

Witness statements and gathering witness evidence:

The lessons that lawyers must learn from Hillsborough

Monday, 19 July 2021
09:00 - 10:00

An understanding of what happened in this case is essential to anyone involved in the task of collecting witness evidence in any civil case. It emphasises the amount of care that must be taken when a lawyer interacts with witnesses.

This webinar looks in detail at the major difficulties that arose from the way in which witness evidence was obtained following the Hillsborough disaster. It is probably the one case in which a solicitor who was involved in the witness gathering process stood trial (and was acquitted) for their work in preparing witness statements.

The webinar looks at:

- The initial process and subsequent amendments
- The early mixing of facts and opinion
- Confirmation bias
- The Coroner's inquest
- The subsequent criminal trial



Gordon Exall was called to the Bar in 1991 having originally qualified and practised as a solicitor. He practices from Kings Chambers.

He works almost wholly in the area of personal injury litigation and in the law relating to civil procedure, limitation and costs. He has a particular interest in issues relating to damages, evidence and the drafting of special damages schedules.

Gordon is a former executive committee member of APIL and has lectured widely for APIL and CPIL on personal injury and procedure topics. Gordon is the author of written Personal Injury Practice Notes (Cavendish); The APIL Guide to Fatal Accidents (4th edition); the 14th edition of Munkman and Exall on Damages, and Periodical Payments the New Law. He also writes the section on limitation for the APIL loose-leaf.

Gordon has appeared in several of the leading cases relating to procedure, service of the claim form and the assessment of damages.

Gordon writes the "Civil Litigation Brief", one of the most widely read sites on litigation, evidence and procedure.

In his spare time Gordon plays guitar and mandolin in a rock band (which has performed at APIL conferences). He has four children and lives in York.

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