



# ADVANCED ADVOCACY for Solicitors 2018

A course to enhance Solicitor Advocacy in Northern Ireland

A dynamic week-long programme in Advocacy  
and detailed course in Evidence





*"I had heard a lot about the course and I had always intended to do it but never actually got around to signing up. When I eventually did sign up for it I found the course to be challenging and interesting but most of all enjoyable and rewarding. The course greatly increased my confidence in presenting cases in court and has reduced my dependence on counsel.*

*It was definitely the best CPD course I have done and I would certainly encourage anyone to do the course and to participate fully."*

**Kieran Barrett Solicitor**

*"I found the course challenging and it certainly takes you outside of your comfort zone, but in doing so it also provides you with the knowledge of what is needed for advocacy, the skills to be an advocate and the confidence to embrace the challenges ahead and to see them through to a successful conclusion."*

**Angela Maguire Solicitor**

*"As in-house legal advisor I found this course invaluable and of practical benefit particularly given my limited advocacy experience.*

*The course was very informative and it provided me with the necessary confidence in my own advocacy abilities.*

*I found the case scenario part of the course of immense benefit as it focuses on areas of law I do not have experience and the skills taught are very much transferable to other court or tribunal setting.*

*The course offers you the opportunity and space to critique your advocacy style so you can improve your presentation skills and therefore effectively represent your clients.*

*The tutors were all very approachable and encouraging.*

*I would highly recommend this course for anyone wishing to refresh or improve their presentation or advocacy skills."*

**Yvonne Bell Legal Adviser**

## ADVANCED ADVOCACY FOR SOLICITORS 2018

### About the Course

The Law Society of Northern Ireland is delighted to announce this highly regarded course in Advanced Advocacy for Solicitors.

The course consists of a series of lectures and workshops on evidence followed by a practical five day intensive course in Advanced Advocacy. The Advanced Advocacy Course is delivered by faculty members from the American National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and local tutors drawn from the Bench, Bar and Solicitors' Profession. The five day Advocacy Course utilises the highly respected methodology of the NITA organisation.

The number of participants is limited to ensure a tutor/participant ratio that is conducive to quality training.

The course is aimed at those who are admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in Northern Ireland and who have three years' post-qualification experience on 1 May 2018. It is anticipated that demand for places may exceed availability and in that event places will be allocated in accordance with selection criteria determined by the Advocacy Working Party.

The cost of attending the complete course is £1,600.

A Certificate in Advanced Advocacy will be awarded on successful completion of the course.

**This is a composite course and those hoping to receive the Certificate will be required to attend all the evidence lectures and workshops, successfully complete all coursework assigned to them, pass assessments and attend all five days of the Advanced Advocacy Course including the final court trial.**

**Reading in advance and assimilating all course materials is an essential prerequisite to the evidence sessions. Participants will be allocated into syndicate groups for discussion and will be required to be familiar with materials.**

### When and Where?

The series of evidence lectures will be delivered over two full Saturdays, namely **Saturday 19 May and Saturday 9 June 2018** plus an evening assessment on **Tuesday 19 June 2018**.

The five day practical course in Advanced Advocacy will be held from **Monday 3 September until Friday 7 September 2018**.

Court dress MUST be worn for the five days of the Advanced Advocacy Course in September.

The evidence lectures and the practical course will be held in a number of venues in Belfast.

 **ADVANCED  
ADVOCACY**

THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND





## ADVANCED ADVOCACY FOR SOLICITORS 2018

### Why should I attend?

This is the eighteenth year of this widely acclaimed course which has the wholehearted endorsement of the Law Society. The course has been emulated in our sister jurisdictions. The Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 includes provisions which will open up rights of audience in two ways: firstly by granting rights of audience to suitably qualified solicitors in the higher courts – the High Court and the Court of Appeal; secondly by facilitating the provision of enhanced fees in legally-aided cases for suitably qualified solicitors exercising rights of audience in certain designated courts and tribunals.

The entitlement to represent a client in court may in due course not be the exclusive preserve of the legal profession. In a more competitive environment we, as solicitors, must clearly indicate our competence. Major reforms in the areas of legal aid, both civil and criminal, will place demands upon the solicitors' profession to have a sizeable number of well qualified Advocates if we are to maintain a major role in all areas of litigation.

The changes in legal aid have provided an incentive for all firms intending to carry out legally assisted work to have at least one certified Advocate in the practice. Competence in advocacy is vital to ensure that Solicitor Advocacy is properly remunerated.

The Certificate in Advanced Advocacy will be duly accredited and validated by the Law Society. Full CPD hours will be awarded to all participants completing this course. By the end of this year more than 525 members of our profession will have been awarded a Certificate having completed this course. This allows those firms with Solicitor Advocates to deliver a complete legal service to clients. In Great Britain Solicitor Advocates are commonplace and conduct trials and hearings, both civil and criminal, at many levels, delivering a comprehensive legal service to clients and securing business growth and greater remuneration for their firms.

The course not only provides training in oral advocacy but also in written advocacy in recognition of its increased importance. Uniquely this course provides specific training on dealing with vulnerable witnesses.

Whatever work you are involved in, this course in Advanced Advocacy will enable you to improve and develop your advocacy skills, obtain an insight into those factors that make one a competent Advocate, and enhance your ability to provide effective representation of clients. The course this year will use a case file dealing with both civil and criminal issues.

### Involvement of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA)

We are extremely fortunate to be able to deliver this Advanced Advocacy Course in collaboration with NITA which is acknowledged as the premier provider of trial and courtroom skills training in the western world. NITA is a non-profit making body based at Boulder, Colorado, USA. It was set up to develop and promote methods and materials for trial advocacy and alternative dispute resolution and to promote quality legal representation by skilled, professional and ethical lawyers. The guiding philosophy of NITA teaching is learning by doing. Participants' performances are digitally recorded then critiqued, providing each individual with valuable feedback as to technique, style and strategy. The NITA trainers, known as faculty, include both practising lawyers and academics as well as serving and retired Judges. Senior members of NITA will once again be travelling to Northern Ireland to teach the course in September. All those who have participated in past years will vouch for the expertise and stimulus provided by the US faculty.

The US faculty is supported by our local faculty drawn from members of the judiciary and senior members of the profession from throughout these islands. In addition to a vast range of experience they have been trained in the NITA method and several are NITA accredited faculty members.



# ADVANCED ADVOCACY

## for Solicitors

### Booking Form

I wish to apply for registration for the Advanced Advocacy Course and enclose a cheque for **£1,600** which I understand becomes **non-refundable** when notification is sent to me of acceptance for the course.

I understand that **no refunds** will be made in the event that I do not attend or complete the course.

I understand that I have to attend on the following dates:

- **Saturday 19 May 2018** - full day Evidence Lectures
- **Saturday 9 June 2018** - full day Evidence Lectures
- **Tuesday 19 June 2018** - evening assessment
- **Monday 3 September to Friday 7 September 2018 inclusive.**

***I confirm that I will be available to attend on those dates. (Tick box)***

Title  First Name

Surname

Firm/Organisation

Correspondence Address

Postcode

Telephone  (Mobile)

Fax

Email

Number of full years' post qualification experience as a solicitor  
*(Must have 3 years' PQE at 1 May 2018)*

Signature

Date

**Please return to:** Advanced Advocacy Course Co-ordinator  
The Law Society of Northern Ireland  
Law Society House  
96 Victoria Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 3GN

**It is recommended that you return your application form as soon as possible.**

**Closing Date for Applications: 5.00pm on Thursday 29 March 2018.**

Cheques to be made payable to: The Law Society of Northern Ireland.

