



# Practical Course for Coroners & Judges Virtual Training Programme

## Aim:

The purpose of this course is to provide judges and coroners with the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare fully for investigation into deaths and to conduct inquests. The virtual course will also enable senior judges to supervise coroners in their work.

The CMJA and Civil Service College have come together to organise this practical course which will explain and discuss the law and procedure of coroners.

## By the end of the course, participants will have:

- Developed a full understanding of the essence of coroner investigation and inquests
- Learned how to prepare for an inquest
- Worked through the key points in conducting inquests
- Completed an exercise on a controversial death in custody
- Met virtually with a coroner and discuss their work
- Considered and discussed the specifics of their local coroner statutes



## Course Director: Sir Peter Thornton QC



Formerly head of the well-known Doughty Street Chambers in London, judge at the Old Bailey and in the Court of Appeal, His Honour Sir Peter Thornton QC became the first Chief Coroner of England and Wales (2012-2016). He is now a Visiting Professor at King's College London where he lectures on coroner law and practice.

As Chief Coroner he provided national leadership for coroners, initiated extensive reforms, conducted high profile inquests and sat in the High Court on inquest appeals including the Hillsborough case. He achieved a reduction of over 50% in the number of inquests not completed within 12 months from death.

Having previously provided training for nearly 1,000 coroners and coroners' officers, Peter Thornton now advises overseas territories on their coroner services and conducts coroner and judicial training. He has recently delivered courses in The Bahamas and The Gambia. He held a seminar on inquests at the CMJA Conference in Australia in 2018 and gave a well-received keynote speech (introduced by Chief Justice Maraga of Kenya) for the CMJA in Papua New Guinea in 2019 on judicial leadership.

He is a contributing editor of *Jervis on Coroners*, the leading textbook in the field.

# PROGRAMME OUTLINE

## Day 1 - Monday *(The organisers reserve the right to substitute, alter or replace any of the external speakers and amend the programme structure)*

<b>15:30 – 16:00</b> Welcome and Introduction to the Programme Dr Karen Brewer – CMJA HH Sir Peter Thornton OC	<b>17:30 – 18:30</b> Virtual Tour of Westminster Court
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b> The Essence of Coroner Law and Practice	<b>18:30</b> Close
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why have coroners and inquests?</li><li>• The purpose of an inquest</li><li>• The role of the coroner</li><li>• Hallmarks of a good inquiry and the outcome</li></ul>	

## Day 2 - Tuesday

<b>16:00 – 17:30</b> The Inquest Itself	<b>17:30</b> Close
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparation</li><li>• Witnesses and evidence</li><li>• Findings and conclusions</li><li>• Reports, recommendations</li></ul>	

## Day 3 - Wednesday

<b>16:00 – 17:30</b> Scenario: Death in Custody	<b>17:30 – 18:30</b> Talk: A Day in the Life of a Coroner – Senior Coroner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working through a Practical Example</li><li>• Discussing Variations and Options</li><li>• Learning through practical experience</li><li>• Avoiding Pitfalls</li></ul>	<b>18:30</b> Close

## Day 4 - Thursday

<b>16:00 – 17:30</b> Your Country's Coroner Law	<b>17:30 -</b> Close
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A discussion of your local statutes, rules and constitutions and their application in practice (please email in advance a copy of relevant sections on coroners and inquests)</li><li>• How to get the best out of your coroner law</li></ul>	

## Day 5 - Friday

<b>16:00 – 17:30</b> Judge craft and Leadership	<b>17:30 – 18:00</b> Closing Ceremony with CMJA and Civil Service College
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coroners at work, in court and out</li><li>• Seven maxims of judicial leadership (for judges and coroners)</li><li>• Senior judges supervising/training coroners</li></ul>	

**Duration: 10 hrs**

**Fees: £950**

**Date: 14-18 June 2021**

**Location: Virtual**

For further details and programme booking, please email Andrea Davis on [andrea@civilservicecollege.org.uk](mailto:andrea@civilservicecollege.org.uk) or telephone her on **+447980332036**

  
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