



## **Alastair Thornton**

- Qualified as solicitor in 1981. Joined A & W M Urquhart as solicitor in 1982 working in civil litigation. Specialised in insurance work and personal injury. Made partner in 1983 and developed litigation practice with insurers and local authorities, handling also administrative law, social work issues and commercial litigation. Headed up litigation team from 1988. Developed expertise in professional negligence issues (lawyers, doctors, dentists, financial advisers, surveyors), being appointed by Law Society of Scotland in 2002 to its panel for representing claimants.
- Elected member of Council of Law Society of Scotland in 1990 and served on numerous committees during 12 year tenure. Appointed convenor of the Society's Judicial Procedure Committee in 1991 and oversaw introduction of accreditation systems for commercial and family mediators. Became convenor of the Society's Education and Training Committee in 1994 and Guarantee Fund Committee in 1997.
- Elected Vice President of the Law Society of Scotland, taking office in 1999. Served as President of the Society between 2000 and 2001.
- Undertook initial training in mediation in 1993. Trained by Core in 2001/02 and accredited by Core as mediator in 2002.
- External examiner in Professional Legal Skills for Glasgow Graduate School of Law.
- Lecturer and tutor for WS Society in Practical Ethics and Risk Management modules of Professional Competence Course for trainee solicitors (2001 to date).
- Appointed part time sheriff in 2003. Left A & W M Urquhart in 2004 to work extensively as part time sheriff throughout Scotland and to focus on commitment to mediation and facilitation.
- Joined panel of Core Mediation in 2004 and assists in coaching and training with Core
- Participated in a number of mediations in the following areas :
  - commercial contracts
  - use of land
  - professional negligence
  - construction