**Magistrates Court: Mock Trial Training Session**

**Introduction**

Tackling avoidance and challenging landlords has inevitably led to an increase in the frequency of fully disputed liability order hearings.

Presenting the council’s evidence in an organised and cohesive manner is crucial to giving you the best chance of winning the case. Being cross-examined by the opposition’s barrister can also be a daunting experience.

The local authority team at Greenhalgh Kerr in conjunction with Tom Gosling, a barrister experienced in dealing with disputed business rates matters, is running a **free** training session to help councils prepare a successful case.

Using the background and circumstances of an actual case, we are running a **mock** trial during which council court officers will have the opportunity to take part by both giving evidence and being cross-examined in relation to their evidence.

**Schedule**

General introduction (30 mins):

* basic procedures at trial;
* court etiquette;
* presenting the council’s evidence and the burden of proof.

Mock hearing (2 hours):

* giving evidence in chief;
* handling cross-examination and re-examination;
* summing up and questioning the opponent.
* There will be time for several volunteers to take part. **If you are interested please let us know in advance.** The hearing will be stopped at key sections to allow the barrister to comment on how the case is running and take any questions.

Conclusion (30 mins):

* Dealing with the issue of costs at the conclusion of the hearing.
* Questions arising from any aspect of the court procedure and hearing that has taken place.

**Case and Background**

Prior to the session, all attendees will be given a pack of information including the council’s evidence and the debtor’s evidence so that you can be fully briefed on the case in advance.

**Arrangements**

The training session will take place on at **10am Wednesday 26th September 2018 at Dudley Council offices**. The event is free of charge to councils. We anticipate finishing at 1pm, and lunch will be provided afterwards.

Please email irrvwma@googlermail.com with names and email addresses of those who wish to attend.