

John Scullion QC

Year called: 2002
Year of silk: 2014
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Qualifications: LLB (Hons) and Diploma in Legal Practice (Strathclyde)



Practice Profile

John was a solicitor in private practice for 7 years before calling to the Bar in 2002. He has extensive experience defending clients in the Sheriff Court and High Court of Justiciary. He was appointed as an ad hoc advocate depute in 2006, becoming a full-time advocate depute in 2007. In 2009 he became a Senior Advocate Depute and in 2011 was appointed to the role of Assistant Principal Crown Counsel. Since returning to private practice in 2015 John has become one of the most widely instructed senior counsel at the Scottish Criminal Bar.

He has experience of Fatal Accident Inquiries, fatal road traffic collisions, health and safety prosecutions, financial prosecutions and other areas of regulatory crime. He has conducted many high profile and complex cases including in excess of 40 murder trials. He has prosecuted and defended the most serious sexual offences and appears regularly in the Criminal Appeal Court.

Selected Cases

Financial crime

2020: HMA v LM – Prosecution under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in relation to money laundering

2018: HMA v John Miller – 5 week trial at the High Court – Prosecution under Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

2017: HMA v Lynn Taylor – Accountant prosecuted at Edinburgh Sheriff Court in relation to embezzlement during the course of employment at the Edinburgh International Fringe

2016: HMA v AJM – Employee of Adam Smith College, Fife, prosecuted in the High Court charged with fraudulently obtaining funds from the European Commission European Structural Funds

2015-16: HMA v Imran Ahmad Rangers Case – Advising former director of Rangers Football Club prosecuted in relation to allegations of fraud

2015: Financial Conduct Authority v Alasdair Greig – Multimillion pound fraud action brought against an Independent Financial Advisor

Road Traffic Act 1988

2019: HMA v Kieran Kennedy – Teenager prosecuted in the High Court in relation to charge of causing death of a pedestrian by dangerous driving

2019: HMA v Mike Havlin – Lorry driver prosecuted in the Sheriff Court in relation to causing death of pedestrian by careless driving

2019: Law Society of Scotland v MR – solicitor prosecuted before disciplinary panel following multiple convictions under the Road Traffic Act 1988

2018: HMA v Argyll McCoist – Teenager prosecuted in the Sheriff Court in relation to causing serious injury to pedestrian by dangerous driving

2018: HMA v David Shields – Lorry driver prosecuted in the High Court in relation to causing death by dangerous driving

2016: HMA v EM – prosecution in the Sheriff Court in relation to causing serious injury to pedestrian by dangerous driving

Sexual Offences

2020: HMA v KM – Retired police officer prosecuted in the High Court for historical sexual offences including rape

2019: HMA v CG – Edinburgh University Student prosecuted in the High Court in relation to allegations of rape involving fellow students. Accused acquitted of all charges

2018: HMA v DB – Teacher prosecuted for historical sexual allegations

2016: HMA v WM – Church minister prosecuted in relation to allegations of historical sexual abuse made by parishioners

2016: WM v HMA – Appeal against conviction by church minister convicted of charges of sexual assault made by parishioners [2016] HCJAC 15

Health and Safety

2019: HMA v RM – Section 3 HSWA following death at work following collapse of a crane

2018: PF v NLL Ltd 2018 – local authority charged with breaches of H&S legislation in relation to exposure of employees to asbestos

2016: HMA v LT T/A Hex Fabrication (4-week sheriff and jury trial): Section 3 HSWA involving a death at work following the collapse of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform

Selected others

2019: HMA v David Collins – Murder trial where the body of the deceased was never recovered

2019: HMA v Joseph McIntyre – Murder trial where accused was charged with killing a witness in a High Court prosecution

2018: HMA v Michael Bowman – Operation Escalade – prosecution of members of Serious and Organised Criminal gang in relation to the importation of drugs and Firearms

2016: John Docherty v HMA – Appeared for the Crown in murder conviction appeal in relation to the murder of a 16-yearold girl in 1986 [2016] HCJAC

2015: HMA v TA – Professional footballer acquitted of indictment containing a charge of assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement

2015: HMA v Alexander Pacteau: Notorious murder of Irish student Karen Buckley

2014 - HMA v John Docherty (11-week Murder Trial). The first prosecution to come to trial from the Crown Office Cold Case Unit arising out of the murder of a 16 year old girl in June 1986

2013 - HMA v David Blair Wilson (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Prisons (S) Act 1989). Solicitor prosecuted in relation to allegations of smuggling controlled drugs and mobile telephones into HMP Saughton.

Appointments

- Assistant Principal Advocate Depute (2011–2015)
- Senior Advocate Depute (2009–2011)
- Trial Advocate Depute (2007–2009)

- Ad hoc Advocate Depute (2006–2007)