



2017 Summer School: Using Mediation Skills as a Leader

Course Participant Biographies



Lesley Boyd, Director of Development & Alumni Relations, The Edinburgh Academy

After graduating from the University of Glasgow, Lesley Boyd received her management training with Marks & Spencer before joining Scottish Opera as a singer, then as Company Manager. She formed consultancy Pitch Perfect in 1995 fulfilling a wide range of contracts for a variety of arts, corporate and public sector companies before entering the world of Development, firstly with the University of Strathclyde and now with The Edinburgh Academy where she has a broad remit covering 'everything nobody else does' but principally fund-raising.



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.



Lesley Irving, Head of Equality Policy, Scottish Government

Lesley has been Head of Equality Policy in the Equality Human Rights & Third Sector Division of the Scottish Government since March 2013. She joined the then Scottish Executive on secondment in 2000, as a consultant working to progress their work on domestic abuse and violence against women. Previously, Lesley worked for local women's aid groups and also Scottish Women's Aid, where she was the Publicity & Education Worker, with responsibility for raising awareness nationally about domestic abuse. Lesley was a founder member of the Scottish Partnership on Domestic Abuse which produced Scotland's (and the UK's!) first domestic abuse strategy.

Since joining the Equality Unit in January 2003, she has held a number of posts covering areas such as race, religion and refugee integration, gender equality, violence against women, and LGBTI equality.



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Inglis Lyon, Managing Director, Highlands and Islands Airports

Inglis Lyon is the 52 year old CEO for Highlands and Islands Airports having joined them in 2005. The Company employs 600 staff on twelve sites across the Highlands and Islands.

Prior to that he was the Managing Director for Stagecoach East based in the Midlands and responsible for public transport operations in Cambridge and Oxford. Whilst working for Stagecoach he also spent time in Kenya as the Managing Director for their overseas bus operations.

Based in Inverness Inglis is married to Tracey and has daughters Amy and Leah



Alastair Moir, Solicitor, Mills & Co Solicitors Limited

Alastair is a shipping solicitor with a mixed practice of dry shipping and commodity trade litigation in the English High Court and in London Arbitration. Alastair advises ship owners, charterers, P&I Clubs, and traders. His recent experience includes several GAFTA and FOSFA arbitrations as well as various LMAA multi-party dry shipping matters.



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Dr Niamh O'Connor, Primary Care Division, Scottish Government

Dr Niamh O'Connor currently heads up the Scottish Government policy team responsible for the national negotiation of the GP contract with the British Medical Association in Scotland. Prior to this she worked as a Government Analyst for a number of years, most recently leading the Evaluation of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland.



Charlie Simpson, Communications and Leadership Coach, GSB Comms

Charlie practiced at the Bar for four years before becoming a professional actor in 1990.

In 2003 he started coaching communication skills under the banner of GSB Comms. He works with clients ranging from finance to professional services to electron microscopy to industrials to fashion. He typically works with senior management in pressured situations – Management presentations, large pitches, fund raisings etc.

Charlie is a CEDR accredited mediator (although he does not formally practise). In 2016 he co-founded the LEADA Foundation, which runs a leadership programme for senior leaders in West Africa.



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Florinda Soldani, Associate, Maclay Murray & Spens

Florinda is an Associate in Maclay Murray & Spens' Commercial Dispute Resolution team, based in Aberdeen. Florinda has experience in a broad range of contentious matters with a particular focus on commercial contract disputes including warranty and other claims arising from business sales. Florinda also has experience acting in contentious insolvency matters, personal injury claims, property disputes, defamation actions and disputes arising out of fraud and/or breaches of fiduciary duties. She recognises that the majority of disputes can, and ultimately will, be settled and that it is important to understand the motivation/psychology of parties in order to achieve that.



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.



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Cameron Stewart, Head of Local Government Policy and Relationships Unit, Local Government and Analytical Services Division, Scottish Government

Cameron joined the Scottish Government in 2003 from the Department for Work and Pensions. Initially working on European Structural Funds, Cameron moved into an information management role where he attained a qualification in project management. Cameron then joined the Civil Service Fast Stream Development Programme where his roles included working on the Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services (Christie Commission). Subsequently he led on three major pieces of legislation in the Government's Justice Directorate including the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. Currently Cameron leads the team with responsibility for the Government's policy on local government.



Dr. Sarah Whittaker-Howe, Clinical Psychologist

Sarah is a Clinical Psychologist expert in the psychological consequences and recovery from organised violence and gross human rights abuses. She has considerable experience both within the public and charitable sectors providing psychological interventions to those suffering trauma reactions to events such as torture, sexual violence and combat. She also provides expert witness for war crimes investigations and asylum tribunals. Sarah has a strong commitment to non-profit organisations working within conflict zones. She is partnered with several organizations in the Middle East and Africa, providing consultation and training that address the mental health needs of war affected communities and refugee populations.