



2016 Spring Course: Using Mediation Skills as a Professional

Participant Biographies for Assessment Stage

Lin Bunten, Head of Operations, SEPA: Lin is a Chartered Engineer and Member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers and, having recently reacquired a garden, an obsessive gardener. With ten years industrial experience with ICI in the North East of England Lin joined the Scottish Environment Protection Agency in May 1999. She is the Head of Operations for the East of Scotland but for the last two years has been focussing on resolving difficult issues and leading strategic relationships.

Lynsay Cargill, Senior Associate, MacRoberts LLP: Lynsay is a Senior Associate within the Commercial Dispute Resolution group at MacRoberts. She is instructed in a range of commercial disputes in the Sheriff Court, Court of Session, Scottish Land Court and Lands Tribunal. Her usual work includes contract disputes, professional negligence and insurance matters, property litigation and intellectual property disputes. She is a member of the Property Litigation Association and the Young Mediators Group. Lynsay has just returned to work following maternity leave and is adjusting to juggling the demands of work and a 1 year old!

Katriona Carmichael, Head of Supporting Democracy & Reform, Scottish Government: Katriona currently heads up the Scottish Government's work on public service reform and the commitment to more open, participative forms of democracy. She has held a number of roles across government, including leading teams in equality, economic strategy and schools policy. A geographer by background, through work and life, she has built a strong commitment to values of fairness and equality and the fundamental importance of having control and hope in life.

Michael Cooper, Legal Counsel, Royal Bank of Scotland: Michael joined RBS Litigation as Legal Counsel in December 2014. He was previously a member of Pinsent Masons' litigation and regulatory team. At RBS, Michael is responsible for advising internal clients on litigation, dispute resolution and contentious regulatory matters. His workload ranges from small claims issued by party litigants to large scale and complex commercial litigations and regulatory investigations. Before joining RBS, Michael spent 12 months in Sydney, doing as little work and as much surfing as possible. Outside of work, Michael's interests include rugby, surfing and waging a never-ending DIY war with his house.

Alan Gibson, HR Director: Alan is a Human Resources Director with 30 years' experience in a variety of senior HR roles. Latterly he was the Group HR Director at Tullis Russell Group, an employee owned manufacturing group with operations in the UK and South Korea. He has a Master's degree in HRM and has worked in senior roles with UK and US owned multi-national companies, such as Bae Systems; Scottish & Southern Energy; NCR and Freescale Semiconductor. His most recent focus has been on talent and change management.

Jenni Hunter, Solicitor, Royal London Group: Jenni is a solicitor in Royal London's in-house Legal team, based in Edinburgh. She focuses mainly on commercial contract work, but also advises the business on a range of other commercial matters. She qualified as a solicitor in 2012 with Pinsent Masons and worked as a solicitor in the IP/IT team at CMS Cameron McKenna for two years prior to moving to Royal London. Outside of work she developed a love of sport representing Scotland for swimming as a junior, and is now a keen runner and enjoys yoga. She got married last year and is currently enjoying settling into her new flat.



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Stephen Kynaston, Director, SK Contract Solutions Limited: Stephen Kynaston is a commercial and contract professional with 25 years' experience in the construction industry. He graduated from Strathclyde University with an LLM in Construction Law and in more recent years has been involved in dispute resolution, including mediation, litigation, arbitration and adjudication. He is experienced in building, civil engineering, infrastructure, oil and gas, petrochemical, ports, rail, renewables (onshore and offshore), schools, stadiums and tunnelling projects. Stephen is married with two young children. He swims, cycles and runs regularly and enjoys clay pigeon shooting and skydiving although not at the same time.

Victoria Marr, Legal Counsel, Royal Bank of Scotland: Vicky works in the RBS Litigation team as Legal Counsel. Prior to that, she worked at HBJ Gateley dealing mainly with debt recovery and insolvency cases. She was seconded to the RBS Global Restructuring Group and then to the RBS litigation team before joining the bank permanently in March 2014. Vicky advises internal clients on a variety of matters, from complaints and small claims to large commercial litigations. Before becoming a solicitor, Vicky worked at Greggs for 7 years resolving complex disputes between warring customers who had simultaneously ordered the last sausage roll. Outside of work Vicky enjoys running, snowboarding and watching her local football team.

John McNairney, Chief Planner, Scottish Government: Over the last thirty years John has practiced as a town planner, working in local and in central government and in consultancy. John has been Chief Planner at the Scottish Government since 2012 where he heads the planning and architecture functions. In his role, he supports Scottish Ministers in the development of national planning policy and legislation, in system wide improvement and promoting place quality. Resolution of competing interests, both in terms of policy development and delivery of major projects, is a significant part of John's role.

David Sheldon QC: David was born and brought up in Dundee and studied law at the University in Aberdeen from 1983 to 1988. He trained as a solicitor in Edinburgh with Pairman Miller & Murray WS then taught in the Department of Private Law at Edinburgh University from 1990 to 1997, latterly being appointed Associate Dean. He has published widely in peer reviewed journals, written a number of well-known legal textbooks, and contributed to reference works including Court of Session Practice and the Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia. He called to the Scottish Bar in 1998 and took silk in 2013. His principal areas of practice include planning and environmental law, judicial review, contractual and commercial disputes, land law and compulsory purchase, personal injury, and general reparation including property and environmental damage. He has appeared in the Supreme Court, as well as all the major Scottish courts and tribunals. He was a Standing Junior to the Scottish Government from 2002 until taking silk in 2013. In his spare time, he is a keen cyclist and occasional runner and sings in a local choir, the Edinburgh Singers.