



KATE DOWDALLS QC

Year of Call

2000

Year of Silk

2013

Devil Masters

Gerald Hanretty QC

Gary Allan QC

LinkedIn Profile



Practice Profile

Kate has been predominantly engaged in family work since calling to the Bar in 2000. Her experience in financial provision on divorce extends to high value claims. Kate is also experienced in dealing with claims by cohabitants under sections 28 and 29 of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006. In her work relating to children, Kate customarily deals with adoption and permanence order cases, referral proceedings, and contact and residence disputes as well as Hague Convention applications.

First instance work has taken Kate to the Court of Session and Sheriff Court. In her appellate work, she has appeared before Sheriffs Principal, Inner House and the UK Supreme Court. She has recent experience in Fatal Accident Inquiries.

In addition, Kate is instructed in professional negligence claims, chiefly those arising from family law disputes. She is Chair of the Advocates' Family Law Association, a Family Law Arbitrator and a member of FLAGS.

Education & Professional Career to Date

Solicitor in private practice (1985-2000)

LLB (Hons); Diploma in Legal Practice

Appointments

- Chair of AFLA (2018–present)
- External Examiner, Family Law, Diploma in Professional Legal Practice, University of Strathclyde (2011–2015)

- Member of the Family Law Arbitration Group Scotland (FLAGS)
- Member of Faculty of Advocates Dispute Resolution Service in the categories "Arbitrator" and "Expert Determination", limited to family law. (2017–present)

Selected Cases

- **FAI into the death of Dawn McKenzie, Hamilton SC 12/8/15**
Inquiry into the death of a foster carer who was killed by a child who had been placed with her.
- **R Petitioner 2015 SC (UKSC) 129**
- **FAI into the deaths of Mhairi Convy and Laura Stewart, Glasgow SC 14/11/14**
Inquiry into the deaths of two students killed when they were struck by a vehicle that mounted the pavement, the driver of the vehicle having lost consciousness at the wheel.
- **Donaldson v Donaldson 2014 Fam LR 126**
- **MvM 2014 Fam LR 116**
- **S Petitioner 2014 Fam LR 23**
- **B v Authority Reporter for Edinburgh [2012] SC 23**
- **Gow v Grant 2013 SC (UKSC) 1**
- **S v L [2013] SC (UKSC) 129**
- **Fife Council, Applicants 2016 SC 169**
- **West Lothian Council -v- B (2016) CSIH 60; 2016 Fam LR 134**
- **In the matter of EV (A Child) (Scotland) [2017] UKSC 15**

Areas of Practice

- Clinical and Professional Negligence
- Family
- Public and Fatal Accident Inquiries

Publications & Seminars

FLA Annual Conference November 2016

Four Jurisdictions Family Law Conference 2015

Balfour+Manson Annual Family Law Conference 2013

Four Jurisdictions Family Law Conference 2013

Contributor to Family Law Association newsletter 2012 (article re S v L [2012] SLT 961)

Numerous seminars and presentations given on family law matters and advocacy skills to Family Law Association, Advocates' Family Law Association, local Faculties, Central Law Training and law firms

Editor, Scottish Family Law Service, Butterworths (2005-07)

Directories

Recommended in Chambers and Partners UK Bar Guide 2019

Band 1 for Family/Matrimonial

Leading Silk in Legal 500 2017- Family & Childcare

"A first-class advocate. Bright, incisive, dedicated and excellent with clients."

"Down-to-earth, pragmatic and very clever. She is an excellent cross-examiner."

Additional Information

Trained advocacy skills instructor