



Year of Call

1990

Year of Silk

2000

Devil Masters

Heriot W Currie QC

J Gordon Reid QC



Practice Profile

Laurence has conducted litigation at all levels of the courts and tribunals in his various areas of practice.

Professional negligence cases Laurence has conducted (both for and against professionals) have involved: accountants, advocates, architects, bankers, clerks of works, doctors, engineers, insurance brokers (including Lloyd's brokers), fund managers, nurses, solicitors, solicitor advocates, surveyors and town planners. Such cases often raise complex issues relating to causation and the quantification of damages. Laurence also has experience of representation before discipline tribunals.

His commercial law expertise means that Laurence appears regularly in the Commercial Court. He has conducted debates, proofs and appeals in relation to disputes involving: contracts (including building contracts and leases), heritable property, Insolvency, choice of law, insurance, diligence, prescription and limitation, competition law, copyright, patent infringement and conveyancing. He also has experience of commercial rent arbitrations and property dilapidations.

In addition, Laurence has conducted many planning inquiries, planning appeals and fatal accident inquiries. He regularly acts in petitions for judicial review, both for public bodies and for individuals dealing with cases often involving human rights issues.

Insurers regularly seek Laurence's advice in relation to indemnity issues.

Education & Professional Career to Date

Solicitor, latterly at partner level

MA (Hons); LLB

Appointments

- Standing Junior to the Home Office (1997–2000)
- Junior Counsel representative, Commercial Court Consultative Committee (1998–2000)
- Member of the Faculty of Advocates Investigating and Complaints Committees (1995–2011)
- Member of the Faculty of Advocates Disciplinary Rules: Prosecuting Counsel
- Member, Faculty of Advocates Professional Standards Committee

Selected Cases

- **Renfrew and Stirling Local Plan Inquiries**
For respective local authorities throughout
- **Bett Brothers plc v Redrow Homes Limited [1998] SC [HL] 64**
Copyright infringement and damages
- **BT plc v James Thomson (Engineers) Ltd [1999] SC [HL] 9**
Duty of care and building contract
- **HMA v McIntosh [2001] SC [PC] 89**
Human rights, ECHR Article 6 and money laundering
- **Lord Advocate's Reference No.1 of 2000, 2001 JC 143**
International law and UK defence policy
- **Cheltenham and Gloucester plc v Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc [2001] SC 965**
Insurance, solicitor's indemnity policy and fraud
- **Safeway Stores plc v Tesco Stores Ltd [2004] SC 29**
Land dispute and registered title
- **Wright v Paton and Farrell [2006] SC 404**
Immunity from suit and solicitor's negligence
- **Vetco Gray v Slessor [2006] SC 398**
Procedure in civil jury trial
- **MacKintosh v Morrice's Executors [2007] SC 6**
Damages and inheritance tax
- **Watts v Bell & Scott [2007] SLT 665**
Property developer, quantum of damages and solicitor's negligence
- **Hamilton v Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge) Ltd [2012] SC 486**
Principle of future procedure in civil jury trials in Scotland

Areas of Practice

- Clinical and Professional Negligence
- Commercial
- Personal Injury
- Property

- Public and Fatal Accident Inquiries
- Public Law

Publications & Seminars

Butterworths International Commercial Litigation Handbook, Roger Baggallay, Andrew Dickinson, Graham S McBain and Laurence Murphy, Butterworths, 2006

Talks on legal issues delivered in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin and Paris

Directories

Mentioned in both Chambers and Partners Bar Guide 2019 and The Legal 500 2017

Additional Information

French