Compass Chambers



Gavin Thornley

Year called:	2009
Email:	gavin.thornley@compasschambers.com
Qualifications:	2008 - Faculty of Advocates Exams 2001 - Law Society of Scotland UK Transfer Exams 1991 - Law Society of England and Wales Solicitors Exams 1986 - 1989 - LLB with Honours (Birmingham University)

Practice

Gavin called to the Bar in 2009 after 14 years as a Solicitor. He specialises in personal injury and clinical negligence cases. He has been instructed in many fatal cases including acting for many of the families of the victims of the Super Puma helicopter crash in The North Sea in 2009 and the jury awards appeal case in 2012 (Hamilton/ Thomson). His other areas include offshore accidents, foreign accident claims, spinal and head injury claims, as well as work related claims and RTA's.

Recent Cases

Hamilton v Ferguson Transport (Spean Bridge) Ltd; Thomson v Dennis Thomson Builders Ltd 2012 S.C. 486; 2012 S.L.T. 715; 2012 S.C.L.R. 707; 2012 Rep. L.R. 79

A landmark case on whether awards in fatal cases were excessive that changed the procedure for jury trials so that guidance now given to juries as to the potential range of awards.

Wylie v Omniasig SA 2013 SLT 46

Road traffic accident in Romania - on the issue of the applicability of law – whether Romanian or Scots law – and the assessment of damages under Romanian law.

Paterson v Paterson 2013 Rep. L.R. 13

Pursuer with a severe ankle injury continued in pre accident employment. Loss of employability – the basis for such awards considered in detail by Lord Woolman. Services awarded for (the first time) to the pursuer's girlfriend even though not living together at the time of the accident.

Jackson v Murray 2013 SLT 153

Appeal against finding of 90% contributory negligence in a pedestrian road traffic accident involving a 13 year old schoolgirl with multiple injuries. Overturned decision – finding was too high and substituted a figure of 70%.

Winn-Pope v CKD Galbraith LLP 2012 SLT 929; 2012 Rep. L.R. 126

Fall from a roof involving the Work at Height Regulations and the issue of control.

Seminars

Gavin is a regular speaker at seminars and conferences:

Essential Drafting for Litigators – for CLT - 2010 to 2013

Quantifying Difficult Damages – co-presenter with Robin Cleland - for CLT - 2010 to 2012

PI Liability Update: speaker on work accidents –University of Glasgow – February 2011

Compass Annual Conference speaker: Damages update November 2010; Fatal claims November 2011; Spinal Injury claims November 2012

In addition Gavin has presented a variety of seminars to individual firms of Solicitors.