



Seminar Specification: Skills for Legal Writing

Overview

This is the specification for Forum Legal's one-day *Skills for Legal Writing* seminar.

The focus of the written skills element of the seminar is legal writing, with particular emphasis on contract drafting.

The seminar has two aims:

- (1) to act as a refresher course in respect of the key areas of written legal English usage; and
- (2) to provide further tools for participants to increase their effectiveness in legal drafting and legal communications.

The seminar includes an element of non-compulsory participation, in the form of practical exercises aimed at testing skills in each area discussed.

Training techniques

Each participant will be provided with a comprehensive *seminar coursebook* in electronic format prior to the seminar. The *seminar coursebook* draws on our expertise and years of experience of teaching legal English. In addition to exercises to be carried out during the seminar, it contains comprehensive notes on the areas covered. It will therefore be a useful reference resource after the seminar has ended.

Legal English (published by Cavendish-Routledge), written by our managing partner, Rupert Haigh, is a comprehensive guide to legal English. This book can be purchased from the Routledge website (www.routledge.com) or from Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk).

The trainer

The seminar will be conducted by Forum Legal's managing partner, Rupert Haigh.

Rupert Haigh holds an MA (Master of Arts) (1996) in English from Cambridge University and an LLM (Master of Laws) (2001) from Helsinki University. He completed the Common Professional Examination in Law at Bournemouth University and obtained the Diploma of Legal Practice at the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice. He qualified as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 1997.

Rupert has three years' experience as a practising solicitor in England. He holds a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate and has been training legal professionals both in Finland and in other European countries since 2002.

In addition, he is the author of books on legal English, including the *Oxford Handbook of Legal Correspondence* (OUP, 2006), and *Legal English* (Cavendish-Routledge 2004).

Venue

Our clients usually prefer to conduct this one-day seminar at their offices in order to allow lawyers to check email, take telephone calls and deal with other daily work when not participating in the seminar.

On the other hand, some clients prefer to conduct the seminar outside the office in order to escape the interruptions that are an inevitable part of legal practice and focus more intensively on the topics at hand. Therefore, we are very happy to conduct this seminar at any other venue notified to us on reasonable notice.

Suggested content & timetable

The duration of the training is one day (7 hours), with suggested content and timetable as set out below.

Please note that the both the timetable and the topics covered may be tailored to suit your needs more closely – contact us to discuss this matter.

Content

Basic elements of legal English

- Basics of legal language: terms of art, easily confused words, foreign words used in legal English, problem words, key abbreviations.
- Key words and phrases: terms of art, Latin terminology, easily confused words, problem words and phrases, business buzzwords.
- Legal writing standards: numbers, dates, abbreviations, citations.

Principles of legal writing style

- Achieving clarity, consistency, and effectiveness in drafting. Differences in approach between drafting of documents and letters.
- Construction of argument: key link words and phrases, words of statement.
- What to avoid: sexist language, ambiguity, constantly litigated words, jargon, nominalisations, over-defining.

Contract overview: principles, structure, content, language

- Recurring content of commercial contracts: examination of the key types of boilerplate clauses.
Language I: conditions, obligations, authorisations and limitations and how to draft them.
- Language II: key terminology, drafting conventions, problem identification.

Timetable

The suggested timetable is as follows. This may of course be adjusted on request.

9.30 – 10.00: Introductions and overview
10.00 – 11.00: training
11.00 – 11.15: break & refreshments
11.15 – 13.00: training
13.00 – 14.00: lunch
14.00 – 15.30: training
15.30 – 15.45: break & refreshments
15.45 – 16.30: training
16.30 – 17.00: conclusions and wrapping-up 9.30 – 11.00: training

Price & terms

The fee for the seminar is €150 per hour plus travel and accommodation where required.

The fee must be paid in full on booking the seminar. If it becomes necessary for you to cancel the seminar, this must be notified in writing to us. Refunds are made on the following basis:

- 1) A full refund, *less administration charges of €50*, will be made in the case of cancellations made no later than 28 days before the date on which the seminar is scheduled.
- 2) A refund of 60% of the fee will be made for cancellations made between 28 and 14 days before the date on which the seminar is scheduled.
- 3) A refund of 30% of the fee is made for cancellations notified less than 14 days before the seminar is due to take place.

In the event that we have to cancel the seminar, a full refund will be made to you.

Contact details

If you would like further information or require assistance on any matter, please do not hesitate to contact the trainer for this seminar, Rupert Haigh, by email (rupert.haigh@forum-legal.com) or telephone (+358 44 088 1177).