



Isle Of Man

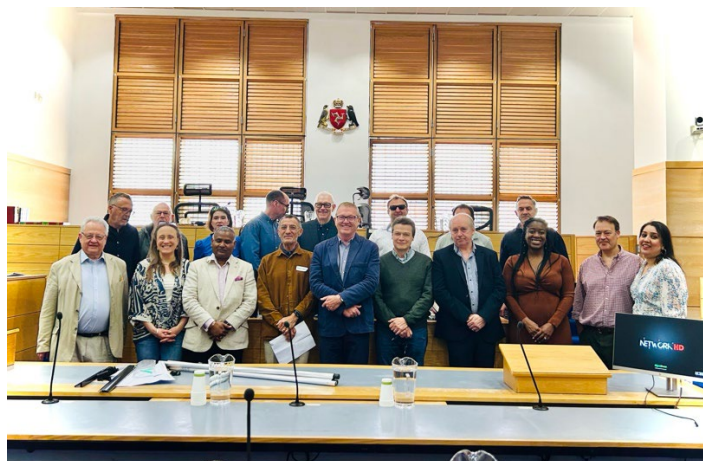


## Advocacy Training Report

### 1. Introduction

- a. This was the first trip to the Isle Of Man organised by the ICCA to help train local Advocates.
- b. The training program was arranged and led by Chris Melton KC; and the training was successfully delivered by 12 x UK Trainers and 1 x Trainer from Johannesburg in South Africa.
- c. As part of the training program, members of the Isle of Man judiciary participated.
- d. The training was held at the Isle of Man Courts of Justice Courthouse on the 02 & 03 May 2025.
- e. The purpose of the trip was to provide advocacy training alongside judicial intervention and observations, to develop and enhance the training skills of the local Advocates.

### 2. Trainers / Judiciary:



- a. Chris Melton KC, Head of International Training at ICCA was responsible for ensuring the course timetable and outcomes were achieved on both days. At times, Chris also joined in on the group sessions and offered judicial intervention and performance reviews.

- b. Training was successfully delivered in pairs by the following;-

1. James Gray	Eleanor Mawrey
2. Scott Matthewson	Govind Singh
3. Christopher Whitcutt SC	Stevn Perian KC
4. HHJ David Hodge KC	Jonathan Titmuss
5. Ben Boucher-Giles	Alan Robertshaw
6. Charlotte Pope-Williams	Helen Mulholland KC

- c. On behalf the Isle of Man, the following members of the judiciary were instrumental in offering their valuable observations and interventions from the bench;-

- i. Judge of Appeal, Anthony Cross KC
- ii. Deemster Andrew Corlett
- iii. Deemster John Needham
- iv. Deemster Graham Cook
- v. Deemster Seth Caine
- vi. Deemster Alan Gough
- vii. Deemster Chris Cope
- viii. Deputy High Bailiff Rachael Braidwood
- ix. Deputy High Bailiff Chris Arrowsmith

### **3. Attendance;-**

- a. Initially there were 14 trainers registered for the training; however, Keabatswe Mokotedi SC from Johannesburg, South Africa was unable to attend last minute, due to visa problems.
- b. It was anticipated that there would be 45 local Advocates attending the training course.
- c. On Day 1 of the training there were a few absentees; despite this, no significant changes were required to the group sessions.
- d. On Day 2, a small reshuffle of some of the attendees was necessary; this was due to planned absences and one or two unforeseen circumstances which had led to the local Advocates being unable to attend. As a result of this, the group

sessions were reduced to 4 rather than 5 sessions; and the two trainers joined other groups and assisted in the delivery of the remainder course.

#### 4. The Facilities:

- a. The Trainers' accommodation was split over two Hotels; the accommodation was pleasant and comfortable. There were no issues with checking in or the room allocation; both hotels were clean, had good reviews / ratings and breakfast was provided on each day. The locality of the accommodation was convenient as it was within walking distance of the Courthouse, making it easy for the trainers to get to and from the venue each day.
- b. The Isle of Man Courthouse provided the perfect base for the advocacy course to be delivered as it offered 5 large Court rooms which provided adequate space for the Advocates to demonstrate and practise the advocacy skills taught over the course.
- c. Members of the Isle of Man Judiciary, Court Staff and Vicki Unsworth were integral and responsive to any requests made during the Course.
- d. Catering over the two days was plentiful and did not disappoint.
- e. Day 1;-
  - i. Morning - Coffee was provided in a large room for the trainers, judiciary and local advocates together; this encouraged communication and familiarity with one another at the outset.



- ii. Lunch – This was laid out at the Isle of Man Law Society. The venue was small but provided an opportunity for our hosts to share their legal history with us.



- iii. Governors Reception – Formal invitations were received in the morning for a drinks reception at the Governors House. Our hosts were kind enough to transport us to and from Governor's House. Upon our arrival

at the House, we were all received by Sir John and his wife, Lady Lorimer. Drinks were flowing and there was an overflowing variety of canapes available. The Governor gave a speech which was received by all attendees. Chris responded on our behalf.







- iv. Dinner - Dinner was arranged for the Trainers at “Coast”, a restaurant within the Claremont Hotel. The food was delicious and menu wide ranging, which catered for everyone’s needs. For example, the vegan amongst us.



f. Day 2;-

- i. Morning - Coffee was once again provided in the morning, again promoting a friendly union between the Trainers, Judiciary and local Advocates.
- ii. Lunch – This was catered and provided for within the Courthouse building. Again, there was a large variety of sandwich options and abundant amount of food.

- iii. Dinner – Dinner was organised at a lovely restaurant called Wine Down. Here all the trainers, members of the judiciary and Court staff who had participated in the training course over the past two days, joined together in merriment. The food was delightful and wine was flowing.

## **5. The Training:**

- a. The advocacy course training was split over 2 days and into clear and easy segments. Day 1 of the training focused on case analysis and narrative advocacy. Day 2 concentrated on witness handling i.e. evidence in chief and cross examination.
- b. Chris Melton KC arranged a short meeting on the night before the training course commenced; this was extremely helpful as it allowed all trainers to collectively examine the case papers, delivery of the course and ensure a consistent approach would be adopted amongst the trainers.
- c. As indicated above, the training course was delivered with the assistance of members of the Isle of Man Judiciary. The strategy agreed and implemented was for the trainers to take it in turn to implement the Hampel method and offer constructive reviews to the local Advocates; and then the Members of the judiciary would offer judicial interventions as and when they saw fit, upon hearing the submissions delivered and witness handling.

## **6. The Course:**

- a. All trainers arrived the evening before Day 1 of the course. As set out above, an informal and relaxing briefing session took place on Thursday evening. Chris Melton KC led the discussions, by setting out the Course expectations and outcomes. It was particularly emphasised that whilst the Course had been designed to be improve and enhance the Advocates training skills, Trainers should equally ensure the training delivered was enjoyable whilst always offering focused Hampel reviews.
- b. On Day 1 of the Course, there was a welcoming plenary session held in Court 3 for all participates on the Course. The training course was opened by the ICCA Course Leader, Chris Melton KC, Judge of Appeal, Anthony Cross KC and Deemster Andrew Corlett.

- c. The opening speeches, each emphasised on the need for the local Advocates to dispense with formalities and any fears they held and to utilise the next two days to develop their skills by being open and receptive to the feedback that they would be receive from the Trainers. The content of the course and the Hampel method of training was touched upon and it was made clear that the Advocates should participate fully in each session in order to benefit from the course and to receive a certificate at the end.



together, an open dialogue was held on Case Analysis followed by a session for the Cohort's to apply case analysis principles to the case used for the training. Following lunch, a similar method was implemented, but this time in relation to closing speeches.



- e. On Day 2, a short plenary meeting was held in Court 3 in the morning. There was a slight adjustment to 3 local Advocates and 2 trainers; they were allocated to different groups due to those particular groups being too small to conduct the training as arranged. Once this small issue was resolved, all groups joined their trainers in their allocated Court rooms. A short talk on Evidence in Chief and Cross Examination took place; thereafter the local Advocates began the witness handling exercise by way of a Court room trial. Once again, the Hampel method was utilised to review the performance and offer constructive feedback. Day 2 concluded in Court 3 with everyone gathered together and Chris Melton KC, Judge of Appeal, Anthony Cross KC and Deemster Andrew Corlett offering closing speeches and general summing up.

## **6. Outcome:**

- a. The Advocates advocacy was greatly improved during this training course.
- b. Feedback received from other Trainers in the group was that most of the local Advocates had been prepared, were engaged and contributed to the breakout group discussions throughout the 2 Day Course.
- c. From engaging in conversations with the Advocates themselves over Day 1 and Day 2 during the lunch, breaks and the drinks reception at the Governors House, the local Advocates volunteered how they found the Training Course extremely informative, constructive and effective.

## **7. Trainers:**

- a. All the talks and discussions were initiated, led and delivered by the Trainers.



- b. The Isle of Man Judiciary's role was integral in the group exercises by offering real and valuable observations from the Bench.
- c. On Thursday evening during the informal briefing sessions, Trainers were reminded of the Hampel method and to ensure that this was implemented throughout the 2 Day Course. Given the number of experienced trainers on the Course, this informal refresher was considered sufficient for the Trainers to carry out their own Hampel reviews during group sessions.
- d. Following the conclusion of the training course, discussions held amongst the Trainers was that the advocacy training course would continue to be effective if the Judiciary and the ICCA were both fully engaged with the process. It is hoped that this will be achieved moving forward with the Isle of Man once again and other jurisdictions.

## **8. Overview:**

- a. This training trip was a success.
- b. The Advocates clearly benefitted from the course.
- c. This advocacy training trip had the support of the Isle of Man Judiciary at the highest level. Individual members of the Isle of Man Law Society and the Judiciary demonstrated a high level of personal commitment. This all bodes well for future advocacy training being sustainable in the Isle of Man.
- d. The team of Trainers also proved that they were all highly capable of delivering training in the Isle of Man. Overall, there was a very motivated group of Trainers who were committed to progressing and developing the local Advocates advocacy skills in the Isle of Man.
- e. The Training team worked well together and greatly enjoyed the company and enthusiasm of each other.
- f. It would be remiss not to mention the tremendous support provided to the Trainers and to the course itself by Ms. Vicki Unsworth. Her assured administrative and personal skills significantly contributed to the success of the training.
- g. The ICCA is extremely grateful to Grays's Inn for the exercise materials they provided; these proved to be extremely useful and focused.
- h. Chris Melton KC contributed substantially to the success of this trip, liaising with everyone involved both in the UK / South Africa and the Isle of Man and

committing many hours to its efficient organisation. He is a driving force behind this project.

**Govind Singh**  
**Junior Trainer**  
**05 May 2025**