



# Practical Course for Coroners and 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 conduct inquests. This 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.



## 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.

DATE  
8-12 Nov '21

LOCATION  
Virtual

DURATION  
10 Hours

FEES  
£950

# Programme Outline

## Day 1 – Monday

15:30 – 16:00	<b>Welcome and Introduction to the Programme</b> Dr Karen Brewer – CMJA HH Sir Peter Thornton OC
16:00 – 17:30	<b>The Essence of Coroner Law and Practice</b> <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>
17:30 – 18:30	<b>Virtual Tour of Westminster Court</b>
18:30	Close

## Day 2 – Tuesday

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

## Day 3 – Wednesday

16:00 – 17:30	<b>Scenario: Death in Custody</b> <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>
17:30 – 18:30	<b>Talk: A Day in the Life of a Coroner – Senior Coroner</b>
18:30	Close

## Day 4 – Thursday

16:00 – 17:30	<b>Your Country's Coroner Law</b> <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>
17:30	Close

## Day 5 – Friday

16:00 – 17:30	<b>Judgcraft and Leadership</b> <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>
17:30 – 18:00	<b>Closing Ceremony with CMJA and Civil Service College</b>

The organisers reserve the right to substitute, alter or replace any of the external speakers and amend the programme structure. All timings are GMT (UK Time).