

# MARGARET BARRON

## YEAR OF CALL

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2006

## EDUCATION

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1997 – 2002

University of Dundee

- LLB (Hons) Scots Law
- Diploma in Legal Practice

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2002 – 2004

MacRoberts Solicitors, Edinburgh

*Traineeship*

- Seats in Litigation, Corporate and Projects

2004 – 2005

Scottish Borders Council

*Solicitor*

- Conveyancing, including sale of public sector housing to tenants
- Social Work including legal advice to the Fostering and Adoption Panel
- Advice to various client departments including Education and Personnel

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

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Criminal Law

Drugs

Sex offences

## COURTS/TRIBUNAL EXPERIENCE

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Since being called to the Scottish Bar in 2006, Margaret has appeared as both Crown and defence junior in the High Court of Justiciary. She established a reputation as a hardworking, organised and well prepared junior counsel and was routinely instructed by Crown Office.

In April 2013 Margaret was appointed an Advocate Depute and more recently has been conducting trials as part of the National Sexual Crimes Unit within Crown Office.

As a solicitor Margaret appeared in the Sheriff Court, dealing with applications under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 (since repealed) and the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. Margaret also dealt with debt recovery actions relating to non payment of rent and appeared before a Housing Benefits Appeals Tribunal. Her background in the voluntary sector and as a solicitor working for a local authority has

provided her with experience in the fields of mental health, disability and social work.

#### SELECTED CASES

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- HMA v Miller (multiple accused, supply and manufacture of controlled drugs)
- HMA v Meiklem & McFadden (murder)
- HMA v Rennie (historic child sexual abuse)
- HMA v Cobanoglu (multiple rape and sexual assault)
- HMA v Khan (murder)
- HMA v Laughlin and O'Neill – instructed as Junior Counsel to the Crown; prosecution in respect of sexual abuse of teenage boys and grooming of a 5 year old
- HMA v Malcolm Webster – instructed as Junior Counsel to the Crown; longest single accused murder trial in Scottish Criminal History
- HMA v Parker, Smith, Coats and Wade – instructed as Junior Counsel to the Crown; prosecution relating to the detention, torture and murder of Lynda Spence

#### APPOINTMENTS & MEMBERSHIPS

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Advocate Depute

Scottish Criminal Bar Association

#### PUBLICATIONS

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Casecheck – opinion re Paterson v HMA. This case considered in what circumstances a trial should be deserted *pro loco et tempore* or deserted *simpliciter*.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Margaret has tutored on the Professional Competence Course provided by the University of Edinburgh. At university Margaret also tutored students on the Family Law course.

Prior to studying law Margaret spent 10 years working in the voluntary sector in London, latterly as a professional fundraiser for a national charity providing training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Margaret also delivered Disability Awareness Training courses to a number of employers in both the public and private sector.