



Core's Mediation Skills Training – Spring 2018
Course Participant Biographies



Jennie Chinembiri, Africa and Caribbean Secretary, Church of Scotland, World Mission Council

Jennie is responsible for the relationships the Church of Scotland has in Africa and the Caribbean. She is currently working on a project to help train the Church in South Sudan in mediation and reconciliation. She started her career on the graduate scheme for BT working in procurement, operations and project management. She took voluntary redundancy in 2008 as she wanted to move into the charitable sector. She had a brief stint working for Breakthrough Breast Cancer before moving to the Church of Scotland. She is married with two small children.



Gary Coutts, Chair of University Court, University of the Highlands and Islands

Garry left school at 16 to work as a brewery laboratory technician. Although retaining a passion for beer his interest in lab work dwindled as he became involved in local politics.

Elected the youngest councillor in Edinburgh in 1984 he served for 12 years before moving north with his family. He surprised himself by standing for Highland Council, serving 8 years.

He was chair of NHS Highland and the Scottish Social Services Council and currently chairs both Children's Hearings Scotland and the University of the Highlands and Islands' Court.

He runs training courses on media management and communications.



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Antonia Grieve, Associate, Addleshaw Goddard LLP

Antonia Grieve is a commercial litigation Associate at international law firm, Addleshaw Goddard. She is based in Edinburgh and specialises in finance disputes, insolvency litigation, and general contractual disputes. Antonia has experience in contentious matters of securing positive judgments in the Scottish courts and resolving commercial disputes through mediation. Having spent a period on secondment to the Royal Bank of Scotland's in-house litigation team, Antonia has experience of instructing litigation in a variety of countries from a client's perspective. Antonia graduated from the University of Dundee, and qualified as a solicitor in 2013.



Elspeth Hough, Head of Business and Strategy, Children and Families Directorate, Scottish Government

Elspeth studied French and Mediaeval History at the University of St Andrews and Linguistics at the University of Paris III at the end of the last century. She taught English as foreign language and worked briefly in IT before joining the Scottish Government at its time of expansion in 2000. Since then, she has worked in a range of policy areas including tax, UK and European relations, fisheries and relocation policy. Since 2014, Elspeth has supported the Director for Children and Families as the Head of Business and Strategy Unit. Elspeth took the first part of her mediation training in 2013 and is keen to complete the training if a little nervous!



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Lewis Shand Smith, CEO and Chief Ombudsmen, Ombudsmen Services

Lewis Shand Smith was appointed Chief Executive and Chief Ombudsman of the Ombudsman Service Ltd in 2009. The Ombudsman Service is approved or appointed by the relevant authorities to resolve complaints in the energy, communications, property, and copyright licensing sectors, amongst others. He also chaired the Ombudsman Association and is the chair of the National Energy Ombudsman Network (NEON). Previously, he was Deputy Ombudsman with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman — a Crown appointment. From 1990 to 1999 Lewis was a member of Shetland Islands Council, becoming Convener/Leader in 1994. He has served as a non-executive director or trustee with a number of companies and charities. He is a former Vice-President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, was a member of the Executive of the Scottish Constitutional Convention, and represented the UK on the European Committee of the Regions.