**The Coroner Role & Preparing for a Coroner’s Inquest**

**Biography & Abstract**

**Mike O’Connell, Legal Services Practitioner**, has worked in the NHS in Yorkshire for 36 years, was Head of Legal Services at The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and is currently Interim Head of Legal Services at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust. Serious Incident Investigation-trained, he has been dedicated to the management of legal services for over 25 years, involving managing Clinical Negligence, Employers’ and Public Liability claims, providing advice and education to Trust staff in relation to medico-legal matters (including Coroner’s inquests and serious incidents), and the provision of staff support in such matters. In 2014, his team was voted The Legal 500 UK in-house team of the year for healthcare. An alumnus of the Capsticks Diploma in Clinical Risk and Claims Management (1997), Mike was Vice-Chair of the national Association of Litigation And Risk Management (ALARM) 2001 to 2003, then Chair from 2004 to 2007 and again in 2009/2010, assisting in its transition to become the Patient Safety Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. Mike also established and hosted the Litigation/Risk Management Network (North East) from its inception in 1995 to 2017. **Qualifications**: BA (Hons), DipRM.

**Preparing for and giving evidence at Coroner’s Inquest**

This session provides, in a very practical and user-friendly style, essential guidance for potential witnesses at coroner’s inquest, for those supporting them, and for staff in general seeking to understand how a coroner’s inquest works in reality. Including a small breakout section for interaction and debate, the session comprises:

* **how to provide a good witness statement**
* **preparing yourself/your staff for an inquest**
* **how an inquest works in practice**
* **giving effective evidence in court**
* **inquest conclusions and links with Serious Incident investigations.**

****