



Gillian Simpson
Year of Call: 2025

Summary of professional experience

Gillian graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 2014 with an LL.B (Honours) Degree in Scots Law and with a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice with distinction in 2015. She trained at an all-service civil litigation firm and uniquely had her first court appearance within one week of her traineeship commencing and has remained a court practitioner ever since.

Prior to calling to the Bar in 2025 Gillian was a criminal defence solicitor. She regularly appeared in court and is well versed in conducting criminal trials, both at solemn and summary level. She is experienced in challenging the admissibility of evidence, conducting trials within a trial, and challenging the compatibility of proceedings with the European Convention on Human Rights.

She also took an interest in children's referrals and established her own children's hearings practice within an established criminal defence firm.

Since calling to the Bar in 2025, Gillian has appeared in an array of criminal cases in both the Sheriff and High Courts, as well as appearing before a bench of 3 judges in the High Court of Appeal. She has also represented children accused of violent offending, undertaken children's referral work, and defended permanence order proceedings.

She has a keen interest in human rights and criminal appeal work and is available for instruction in all aspects of criminal matters and children's referral work.

Areas of Practice

Criminal Trials	Childrens' Referrals
Post conviction proceedings	Human Rights
Extradition	Road Traffic Violations

Selected Cases

HMA v MM [2022] – appointed to represent the accused in a complex domestic abuse case where the allegations spanned decades. In addition to the necessary challenges to the admissibility of evidence, careful consideration required to be given to the parameters of the court appointment in light of the accused's instructions and attitude towards the case.

HMA v AP [2024] – the accused was acquitted at an evidential hearing on the charges of police assault, resisting arrest and acting in a threatening and abusive manner following a challenge to the lawfulness of police action. It was accepted that the police had no lawful authority to place the accused in handcuffs and then into the back of a police van, therefore the accused's subsequent behaviour was justified in response to the unlawful detention.

Appointments and memberships

Member of the Faculty of Advocates Criminal Bar Association

Testimonials

"Gillian has a deep legal knowledge and unwavering dedication to justice. She has a natural ability to connect with clients, offering both clarity and compassion during incredibly stressful times."

"Her strategic thinking and courtroom presence consistently deliver results."

"Gillian's wealth of knowledge and unwavering commitment to her cases ensures that clients are guided through the justice system with the utmost care and attention."

"Her genuine compassion and proactive approach to matters gives clients reassurance and welcomed clarity during what are incredibly stressful times."

"Her advocacy both in and out of the courtroom continues to deliver results for her clients that truly reflect Gillian's dedication to justice."

"Gillian always acts with impeccable professionalism. She has an excellent knowledge of the law and a fantastic manner with clients. She has assisted us to reach excellent outcomes for our clients."