal adviser must have the confidence and knowledge to assist and support doctors in the multiple arenas where a practitioner's professionalism is at risk of criticism

1 Assisting and advising doctors facing a wide range of medico-legal difficulties including:

- Investigations by registration bodies such as the General Medical Council
- Coroners' inquests and fatal accident inquiries
- Disciplinary processes
- Criminal investigations
- Complaints



2 Participate in the handling of clinical negligence claims and other legal challenges

- Quickly assimilate large volumes of complex clinical information
- Assess vulnerabilities in the defence of a matter
- Liaise closely with solicitors and independent experts
- Contribute to conferences with barristers and the rest of the defence team
- May also be present at subsequent trial or hearing to support and advise the doctor



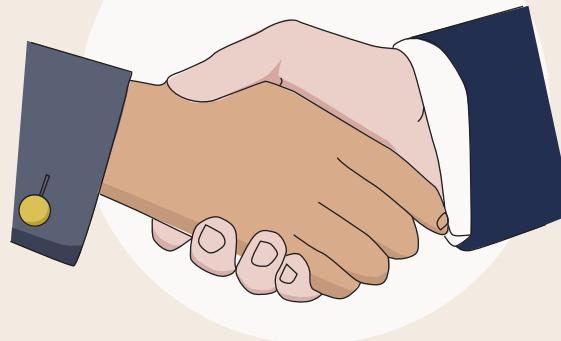
3 Providing advice to doctors on medico-legal and ethical issues

- On the phone, in writing or in person
- Advising on clinical risk management
- Writing articles or other materials related to medical law and ethics
- Educational and training activities



4 Advocacy

- Written and oral
- Supporting and representing members in a variety of forums including local hearings involving issues such as clinical errors or performance concerns



Professional Characteristics

- Come from a wide range of clinical backgrounds
- Likely to have had at least five years of post-registration experience in addition to holding a relevant qualification in medical law
- Encouraged to sit the Membership of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine Parts 1 and 2 exams once sufficiently experienced
- Possess stamina, self-confidence and an eye for detail; be analytical with good communication and time management skills

