

Reflections on medical negligence – Monday 11 January 2021

Dr Michael Powers QC

Dr Powers has had 40 years experience as an advocate (25 years as a QC) specialising in cases involving science, "toxic torts", medicine and pharmacology. He is a widely published author across these fields and the lead editor of *Clinical Negligence* (1990 to date) with the 6th edition due in 2022. As a qualified helicopter pilot (having held PPL(H) R22, R44 and EC120), he is experienced in the investigation of aviation accidents and arising litigation. He played a major role in the posthumous exoneration of the deceased pilots of the RAF Chinook (ZD576) which crashed on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994. As a former coroner, inquests and inquiries to uncover the truth are a passion. Although a trained and experienced mediator he has recently acted as an arbitrator, over a 2 year period, in a major international commercial arbitration where there were complex engineering issues. His practice extends to other common law jurisdictions, in particular in the Caribbean. During Covid, he has been engaged in clinical negligence trials overseas (Microsoft Teams) with judges, juniors, attorneys and experts situated in the UK, Europe, and the Americas. He is a Registered Medical Practitioner, a lead examiner in forensic medicine and elected Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians. He lectures on advocacy and is a Grade A advocacy teacher at Lincoln's Inn where he has been a Bencher since 1998.

Learning Objectives (medical negligence)

The evolution of quality control in medicine by:

- (i) Professional Regulation,
- (ii) Criminal liability, and
- (iii) Civil accountability in tort and contract

