

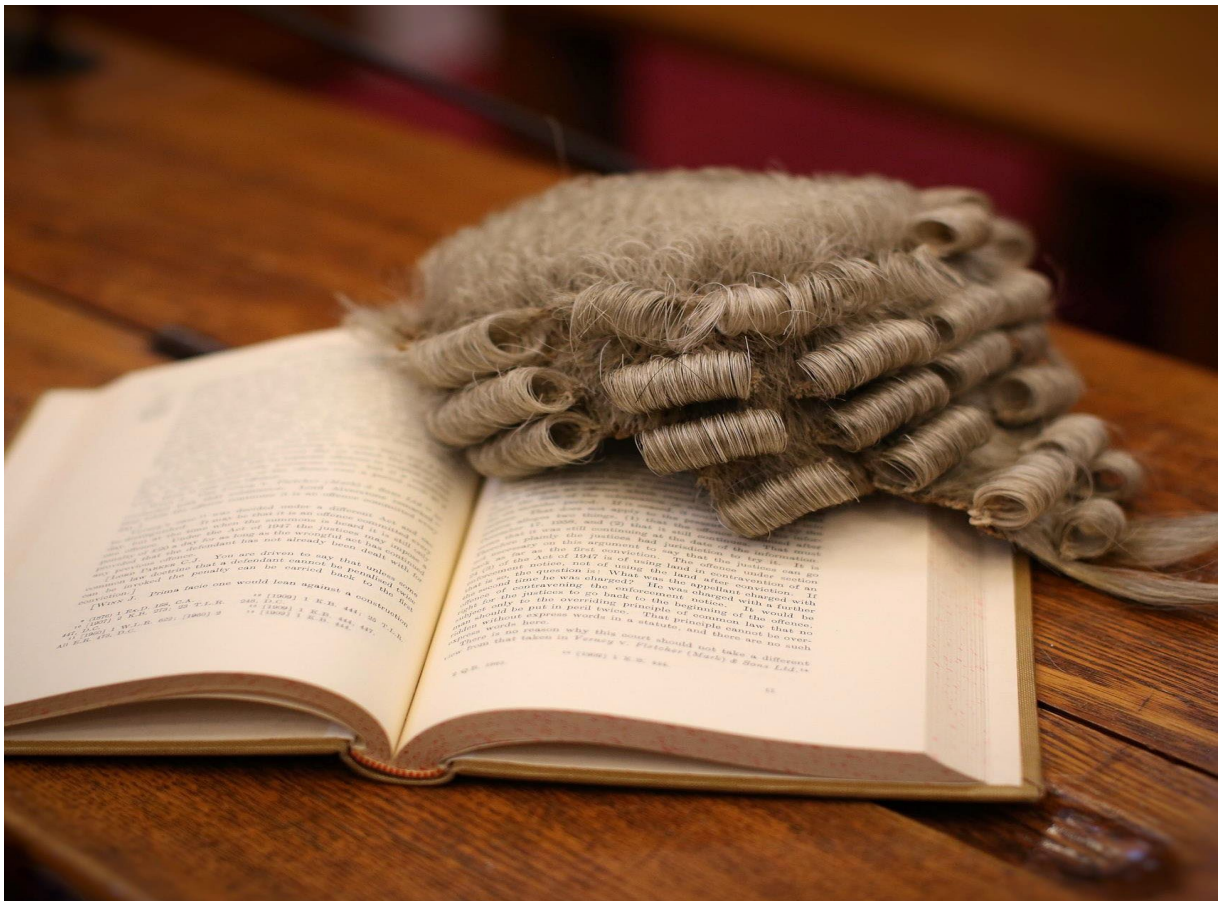
Judicial Office
for Scotland



THE ROLE OF A SHERIFF

VIRTUAL EVENT

23 October 2024
17:30 – 19:10



Programme

17:30 – 17:35	Introduction by Sheriff Principal Kate Dowdalls KC, Sheriff Principal of South Strathclyde Dumfries and Galloway and Judicial Board Member, JABS
17:35 – 17:55	Overview of the Recruitment Process by Liz Burnley, Lay Board Member, JABS and Sheriff Principal Kate Dowdalls KC
17:55 – 18:10	Sheriff Jane Farquharson KC
18:10 – 18:25	Sheriff Robert Fife
18:25 – 18:40	Sheriff Amel Elfallah
18:40 – 18:50	Sheriff Adrian Cottam, Deputy Director, Judicial Institute for Scotland
18:50 – 19:00	Q&A Session
19:00	Closing Remarks by Sheriff Principal Kate Dowdalls KC

Profiles

Sheriff Principal Kate Dowdalls KC

Kate Dowdalls KC is a graduate of the University of Strathclyde. After completing her traineeship, she spent 13 years as a solicitor in private practice. She was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 2000 and took silk in 2013. She was appointed Scottish Law Commissioner in July 2018, to lead the Aspects of family law project.

In June 2023 she was appointed Sheriff Principal of South Strathclyde Dumfries and Galloway.



Mrs Liz Burnley CBE

Liz Burnley has a background in Occupational Psychology, HR and general management. Her career started within manufacturing industry, within railway and chemical engineering. After leading a company manufacturing industrial locomotives, she moved into consultancy in team development and assessment and selection methods, an area she then undertook for the Boots Company plc.



After experience as a Non-executive Director within the NHS, Liz chaired fitness to practise hearings for the Nursing and Midwifery Council and sat as a Lay Member for hearings at the General Pharmaceutical Council. She has a BSc and MSc from the

University of Nottingham, an MBA from the Open University and an honorary doctorate from the University of Derby. As a volunteer, Liz was Chief Guide for the UK for 5 years and continues as an active volunteer.

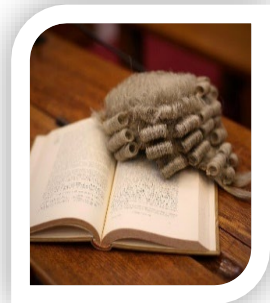
Mrs Burnley was appointed as a Lay Assistant in January 2016 for three years. Further to this, she was appointed as a Lay Board Member from August 2018 for four years, until August 2022.

Sheriff Jane Farquharson KC

Sheriff Jane Farquharson KC was appointed as a resident sheriff for Livingston in 2021.

She graduated in law from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1993. After practising in Chambers in London, she returned home to Scotland and was admitted into the Faculty of Advocates in 2002. In 2010 she became an Advocate Depute, latterly the Assistant Principal Crown Counsel. She was appointed King's Counsel in 2019.

In February 2024 Sheriff Farquharson has also been appointed as a temporary judge.



Sheriff Robert Fife

Sheriff Robert Fife is a resident sheriff in Edinburgh.

He was admitted as a solicitor in 1978. He worked in the court department of Strathern & Blair WS until 1982 when he was made a partner. In 1992 he became a partner in Anderson Strathern dealing with dispute resolution and commercial litigation. In 1995 he qualified as a solicitor advocate. In 2000 he was appointed a part-time sheriff.

Sheriff Fife was appointed as a sheriff in 2014. He was appointed as a Personal Injury sheriff in 2017, and the Administrative Sheriff for ASSPIC in 2020. He was appointed an appeal sheriff in 2020.



Sheriff Amel Elfallah

Sheriff Amel Elfallah was appointed as a sheriff in North Strathclyde, based in Paisley, in April 2024.

She is a graduate of the University of Glasgow. She trained and qualified as a solicitor with Thompsons, working in personal injury litigation. She took up criminal work in 2003



when she joined the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, becoming a Senior Procurator Fiscal Depute in 2008, and undertaking a wide variety of summary, solemn, appellate and training work.

She was appointed as a summary sheriff in Glasgow in 2021, where she presided over a variety of criminal and civil courts. She was the summary sheriff member of the Scottish Sentencing Council from July 2022 until she took up her appointment as a sheriff, and was chair of the Council's Communications Committee throughout her time as a Council member. She currently serves as an advisor to the Scottish Sentencing Council.

She has been an advocacy trainer accredited by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy since 2008, and currently assists in the provision of advocacy training for inexperienced civil practitioners. She has also specialised in equalities work both during her time in COPFS and while on the bench. She is the founder and Chair of the Women's Network of the Sheriffs' and Summary Sheriffs' Association, a member of the Main Committee of the UK Association of Women Judges, and a member of the Council of the Scottish Association for the Study of Offending (SASO).

Sheriff Adrian Cottam

Sheriff Adrian Cottam was appointed as Deputy Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland in September 2022.

In 2017, he was appointed as a Summary Sheriff in Lothian & Borders and in October 2021 as a Sheriff in South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, based primarily at Lanark Sheriff Court.

A graduate of Dundee University, Sheriff Cottam joined the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in 1996, starting out as a Depute in Inverness before working in various roles in Aberdeen and Edinburgh, including a period as District Procurator Fiscal for West Lothian at Livingston.

He was an Advocate Depute, then Senior Advocate Depute over two periods totalling six and a half years.



**Judicial Office for Scotland
October 2024**