**The Pursuers' Panel**

Clients who would like advice on whether they have a valid claim can consult a member of the Pursuers' Panel, which consists of seven solicitors with expertise in dealing with professional negligence claims against other solicitors. The panel assists members of the public with advice about potential claims for negligence and will also pursue well-founded claims on their behalf.

[**What is the Pursuers' Panel?**](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/for-the-public/client-protection/how-solicitors-are-insured/pursuers-panel/#collapsePanel-lvl_0_item_0-1-1)

The panel consists of seven solicitors selected by the Law Society on the basis of their expertise in dealing with professional negligence claims to assist members of the public with advice about negligence claims against solicitors and, where appropriate, to assist solicitors already advising members of the public in connection with the handling of negligence claims against other solicitors.

Each member of the panel is available to deal with negligence claims against other solicitors on an individual basis. However, where a claimant is already represented by a solicitor in relation to a negligence claim against another solicitor, members of the panel will not provide advice to or act for that claimant, unless the existing solicitor refers the matter to a member of the panel. It should be emphasised that members of the panel are happy to receive referrals from other solicitors, either to handle the whole claim, or to assist with advice in relation to any aspect of a claim.

**How do I contact a member of the Pursuers' Panel?**

Each member of the panel can be contacted through their own individual firms whose telephone numbers are given. The panel members are not employed by the Society and are independent of the Society.

**Will a panel member charge for their advice?**

Yes, all members of the panel will charge professional fees although some members of the panel will provide advice under the civil legal aid advice and assistance scheme where it applies. However, there may be difficulties in obtaining legal aid for such advisory work from the Scottish Legal Aid Board.

**Members of the Pursuers Panel**

**Stephen Blane**

Stephen has been a member of the Panel since 2004 and has been accredited as a specialist in professional negligence law since 2006. He is also a solicitor advocate and has nearly 30 years’ experience of litigation in the Court of Session and Sheriff Courts, and of keeping cases out of court wherever possible.

Stephen deals with a wide range of negligence claims against solicitors, primarily acting for individual clients. He has particular interest and experience of claims involving property, such as house purchases and boundary disputes, family law and private client issues, dealing with Wills and executries.

You can contact Stephen at:

A & W M Urquhart,

16 Heriot Row,

Edinburgh EH3 6HR

Telephone: 0131 556 2896

stephenblane@urquharts.co.uk

**Tim Edward**

Tim is a solicitor advocate at MBM Commercial LLP with over 30 years' experience in Dispute Resolution with Dentons and its legacy firm Maclay Murray & Spens. He was a founder member of the Pursuers' Panel in 2002 and has served consistently on the Panel (other than a three year period 2014-17 when he served on the Defenders' Panel) since that point.

He has handled well over 100 claims in this role across a wide range. His specialism is in commercial law but he has also handled many claims arising from residential conveyancing, divorce, wills, trusts and succession and employment issues. He is comfortable both litigating claims in the Court of Session and Sheriff Court and also seeking to settle claims by way of structured negotiation and mediation. He has extensive experience of assisting clients with SLCC Complaints as well as with claims.

Tim also has experience handling claims against other professionals such as accountants, architects and surveyors and has a network of experts and specialists whom he can recommend to assist where appropriate.

You can contact Tim at:

MBM Commercial LLP

5th Floor

125 Princes Street

EDINBURGH

EH2 4AD

Telephone: 0131 2268200

Tim.Edward@mbmcommercial.co.uk

**Neil Fraser**

Neil qualified in 2001, and originally practiced in Hamilton. In 2012 he relocated to Aberdeen. He has always practised in areas involving Employment, Licensing and Civil Litigation. He is currently serving his second term as a member of the Pursuers' Panel.

Neil is a partner in Raeburn Christie Clark & Wallace. He leads their Employment team, and carries on the practice of professional negligence within the firm.

Neil has solely acted for pursuers in the area of professional negligence. He has extensive experience working for financial institutions in actions relating to irregular mortgage lending involving the negligence of both solicitors and surveyors. He also has a broad exposure to professional negligence work, including claims relating to quality of advice, executry handling, conveyancing failures in terms of title deeds and missives, and audit failures.

He sits on the panel as its most northerly member, and is pleased to be able to widen access to the panel’s services.

You can contact Neil at:

Raeburn Christie Clark & Wallace,

12-16 Albyn Place,

Aberdeen AB10 1PS

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neil.fraser@raeburns.co.uk

**Ken Lauder**

Ken Lauder is a Legal Director in the Litigation & Dispute Resolution Team at Gilson Gray LLP. He is a qualified Solicitor Advocate and specialises in high value personal injury, medical negligence and professional negligence claims generally.

In his previous firm, Ken served as Client Relations Manager for seven years. He has a keen understanding of the kind of issues clients may have with their solicitors from time to time. Over the years, he has been involved in many professional negligence actions involving solicitors.

Ken believes it is important to give clients as much support and guidance as possible during any litigation, always recognising that it is often an unfamiliar and stressful process for clients.

You can contact Ken at:

Gilson Gray LLP,

29 Rutland Square,

Edinburgh, EH1 2BW

Telephone: 0131 516 5354/07495 856672

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**Cat McLean**

Cat MacLean is Head of Dispute Resolution and a Partner with MBM Commercial, having spent 10 years in busy practice as an Advocate before joining MBM in 2008. Prior to that she spent several years in a large litigation practice in Edinburgh. She sits on the Lord President’s Consultative Committee on Commercial Actions, chaired by Lord Doherty, and on the Law Society of Scotland’s Professional Conduct Committee, which sits every month. Additionally, she is also a Writer to the Signet (WS) and has been appointed to the Council of the WS Society.

Her clients include individuals, technology companies, property developers and entrepreneurs. She has an established expertise in professional negligence claims, advising clients with claims against a range of former professional advisers including solicitors, surveyors, financial advisors and financial institutions. She is a member of the Professional Negligence Lawyers Association and in May 2020 was appointed to the Law Society’s Pursuer’s Panel.

She also specialises in financial claims, against banks and other financial institutions, and is the sole Scottish representative of the International Banking Litigation Network, an association of law firms across Europe who are willing to handle complex claims against banks and who have the required level of knowledge and experience to do so. She was previously a panel member of the Independent Monitoring Panel of the Chartered Bankers Professional Standards Board, is a member of the Westminster All Party Parliamentary Group on Fair Business Banking's Professional Advisory Panel, was a Committee member of the House of Commons Parliamentary Inquiry into Financial Disputes, and in the summer of 2018 was asked to provide expert testimony to the Treasury Select Committee on financial disputes.

She is ranked in Chambers and in the Legal 500 as 'A force to be reckoned with', demonstrating 'A pragmatic and sensible approach’. Chambers 2019 commented that 'She responds quickly and professionally, demonstrating strong interpersonal skills, commerciality and leadership….her keen sense of perspective allows her to retain focus on the bigger picture’. She is the only solicitor to have won the prestigious title of “Solicitor of the Year” twice, at the Law Awards of Scotland in 2015 and 2012, having previously been short-listed for the award in 2010, and in 2016 led her team to victory in the Scott & Co Legal Awards, winning “Litigation Team of the Year”.

You can contact Cat at:

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**Michael McLean**

Michael is a partner at Jones Whyte LLP, based in Glasgow. Michael studied at the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen, before re-locating to Edinburgh and training and working for 8 years at a well-known personal injury specialist firm, acting exclusively for pursuers He joined Jones Whyte in Glasgow in 2016 to take up his current role.

Michael has a wide experience of civil court practice and procedure in both the Sheriff Court and Court of Session, and has a particular interest in acting for pursuers in damages claims arising from professional negligence, personal injuries, and property damage. He is a law society accredited specialist in personal injury.

Away from the office, Michael is a “retired” amateur footballer and keen follower of the professional game. He also enjoys playing golf, guitar and spending time with his wife and family.

You can contact Michael at:

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59 Bath Street,

Glasgow G2 2DH

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michael.mclean@joneswhyte.co.uk

**Iain Nicol**

Iain is a Legal Director at Lefevres, Solicitors, and is based in Glasgow. He is one of the original members of the Pursuers’ panel. He has Fellow status with the Association of Personal injury Lawyers and is accredited by the Law Society in both personal injury law and professional negligence law.

Iain has a significant case load of high value/catastrophic injury/fatal road traffic, work accident, professional and medical negligence claims in both the Court of Session and Sheriff Court. He served on the Scottish Civil Justice Council Costs and Funding Committee from 2014 to 2017 and is now Convener of the Law Society's Civil Justice Committee and its working groups, dealing with all aspects of Civil Justice which affect the Solicitors’ profession including the implementation of the Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Act 2018.

Iain also has a particular interest in quality assurance and peer reviewing having acted as a Peer Reviewer for the Law Society between 2003 and 2018. He was invited to deliver a series of seminars to Chinese lawyers in Beijing in 2015 on the skills of peer reviewing. He regularly chairs and speaks at conferences and is currently co-authoring a textbook on Costs and Funding in the Civil Courts.

You can contact Iain at:

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