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19 November 2014

To whom it may concern

It is my pleasure to certify that I have had the benefit of working with Mr Ramzi Freij as an expert witness and that I regard him as eminently suitable as an expert in Accident and Emergency Medicine as envisaged by CPR Part 35.

My contact with Mr Freij has most recently been in relation to a clinical negligence case where I was acting for a Trust on instruction of the NHS Litigation Authority, involving an acute abdomen. Mr Freij was involved from the initial investigative stage, through to a five-day hearing in the Birmingham High Court. Mr Freij's contribution was invaluable, not only in providing written advice in the matter at the outset, but in addressing the queries and issues raised by the legal team from a medico-legal perspective as the matter developed through the service of proceedings, preparation of the defence, consideration of factual witness evidence as exchanged, including Bolitho evidence, serving formal expert reports under CPR Part 35, addressing agenda for the experts' joint meeting, participating in such meetings, and preparation of a suitable minute. Mr Freij was particularly adept in narrowing outstanding issues between the A&E Consultant experts.

Mr Freij's contribution at pre-trial conference was invaluable in maintaining objectivity and focus on the relevant medico-legal issues as they pertained to A&E medicine. His academic prowess is beyond question, but his unique contribution is his ability to apply the legal standards applicable to clinicians in practice in an A&E Department from a practical perspective, drawing on his own clinical experience. It is my experience that at no time does Mr Freij fall into the trap of opining from the vestige of an ivory tower. Certainly his evidence in Court was of particular benefit to the presiding judge in evaluating the matter in a realistic framework.

Of particular note is Mr Freij's passion and belief in his chosen field of medicine and the personal, yet pragmatic, approach which he displays. His interaction with the legal team, other experts, and clinicians is at all times professional, yet the personal voice of experience shines through.

Logistically, Mr Freij is always ready to address questions which arise, and I have found his advice and explanations of immense value as they are always substantiated by literature where necessary and practical experience. He does not shy away from considering alternative opinions, or addressing sensitive issues, and readily expresses alternative schools of thought, providing clear and concise reasoning for his own views.

Birmingham Exeter London Manchester Nottingham

Personally, I have found working with Mr Freij to be both an honour and a pleasure, as he is both a scholar and gentleman. I have no hesitation in endorsing him as a CPR Part 35 expert.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Toulmin van Sittert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "T".

David Toulmin van Sittert

For and on behalf of Browne Jacobson LLP