

Judicial Office
for Scotland



THE ROLE OF A SENATOR IN 2025

VIRTUAL EVENT

2 DECEMBER 2025
17:15 – 18:45



Programme

17:15 – 17:30	Introduction by the Lord President
17:30 – 17:35	Mr Lindsay Montgomery, Lay Chairing Member, JABS
17:35 – 17:45	Lady Ross, Senator of the College of Justice
17:45 – 17:55	Sheriff Pino Di Emidio, Director, Judicial Institute for Scotland
17:55 – 18:20	Lady Haldane, Senator of the College of Justice and JABS Judicial Member
18:20 – 18:35	Q&A Session with the Panel
18:35 – 18:45	Closing Remarks by Mr Lindsay Montgomery
18:45	End of Session

Profiles

The Lord President of the Court of Session

Lord Pentland was appointed Lord President by His Majesty the King and sworn in at a ceremony in the Court of Session on 3 February 2025. He has served as a judge of Scotland's Supreme Courts since 2008, presiding over high-profile criminal trials and significant civil cases, and has been an appeal court judge since 2020. Lord Pentland is an Honorary Bencher of King's Inns in Dublin and Gray's Inn in London.



He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1982, serving as an Advocate Depute from 1991 to 1994, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1995. In the same year he became Solicitor-General for Scotland, holding that office until 1997 before returning to practise at the Bar, specialising in commercial and public law.

Earlier in his career, he acted as standing junior counsel to the Department of the Environment in Scotland and held appointments including Chairman of the Police Appeals Tribunal and the Appeal Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. Between 2014 and 2018 he served as Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission, and he previously chaired the Public Inquiry into the Gilmerton mining subsidence incident (2001–2002).

Mr Lindsay Montgomery CBE, FRSE

Mr Montgomery was appointed as the Lay Chairing Member of the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland in January 2022.

Mr Montgomery has extensive experience and knowledge of Scotland's justice system drawn from a wide range of previous roles, including Chief Executive of the Scottish Legal Aid Board, Chair of Community Justice Scotland, membership of the Scottish Civil Justice Council, the Scottish Government Justice Board, and the National Criminal Justice Board. He has also been a member of several policy and reference groups for reviews of aspects of the justice system in Scotland, including Lord Gill's review of Civil Courts, and Lord Carloway's review of criminal law and practice. He is a visiting professor in the School of Law at the University of Strathclyde with a focus on legal aid and access to justice, and Vice Chair of the International Legal Aid Group. In 2009 he was awarded a CBE for his services to the administration of justice.

He also has extensive experience in the management, leadership, and governance of organisations. He has substantial experience of recruitment in several different sectors, including in the legal sector.



Lady Ross

Lady Ross was installed as a judge of the Supreme Courts in June 2024. She is a graduate of the University of Oxford, where she studied philosophy, politics, and economics, and of the University of Edinburgh, where she completed the accelerated LLB in 1996 and the Diploma in Legal Practice in 1997. She qualified as a solicitor in 1999 and was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 2003. In the early part of her career, she also tutored part-time in constitutional law at the University of Edinburgh.



As an advocate, she practised primarily in civil work with a strong focus on public law, often involving EU law dimensions. Her practice also included commercial and trust law. She served as standing junior counsel to the Scottish Ministers from 2008 to 2016 and acted for a wide range of public bodies as well as petitioners. She was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2016. From 2019 to January 2023, she was the advocate member of the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland.

Sheriff Pino Di Emidio

Sheriff Pino Di Emidio was appointed as Director of the Judicial Institute for Scotland on 1 April 2022.

Sheriff Di Emidio is a floating sheriff in the sheriffdom of Tayside Central and Fife. He was appointed as a sheriff in 2014, having had a part-time appointment within the Scottish tribunal judiciary from 2012 to 2014. He also sits in the Upper Tribunal for Scotland dealing with cases from the Housing and Property Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland.

He was a solicitor from 1981 to 1993 and became an Advocate in 1994. From 2005 to 2009 he was Director of Training and Education at the Faculty of Advocates.



Lady Haldane

Lady Haldane was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Courts in February 2021. In May 2022 she was appointed to the Judicial Appointments Board.

She graduated with a law degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1987 and was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in 1996. She was appointed as a Queen's Counsel in 2010.

She was appointed by the Advocate General for Scotland as Standing Junior Counsel firstly to the Forestry Commission in 2001, and then to the Home Office (2008-2011). Between 2010 and 2016 she served as an ad hoc advocate depute with the Crown Office.



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