Compass Chambers

Carla Fraser



Year called:	2020
Email:	carla.fraser@compasschambers.com
Qualifications:	2002 – University of Dundee, LLB hons 2003 – University of Dundee, Diploma in Legal Practice 2014 – Granted extended rights of audience in the civil courts 2019 / 2020 - Devil, The Faculty of Advocates - Devilmasters: Dan Byrne, John MacGregor, Leigh Lawrie

Chambers TOP RANKED UK Bar 2026 Carla Fraser

LEADING JUNIOR Legal500 UNITED KINGDOM 2025

Profile

Carla's practice focusses on reparation, public and administrative law, health and safety, and professional discipline and regulation

Reparation

She regularly acts on behalf of public bodies, insurers and pursuers in all kinds of complex, high value reparation actions relating to public and employer liability, property damage, industrial disease, fatal accidents, sexual abuse, road traffic and medical negligence.

Health and Safety and Inquiries

She has a keen interest in Inquiries and is currently instructed to represent Core Participants in the Sheku Bayoh Public Inquiry. She has experience in conducting high profile FAIs and health and safety prosecutions. She gained experience of criminal law having served as a Procurator Fiscal Depute and defended clients in criminal trials.

Professional Regulation

Carla has an interest in professional regulation and has represented individuals in professional misconduct proceedings, most recently before the Police Appeals Tribunal. She was previously a member of the Scottish Solicitors Discipline Tribunal and a Legal Adviser to the Scottish Social Services Council.

Public and Administrative Law

She has experience of judicial review and statutory appeals.
She has particular expertise in matters relating to policing including:
Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Firearms Licensing, Public Protection, Police Officer Misconduct, the Police Appeals Tribunal, civil actions (wrongful arrest and assault), deaths in custody, Judicial Review and Data Protection.

Appointments

2021 – Appointed as a Standing Junior to the Advocate General in 2021.
2023– Tutor in Evidence, delict and criminal Law at the University of Edinburgh.
2024 - Appointed as Legal Member of the Scottish Social Security Tribunal.
2024 – Appointed to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission panel of Scottish Counsel
2024 – Appointed as Advocate Depute to the Proceeds of Crime Unit

Representative Cases

Personal Injury / Reparation

KB v West Lothian Council (2021)
Junior counsel for the pursuer in this ongoing personal injuries case (one week proof completed and decision awaited).

JT v West Lothian Council (2021)
Junior counsel for the defender in this ongoing personal injuries case (three week proof completed and decision awaited).

Vanags v Travel Republic Ltd (2020)
Counsel for the defender in this personal injuries action involving a debate regarding the application of the package holiday regulations.

Margaret Ferguson v Iain Ferguson (Inner House – [2015] CSIH 63; 2015 SLT 561; 2016 Rep LR 2; 2015 GWD 27-466)
Instructed as solicitor advocate for the defender, junioring to counsel, in this action for damages based on the Animals (Scotland) Act 1987. The case proceeded in the first instance as a four-day jury trial. The jury awarded the pursuer £5,000 but assessed contributory negligence at 85%. The pursuer unsuccessfully presented a motion to the Inner House for a new trial.

Anji Mannas v Chief Constable ([2018] CSOH 126; 2019 SCLR 909; 2019 Rep LR 60; 2019 GWD 1-6)
Instructing solicitor representing the Chief Constable in this claim for personal injury. The claim arose from an accident which had occurred in 2001. The action had been sisted for around 14 years and the defender made a motion to dismiss on the grounds of unreasonable delay.

Rosemary Cairns v Calypso Marine and Northern Lighthouse Board, ([2013] CSOH 22)
Instructing solicitor for the first defender. The pursuer was injured on a RIB travelling to a lighthouse. Concerned the application of the Athens Convention.

Morag Lawson v The Broomfield Holiday Park, Dingwall Sheriff Court (2007)
As solicitor, successfully represented the pursuer at proof. She relied upon the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) act 1960 and claimed damages after tripping over a speed bump.

Civil Liberties, Human Rights & EU law

Thomas O'Leary for Judicial Review ([2020] CSOH 81)
Instructed for the second respondents who were convened by amendment on an expedited timetable. The petitioner alleged breaches of statutory duty and of articles 5 and 14 ECHR. Successfully argued that the petitioner's case against the second respondents was irrelevant.

BC & Ors for Judicial Review ([2019] CSOH 48; 2019 SLT 875; 2019 GWD 23-366)
Instructing solicitor representing the respondent Chief Constable in this judicial review. The petitioners claimed the Chief Constable's decision in relation to the use of messages sent via WhatsApp and discovered in the course of criminal investigations into other individuals breached their article 8 Convention rights in terms of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Chief Constable v AR, Alloa Sheriff Court (2017)
As solicitor advocate, represented the Chief Constable at debate in this application for a Risk of Sexual Harm Order. Successfully resisted an argument that the application breached the respondent's rights under article 6(2) of the ECHR as the case was based on events for which the accused had been prosecuted and acquitted.

Public Law

Ross Dickson for Judicial Review ([2018] CSOH 19; 2018 SLT 316; 2018 GWD 9-109)
Instructing solicitor for the respondent Chief Constable in a judicial review in which the petitioner sought review of a decision to dismiss his appeal against a finding of misconduct without an appeal hearing.

Polley v West Lothian Council and AIB (Outer House – [2014] CSOH 98; 2014 GWD 21-391; Inner House – [2015] CSIH 19; 2015 GWD 9-160)
Instructing solicitor representing WLC. The pursuer sought reduction of an award of sequestration, a charge for payment and summary warrants taken in respect of council tax arrears. The case was dismissed at debate. The pursuer reclaimed to the Inner House and the reclaiming motion was ultimately dismissed.

David Cameron v Chief Constable, Fort William Sheriff Court (2018 SLT (Sh Ct) 75; 2018 GWD 8-107)
As solicitor - conducted this appeal against the revocation of a firearms certificate. Concerned the risk posed by the pursuer's family members.

MLM v City of Edinburgh Council (2012 SLT (Sh Ct) 38)
As solicitor, represented the appellant in this appeal against the council's refusal to grant an out of catchment placing request made by the appellant in respect of her son.

RMck v Chief Constable (2016 SLT (Sh Ct) 148)
As solicitor, acted on behalf the Chief Constable and conducted this appeal before the Sheriff Principal. The appeal concerned the Sheriff's refusal to grant an interim Risk of Sexual Order.

Health & Safety

HMA v Chief Constable, Police Service of Scotland (2021)
Instructed as junior counsel for the Chief Constable in this health & safety prosecution.

Fatal Accident Inquiries

FAI into the deaths of Yuill and Bell (2023)

FAI into the death of McQuade, Hamilton Sheriff Court (2014)
As solicitor, inquiry into the death of a lorry driver who was killed on the M74 by a passing tanker.

FAI into the death of SC ([2018] FAI 20)
As solicitor, represented the Chief Constable in this FAI arising from a death in custody.

FAI into the death of PB ([2017] FAI 29)
As solicitor, represented the Chief Constable in this FAI. The FAI concerned, amongst other things, the first aid training received by police officers.

FAI Paula Robson and others ([2017] FAI 26)
As solicitor, represented Scottish Borders Council in this FAI into deaths at the Jim Clark Rally.

Public Inquiries

The Sheku Bayoh Inquiry (ongoing)
Junior counsel for certain core participants in this public inquiry.

Commercial

Ramesh Dewan v Fife Council (2019 SCLR 840; 2019 LLR 743; 2019 GWD 3-39)
Instructing solicitor representing Fife Council in a claim under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and at common law.

WC v Zurich, Dumbarton Sheriff Court (2015)
As solicitor, successfully represented the defender at proof in this Sheriff Court action. The pursuer claimed on a policy of insurance for a boat which he alleged had been stolen. The action was defended on the basis that the pursuer did not have an insurable interest in the boat.

Disputes relating to Land & Property

McKenna and McAllister v O'Hare (2017 SC (SAC) 33; 2017 SLT (Sh Ct) 117; 2017 GWD 14-228)
Instructing solicitor representing the pursuers and their insurers in this recovery action based on nuisance. The pursuers' properties required to be demolished after the land upon which they were built became contaminated with oil.

Richard Glen v Angus Council and Tayside Contracts, Forfar Sheriff Court (2012)

As solicitor, represented second defender at proof in this action for damages. The pursuer's wall was damaged as a result of road works adjacent to his property. It concerned the duties incumbent upon the defenders to carry out a dilapidations survey.

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