



EXPERT WITNESS TRAINING PROGRAM

14-15 MARCH 2026 - SYDNEY, NSW

Course Overview

Aim

The aim of this course is for health care practitioners to develop the skills required to provide evidence to the Court as an expert witness.

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of the various members of the legal profession involved in the court process.
- Write an expert medicolegal report that satisfies the requirements of the Court.
- Differentiate between 'hearsay', fact and opinion as forms of evidence.
- Plan and prepare to provide oral evidence in the courtroom.
- Integrate the theory provided in the prereading and interactive lectures with the practical delivery of expert evidence via role play (Courtroom Moot).
- Show the ability to describe a technical medical issue to lay people, avoiding the use of medical jargon.

Teaching Faculty

- TBC soon

Pre-requisite

The [ACLM Expert Report Writing course](#) is a pre-requisite to attend the Expert Witness Training Program. You will be required to provide evidence that you have already attended the ACLM Expert Report Writing course to be accepted into this Expert Witness Training Program.

Location / Delivery Mode / Duration

Sydney CBD, NSW. Venue TBC soon.

This session is confirmed for 14 March 2026 but may extend until midday on 15 March 2026 depending on the number of participants. You must plan to attend the entire 1.5 days if necessary. We aim to confirm the exact duration by the end of January. We recommend booking flexible travel until the duration is confirmed.

Fees

AUD \$1,090 ACLM members (inc. GST) | AUD \$1,290 Non-members (inc. GST)

Cancellation Policy

A refund less \$150 administration fee will be provided for all cancellations received at least 30 days prior to the start date. Any cancellations after this point will be non-refundable. Please do not attend if you are sick with a contagious illness. If you cannot attend due to illness we will issue a credit note to attend the next available course.



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About the Course

Legal Medicine encompasses the interchange between medicine and law and nowhere is this more apparent than when clinicians are invited to provide expert witness testimony. This is provided as either the treating clinician or to provide an independent assessment of a circumstance within the domain of the clinician's expertise.

Being an expert witness requires providing a report and/or attending a court or tribunal and is often stressful for the clinician concerned. The Australasian College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) runs an Expert Report Writing Course and Expert Witness Training Program to familiarise medical professionals as to what is required within such real-world situations.

Lectures

The Expert Witness Training Program includes didactic lectures to offer advice as to what is expected of the expert by the barrister and the adjudicator (such as the judge). It instructs the clinician how to behave within set situations. There is also provision of didactic / interactive advice from an experienced expert witness.

Pre-course Submitted Report

Each participant is expected to submit a de-identified court-ready report at few weeks prior to the course. These reports are critically marked to provide advice as to how they can be improved and they serve as a basis to be led and cross-examined in a moot (a mock trial) involving real lawyers in a courtroom environment.

Moot Court

The Moot Court is based on the case reports/material submitted by each candidate which the 'expert' marks and provides to each of the barristers and the judge before the day. The barristers alternate between leading and cross examining. Before each candidate enters the witness stand they are asked to give an overview of the material facts of the case in which they are appearing as a witness, in order for the audience to understand the nature of the case. After each moot, the performance of the candidate is openly discussed with all participants invited to comment and a summary given before the start of the next case. The marked reports are returned to the candidates upon completion of the course.





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Pre-course Activities

As part of this Activity, participants are expected to complete reading and activities as described below. A recommendation of time required is provided as a guide. CPD hours are allocated in accordance with these times.

Mandatory pre-reading

1 hour recommended

- Beran RG. *Preparing a Legal Medicine Expert Witness Report in Australia*, J Forensic Leg Investig Sci 2025, 11: 104 DOI: 10.24966/FLIS-733X/100104 (Emailed to participants)
- Buchanan, D. *Giving Expert Evidence in Court* (Emailed to participants)
- (Psychiatrists relevant) Guthell TG, Hilliard JT. *The treating psychiatrist thrust into the role of expert witness*, Psychiatric Services 2001; 52 (11): 1526 – 1527 (Emailed to participants)
- ACLM Preparation for Moot Court Checklist (Emailed to participants)
- ACLM Expert Report Writing Checklist (Emailed to participants)

Additional resources

- Codes of Conduct for Expert Witnesses – <https://legalmedicine.com.au/resources/expert-witness-code-of-conduct/>
- Using the “Hot Tub”: How Concurrent Expert Evidence Aids Understanding Issues – <https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/digital-law-library/judges-speeches/speeches-former-judges/justice-raises/raises-j-20131012>
- Freckelton I. *Expert Evidence: Law Practice, Procedure & Advocacy*, Thomson Reuters, 7th Edition, 2023

Mandatory submission: De-identified report & attachments

8 hours recommended preparation + 1 hour reflection

Three documents must be submitted by the stated deadline: **Due Friday 20 February 2026.**

1. A de-identified or fictitious expert report/statement
2. Brief explanatory notes
3. Report Overview Proforma

Detailed instructions are sent following booking confirmation.



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Continuing Professional Development

The following CPD information applies to a 1 day session. It will be adjusted as necessary for a 1.5 day session.

ACLM CPD Program recognition:

18 hours, Relevant to Legal or Forensic Medicine

CPD home submissions:

The following allocations are suggested by ACLM and will be shown on the attendance certificate. It is up to the attendee to check that the activity meets their own CPD home's requirements and to allocate the activity type according to their CPD home's guidelines.

Educational Activity: 5.5 hours

Reviewing Performance: 10.5 hours

Measuring Outcomes: 2 hours

Total: 18 hours

Program Level Requirements met:

- Maintaining and developing professionalism

Osler CPD home recognition:

This activity is an Osler Approved Activity for the Osler CPD Home.



ACLM does not upload activities to CPD homes on behalf of participants. You must self-submit to your CPD home to claim points.



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Program

The program times below are listed in local Sydney time - Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time (NSW).

Saturday - 14 March 2026		
Time	Session	Speaker
8:30 am	<i>Sign-in</i>	
9:00 am	Welcome and pre-reading refresher (15 mins)	ACLM Expert/Facilitator
9:15 am	Expectation of a witness from a Barrister & Solicitor (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complying with a subpoena• The practice of giving evidence in court• Ethical issues	Barrister
10:00 am	<i>Tea break (15 mins)</i>	
10:15 am	Expectation of a witness from a Judge (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Admissibility of evidence• Differences between 'hearsay', fact and opinion• What the judge seeks from an expert witness	Judge
11:00 am	Requirements of an Expert Witness (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What the expert witness needs from the lawyer• Preparation for court	ACLM Expert
11:45 am	<i>Lunch (60 mins)</i>	
12:45 pm	Courtroom Moot (5 moots x 20 mins each)	Judge Two Barristers lead and cross examine Moderator
2:30 pm	<i>Afternoon tea (30 mins)</i>	
3:00 pm	Courtroom Moot (5 moots x 20 mins each)	(as above)
4:45 pm	Closing comments	ACLM Expert/Facilitator
5:00 pm	<i>Court close</i>	

This program shows a 1 day program, with a maximum of 10 participants. If there are more than 10 participants, the Moots will resume at 9am on Sunday 15 March 2026, until midday at the latest.