



Colin Neilson
Year of Call: 2022

Colin called to the Bar in 2022. Prior to calling he had 10 years' experience in criminal work including private practice as a criminal defence solicitor followed by a period as a Procurator Fiscal Depute.

He has appeared regularly in the High Court of Justiciary, the Court of Criminal Appeal, the Sheriff Appeal Court and Sheriff Courts all over Scotland. He has extensive experience in the defence and prosecution of violent, sexual, dishonesty and drug-related offences. His interests lie on all areas of criminal law. He is a highly motivated and diligent court practitioner. He is very popular with instructing agents.

Areas of Practice

Criminal Trials
Post conviction proceedings

Selected Cases

JH v HMA [2024] HCJAC 10
Appeal against conviction on the basis of misdirection

Murdoch v PF, Perth [2024] SAC (Crim) 1
Appeal challenging a dog destruction order

Stuart Birtley v HMA 2022
Successful appeal against a 14 month prison sentence resulting in a Community Payback Order being imposed

Sean O'Brien v HMA 2023
Successful appeal against a 43 month prison sentence resulting in the imposition of a reduced period of imprisonment

HMA v SC 2024
Acquittal in a rape trial

HMA v AR 2024
Acquittal in a historic sexual offences trial

Publications

Faculty of Advocates Consultation Response on the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill, 2022

Appointments and memberships

Ad-Hoc Advocate Depute in Criminal Trials

Legal member of the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland

Testimonials

“Colin is punctual, prepared and professional. He has an assured and assertive manner in consultation giving clear unequivocal advice. In trial he has great experience as a fiscal depute and is able and unflappable in a court room setting.”

“An extremely safe pair of hands and highly recommended”

“Colin’s combination of thoroughness and clarity is a real asset in the appeal court”.