



## **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APIL LITIGATOR STATUS**

### **Profile**

Litigator membership of APIL is intended mainly for practitioners and paralegals who are new to PI litigation, and who may be newly qualified. They will run cases under supervision and will be undertaking further training and professional development to enhance their skills.

### **Gaining expertise**

A litigator accepts the responsibility to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills, through participation in continuing professional development as specified by APIL.

### **Applying to become a litigator**

Applicants who are members of the Solicitors Regulation Authority Personal Injury Accreditation Scheme will gain immediate entry at litigator level, providing we have written confirmation that this is the case and a signed declaration that the applicant will undertake 16 hours' APIL accredited training annually.

To become a litigator, an applicant must provide evidence of their involvement in PI work and evidence of some basic knowledge and understanding of the field. This is provided in two ways:

### **The application form**

On the application form, an applicant is asked to:

- Provide details of the nature and range of their current PI work
- List the different funding options they would consider
- Give evidence of their experience of case selection and analysis
- Demonstrate some knowledge of simple medical terminology likely to be encountered in PI work
- Explain how they have recently worked as part of a litigation team
- Give two accounts of cases they have conducted successfully

### **The reference**

A single reference is required, from the applicant's principal or head of department. The referee is asked to confirm that the:

- Applicant is handling PI cases that occupy at least 50% of their working time
- Applicant has an awareness and understanding of risk appropriate to their level of responsibility
- Applicant has a basic competence in the inter-personal skills needed to take instructions from clients

### **Evaluation**

Applications will be assessed by the APIL evaluation team against the criteria, using guidelines specified by the Academic Quality Council.