



Law Society  
of Scotland

## Candidates for Aberdeen

Buchanan, Jacqueline

Dickers, Jane

Edon, Deborah

Fraser, Geraldine

MacEachran, Jane

Taggart, Ross

Wilson, Deborah Anne



## Candidate Information

Name: JACQUELINE MARGARET BUCHANAN
Place(s) of Business: Firm. ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL, 1 <sup>ST</sup> FLOOR SOUTH, MARISCHAL COLLEGE, BROAD STREET, ABERDEEN, AB10 1AB
Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LLB DEGREE,</li><li>• DIPLOMA IN LEGAL PRACTICE,</li><li>• CIPFA CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</li></ul>
Date of Admission as a solicitor: 1990
Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail): I am the Legal Services Manager at Aberdeen City Council where I manage the Legal Teams within Legal and Democratic Services. I am also the Deputy Monitoring Officer to the Council.
Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have worked in-house for the last 7 years.</li><li>• Currently Legal Services Manager at Aberdeen City Council where I manage the 5 Legal Services Teams and am the Deputy Monitoring Officer. Previously, a Legal Services Manager at Aberdeenshire Council.</li><li>• Worked in private practice for 15 years, latterly for 6 years in Aberdeen with Stronachs Solicitors as a Commercial Property Lawyer.</li><li>• Through my experience, I feel well-equipped to represent interests of all Law Society members in local constituency of Aberdeen, Banff, Peterhead and Stonehaven and would relish opportunity to do so.</li><li>• I recognise the challenges the profession faces, such as in terms of new approaches to fee charging, the development of Alternative Business Structures, the proposed Legal Services Regulation Review, the continuing and diverse impacts of the Brexit vote as well as the increasing use and development of technology. I also appreciate the nature of the challenges local to the North East as a result of the downturn in the oil and gas industry.</li><li>• Due to severe public sector budget restrictions, I have initiated new approach to Legal Services, promoting income generation, increased use of technology and joint working to create a more self-sufficient and commercial service. The skills I have developed would be of great benefit in this role.</li><li>• If I were elected, I would promote a positive approach, treating such challenges as opportunities. I would listen to the views and concerns of local members, representing their interests and being pro-active in the strategic decision making at the Law Society</li></ul>



## Candidate Information

Name:

**JANE PAULINE DICKERS**

Place(s) of Business:

**PETERHEAD & ELLON**

Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications:

BA Hons (Oxon) – Greats

MA (Oxon)

Common Professional Examination – English Law

PG Diploma – International Private Law

MSc – Criminology (Security & Risk Management)

LLB Scots Law

PG Diploma Legal Practice

Notary Public

Date of Admission as a solicitor: **8 June 2011**

Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail):

**Self-Employed Member of LLP**

Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association

**Former Vice – President of Aberdeen Bar Association**

Please write a personal statement as to why you wish to stand for the Council (up to 250 words).

**I am a Partner (Member) in a firm of 'High Street' solicitors operating from offices in Peterhead and Ellon. We offer a wide range of legal services, although I am predominantly a Court Lawyer, involved in Criminal, Civil and Family work. Much of my workload is funded by Legal Aid.**

**I am honoured to be a Scottish Solicitor. I feel that the profession needs, and demands, strong leadership, representation and regulation, but am deeply concerned at recent developments affecting hard-working solicitors – the role of the SLCC, attacks on the viability of the Legal Aid funding regime and the Society's response to the challenges thereof.**

**We, in the North-East, can often feel far removed from decisions taken on our behalf, and affecting our practices, in Edinburgh. An effective conduit for the full and frank transfer of views and ideas is therefore imperative. I would hope, and intend, to make a positive contribution to a more proactive dialogue at this crucial time.**



## Candidate Information

Name:  
DEBORAH CAROLINE EDON

Place(s) of Business:  
ABERDEEN

Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications:  
2:1 LLB SCOTS LAW (HONS) WITH EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES  
DIPLOMA IN LEGAL PRACTICE

Date of Admission as a solicitor: 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail):  
ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR STRONACHS LLP- DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association

- THE ABERDEEN BAR ASSOCIATION- Treasurer 2014-PRESENT (ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER 2013-2014)
- ABERDEEN SHERIFF COURT LIASION COMMITTEE- CIVIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ABERDEEN BAR ASSOCIATION
- GRAMPAN AREA INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS GROUP- MEMBER

Please write a personal statement as to why you wish to stand for the Council (up to 250 words).

I am very much aware that the Law Society of Scotland acts not only as our regulator but also as our profession's representative body. For this reason I think is important for all members of our profession, and particularly younger solicitors, to be properly engaged with the Society to help forge the development of the profession and to try and ensure that as solicitors we are respected and regarded as an important part of Civic Scotland .

I am passionate about promoting and encouraging high standards in the profession from the beginning of our legal career through to retirement. I have been a member of the Aberdeen Bar Association Committee since 2013 and have been the treasurer since 2014. I represent the Bar Association on the Aberdeen Sheriff Court Liaison Committee which works to improve standards and quality of the services offered by the court to its users. I am also an active member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen.

If I were to be elected to Law Society Council I consider that my experience and knowledge of the profession in Aberdeen is something which would be of benefit both to the Council and to all society members in the North East. It would be my hope that through stronger ties between the profession and the Society we can continue to deliver a high standard of legal services throughout Scotland.



## Candidate Information

Name: Geraldine Margaret Fraser

Place(s) of Business:

Aberdeenshire Council  
Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB

Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications:

LLB Hons - University of Glasgow 1996 - 2000  
Diploma in Legal Practice - Universities of Glasgow & Strathclyde 2000 - 2001  
North-East Learning Collaborative - Middle Management 2016

Date of Admission as a solicitor: 23/11/03

Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail):

**Legal Service Manager (Governance)**

I lead and manage the Governance Service within Legal & Governance at Aberdeenshire Council. I have responsibility for three teams which deliver legal and democratic services in the areas of licensing, planning and committee services. My role also involves advising Elected Members on ethical standards issues and the Councillors Code of Conduct and I hold the position of Depute Monitoring Officer for the Council. I advise chief officers on complex governance queries and design appropriate decision making structures which may include working collaboratively in partnership with other public and private organisations (e.g. Aberdeen City Region Deal, North-East Health and Social Care Integration Joint Boards).

Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association:

Founding member and Secretary of the North-East In-house Lawyers Group (2014-present)

Society of Local Authority Solicitors and Administrators' (SOLAR) member (2013-present)

Aberdeen Bar Association member (2013-2014)

Society of Solicitors of Hamilton & District Secretary and Committee Member (2007-2012)

Civil and Children's Legal Aid Peer Reviewer (2010-2013) reporting to Civil Legal Aid Quality Assurance Committee

Family Law Association member (2005-2008)

Accredited specialist in Family Law (2013-2017)

Women's Aid Legal Advisor (2004-2012)

Presiding Office - Local Council Elections (2017)

Please write a personal statement as to why you wish to stand for the Council (up to 250 words).

I would like to represent North East Solicitors on the Council to ensure our varied interests are protected, promoted and enhanced.

Being a Local Authority solicitor makes me well placed to understand needs and challenges facing in-house lawyers, both those in the public sector and also those in the oil and gas and private sectors. Setting up the North East branch of the In-house Lawyers Group gave me a valuable insight into the diversity of practising lawyers we have in the NE.

Before joining Aberdeenshire Council I worked for 10 years as a family lawyer in a high street firm. This experience makes me well placed to represent the needs of the private practitioner and I am particularly attune to the challenges facing smaller firms in an age of digitalisation.

Being able to engage in activities which develop and strengthen our profession and which impact on our communities is something I feel passionate about. The Society's role in shaping public policy development gives valuable opportunities to influence the Scottish and U.K. Governments at a strategic level. Having responded to consultations on draft legislation regularly through my role in local government I feel well equipped with skills and experience to do this effectively in order to see better outcomes for the legal practitioner and members of the public.

I wish to join the Law Society Council because I feel I could make a valuable contribution to the work of the Society to the benefit of local practitioners.



## Candidate Information

Name:

Jane Glaister MacEachran

Place(s) of Business: N/A

Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications:

- LLB-Glasgow

Date of Admission as a solicitor: 1976

Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail):

- Unemployed
- Current Practising Certificate

Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association

- Committee member Society of Advocates in Aberdeen Management Committee - 3<sup>rd</sup> term
- Law Society of Scotland :- Council Member (2002 to date)
- Board Member (2013 to date)
- Convenor Education and Training (2016 to date)
- Member of Professional Practice Committee
- Convenor of Admissions Committee (2007-2016)
- Convenor –Complaints Committee (2004-2006)
- Member of Education and Training Committee (2002-2004)
- Member of Regulatory Committee (1 year)
- Member of the Building Review Group
- Member of Governance working Group
  
- Former member of Solar
- Former member of Women in Property in Aberdeen
- Member IOD (2015- 2016)

Please write a personal statement as to why you wish to stand for the Council (up to 250 words).

Having been a Council member for fifteen years, I have acquired a thorough understanding of the functions of the Society and participated in a variety of committees. Throughout this time, I have been committed to representing solicitors in the North East at all levels.

As a member of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen, I have built positive and productive relationships with colleagues as well as with external partners and stakeholders. As the former Head of Legal and Democratic Services of Aberdeen City Council, I have had engagement with solicitors at all levels from sole practitioner to large corporate firms and pride myself in being aware of the challenges they face, particularly in relation to the economic downturn .

Whilst there are a wide raft of issues affecting the profession now and going forward my immediate concerns are:

1. the unrealistically low rates paid for legal aid and
2. the rate of levy increase proposed by the SLCC.

I would be pleased to represent the solicitors of the North East for a further three years and give full support to Graham whom I had the pleasure of nominating for Vice President



## Candidate Information

Name: Ross Taggart

Place(s) of Business: Taggart Meil Mathers, 20 Bon Accord Square, Aberdeen, AB11 6DJ

Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications:

LLB, Notary Public, Solicitor-Advocate (Civil)

Date of Admission as a solicitor: 1980

Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail):

Partner (Self-Employed)

Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association:

Member Society of Advocates in Aberdeen

Please write a personal statement as to why you wish to stand for the Council (up to 250 words).

I am married and have 3 boys aged between 21yrs and 17yrs. I live in Aberdeen. I studied law at Aberdeen University and trained in Edinburgh. I have worked and lived in Aberdeen since 1979. I have been a partner in three law firms primarily practicing in the Civil & Criminal Courts and Employment Tribunals. I have always had a natural sense of justice and appreciation of our legal system. I am deeply proud of our system and will fight fiercely to protect it. I wish to represent the constituents in the Aberdeen & NE area because of my concerns over the current Government's further intended reforms to the provision of legal aid. As a passionate and committed person with plenty of fight in me, by being elected to Council I intend to take advantage of the opportunity to focus the Society on issues relevant to Legal Aid and access to justice generally. I consider it a key function of the Law Society of Scotland to fight to protect the rights of citizens and members.

I am concerned at the level of interference in our legal system from the Scottish Government, not just in criminal law, but also family law and personal injury.

I also understand the commercial considerations of law firms and the pressure of underfunding. I believe I am in a strong position to properly represent the interests of members due to my background, and commitment to access to justice.

If elected I will work hard and fight objectively to promote the interests of members and their clients.



## Candidate Information

Name: Deborah Anne Wilson

Place(s) of Business: Wilson Defence, 17 Low Street, Banff

Professional degrees, Diplomas or qualifications:

LLB., N.P.

Date of Admission as a solicitor: 1980

Current self-employed/employed/unemployed position (please provide detail):

Sole Practitioner – self-employed

Service to Local Faculty or Law Society of Scotland or other relevant professional association:

Dean of Peterhead Faculty in past  
Currently active member of Banff Association of Solicitors  
President of Banff Town and Country Club

Please write a personal statement as to why you wish to stand for the Council (up to 250 words).

My professional career has been with Local Authority legal department, followed by over 10 years in Fiscal Service rising to lower level Fiscal for Stornoway then Peterhead – thereafter changing to private practice.

My experience covers wide range of, and different aspects of, the legal profession and working practices, large and small.

I believe I can add value to our Law Society Council by contributing as a member of Council.