



Safeena Rashid

Personal information

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Clerking information

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Key Skills

- Foreign languages: Fluent Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi; Beginners Arabic
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Logical and analytical thinking
- Attention to detail
- Willingness to make decisions which will affect others

Career History

Published articles

- 04 January 2019
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/17334982.agenda-so-how-will-brex-it-affect-workers-rights/>
- 26 November 2018
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/safeena-rashid-when-justice-is-not-welcomed-by-all-1-4834156>

Advocate Faculty of Advocates

July '13 – date (with some periods of absence as detailed below)

- Conducting asylum and immigration cases on behalf of the UK Home Office until Sep 2017
- Provision of judicial training in conjunction with the Judicial Institute for Scotland
- Delivering seminars on topics such as employment law
- Appearances at various different levels of courts in relation to criminal matters such

- as appeals on the basis of human rights grounds
- Junioring in a variety of cases for Crown and defence, including sexual abuse and murder
- Preparing and conducting cases on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
- Attendance at European Fair Trials training, criminal law seminars and other development opportunities
- Dealing with employment matters, including appeals, on a pro bono basis for the Faculty of Advocates' Free Legal Services Unit

Examples of advocacy work

~ MR (Pakistan) v Secretary of State (June 2017)

Represented Home Office in this First Tier Tribunal appeal. Appellant's agent submitted a psychiatric report. Upon detailed examination of the report I made submissions against its reliability because psychiatrist opined on appellant's credibility without a clinical basis.

~ NMC v S (the 'registrant') (February 2017) Review of ongoing sanction to practice as a nurse. Conducted examination in chief of expert medical witness assessing registrant's alcohol intake. Involved understanding technical information and presenting it in a way accessible to lay members of Tribunal

~ Bail appeals in the Sheriff Appeal Court and the Appeal Court. Generally merits of a case are not considered in such appeals. However after analysing evidence of one case I deemed it suitable to depart from this, explaining my reasons to the Sheriff. Unusually in respect of bail appeals, the Sheriff allowed the appeal.

~ Wilson v PF Aberdeen (appeal against sentence to the Court of Appeal)

Careless driving charge in which the appellant's driving license had been revoked. Drafted and successfully argued the note of appeal, using the binding case of Gemmell v HMA 2012 SCCR 176 as precedent.

Volunteer Lawyer European Lawyers in Lesvos, Greece Sep '17 – Jan '18

- Preparing asylum seekers in Lesvos, Greece, for their first instance interviews
- Arranging family reunification paperwork and drafting relevant applications
- Liaising with family members and professionals in other jurisdictions
- Providing interpretation services as necessary
- Providing specialist advice to minors and victims of torture, sexual and gender based violence

Examples of voluntary work

~ Case of AA

Syrian applicant not classed as vulnerable. Upon preparing him for interview, he clearly had had many issues which would merit this decision being reconsidered. Applicant extensively prepared, allowing him to articulate these issues. Later recognised as vulnerable

~ Case of FT

Applicant vulnerable due to being alone with two young children. Husband in UK. She was registered as Iraqi national even though she was undocumented Kuwaiti Bidoon. Successfully helped her arrange and prepare for a nationality assessment. Her origin now correctly distinguished and family reunification process underway

**Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service Legal Adviser
July '14 – Dec '15**

- Advising lay justices on legal issues as and when they arise in the Justice of the Peace court
- Organising and delivering training for judges on relevant issues, such as court craft and new legal developments
- Ensuring only admissible evidence is presented by parties
- Assisting members of the public with court procedure if they are not legally represented
- Advising on sentencing practice
- Drafting appeal documents
- Organising daily court business which could include over one hundred cases and involves coordination between prosecutors, defence agents, members of the public and also G4S

Examples of judicial advice

~ PF Edinburgh v Keith Livingston (October 2015)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-34640659>

Scotland's first ASBO given after an accused pled guilty to hare coursing. Advised JP about this novel area. Accused appealed sentence. Drafted appeal document on behalf of JP. Appeal refused at first sift.

~ Atkins v PF Livingston (November 2015)

Party litigant appeal. Noted trial and drafted stated case. Appeal refused. Responded to correspondence outlining procedure and providing information in relation to rights, in order to ensure fair proceedings

Procurator Fiscal Depute

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Apr '12 – Sep '12

**Trainee Procurator Fiscal Depute Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Aug '09 – Aug '11**

- Experience of international criminal law through secondment in the The Hague
- Engaging in policy development work, primarily in relation to implications of legal advice for suspects
- Reviewing evidence and deciding whether to prosecute, considering factors such as public interest
- Preparation and prosecution of cases in court, including domestic violence and misuse of drugs
- Dealing with freedom of information requests
- Assisting with diversity training and training of trainees or new legal colleagues

Education & Training

Faculty of Advocates Devil Oct '12 – Jul '13

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen Diploma in Legal Practice Sep '07 – May '08

University of Edinburgh LLB Law (Hons) 2:1 Sep '02 – May '07

[Before transferring to LLB Law, studied two years of MA Hons Social Policy and Law]

Voluntary Interests

Stand up comedy

May '18 to Date

- Writing and performing stand up comedy routines at different venues around the country

Board Member Amina, The Muslim Women's Resource Centre

Nov '16 – Date

- Overseeing policy development and implementation
- Drafting press releases, making radio and television appearances on behalf of the organisation
- Conducting internal investigations when necessary
- Recruitment of employees

Independent Prison Monitor Scottish Government

Feb '16 – Date

- Visiting prisons in order to assess general practice and suggest areas for improvement
- Speaking to prisoners in order to identify and deal with issues whilst managing expectations

Policy / Legal Advisor Al Furqan

Aug '12 - Date

- Drafting and advising on organisational policies in relation to matters such as child protection, GDPR
- Dealing with complaints
- Planning for and teaching Islamic studies to different levels, from primary school to adult ladies
- Assisting in the set up and development of the curriculum

Cub Scout Leader 8th Braid Scouts

Aug '07 – Mar '18

- Responsibility for thirty children aged between 8 -14
- Over-seeing young leaders
- Creating weekly programme
- Maintaining appropriate balance between friendship and leadership

Founder Female Association of Young Muslims in Edinburgh

May '05 – Dec '13

- Founder of a volunteer organisation designed to encourage active civic participation of girls aged 6 -12
- Responsible for creating and delivering a programme of activities to develop member skills in debating, presentation and creativity

Radio Producer/Presenter Radio Ramadan, Edinburgh

Dec '04 – Jun '17

- Producing and presenting various different shows which involved investigating issues, getting into contact with and interviewing different guests, working to a tight schedule
- Technical support

References available upon request