



Year of Call

2017

Devil Masters

Bryan Heaney

Claire Mitchell

Chris Pirie

@simoncrabb on Twitter

LinkedIn Profile

Practice Profile

Since calling to the bar, Simon has built up a busy civil practice. He has been instructed in a number of personal injury and professional negligence (medical and solicitor) cases. Simon also has a strong interest in public law and was recently appointed a temporary Standing Junior to the Office of the Advocate General for immigration appeal work. He has also advised on judicial reviews and appeals to the Inner House.

Simon has a keen interest and experience of Fatal Accident Inquiries, including representing a care home provider in a recent inquiry. He has also received regular instructions in criminal cases both at first instance and appeal. Simon has been instructed as junior counsel in a long running terrorism trial involving a large amount of complex expert evidence.

Simon trained as a solicitor with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). While working as a procurator fiscal depute in the Highlands, he prosecuted hundreds of criminal cases and was also the sitting manager for the High Court.

Simon has considerable experience in human rights. Between 2012 and 2016, he worked in conflict zones in Colombia. He provided training to local lawyers, students and victims on international justice and contributed to a number of legal publications. He also undertook advocacy work before the Colombian Constitutional Court, United Nations, and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the Hague and New York. He continues to advise on issues of international law and transitional justice.

He is a fluent Spanish speaker.

Education & Professional Career to Date

Called to the Bar, 2017

Head of Mission, Lawyers without Borders Canada, Colombia, 2015
Legal Adviser, Lawyers without Borders Canada, Colombia, 2013
Human Rights Field Observer, Peace Brigades International, Colombia, 2012
Procurator Fiscal Depute, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, 2010
Trainee Solicitor, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, 2008
Legal Intern, Center for Justice and International Law, Costa Rica, 2005
Dip LP, Glasgow Graduate School of Law, 2008
Diploma in Conflict Studies, University Complutense, Madrid, Spain, 2007
Magister Specialisation in International Law and International Relations, University Complutense, Madrid, Spain, 2006
LLB (Hons), Law & Spanish, University of Strathclyde, 2004
Erasmus Programme, Public University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, 2003

Appointments

- Junior Counsel, First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum), Office of the Advocate General (2018–present)
- Volunteer, Justice, London (2018–present)
- Member of Human Rights and Rule of Law Committee, Faculty of Advocates (2017–present)
- Member of Law Reform Committee, Faculty of Advocates (2017–present)
- Volunteer, Peace Brigades International, London

Selected Cases

- **Amicus Curiae before the Constitutional Court of Colombia**
In respect of Constitutional Reform 01 of 2015 on Military Justice (Spanish), Lawyers without Borders Canada, July 2015.
- **Amicus Curiae before the Superior Tribunal of Santander, Colombia**
Appeal against conviction of human rights defender David Ravelo Crespo. Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, September 2013. Worked under Kirsty Brimelow QC.
- **HMA v Strachan & Others [2010] HCJAC 70**
Worked under Dorothy Bain QC in the successful prosecution of the UK's largest paedophile ring.

Areas of Practice

- Clinical and Professional Negligence
- Crime
- Personal Injury
- Public and Fatal Accident Inquiries
- Public Law

Publications & Seminars

Commission and Diligence and the Right to Privacy: None of Our Business?, Arnot Manderson Advocates Annual Conference, Edinburgh, September 2017

Better the Devil You Know: Eight Trends in Human Rights (and One Non Trend), Arnot Manderson Advocates, Edinburgh, September 2017

Victims' Rights and Complementarity: Paving the Way Towards transition in Colombia, Uganda and the Central African Republic, Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute, World Forum, The Hague, Netherlands, Nov 2016.

Perspectives of a Scottish Human Rights Lawyer in Colombia, Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh, Feb 2016.

Complementarity: The Situation Relating to International Crimes and Sexual Violence in Colombia, Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute, World Forum, The Hague, Netherlands, Nov 2015.

A Look at Enforced Displacement: Criminal Prosecutions, Organised Power Structures and Land Restitution in the Colombian Context, International forum on enforced displacement, Los Andes University, Bogot , Colombia, Sep 2015.

International Criminal Law Moot Court Competition, Industrial University of Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia, Apr-Jun 2015.

Sentencing Options in the Colombian Peace Process, International Forum on transitional justice, Industrial University of Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia, Feb 2015.

Simon has written in a number of legal publications:-

Peace Negotiations: Observations on the Partial Agreements on Victims in Colombia, (Spanish). Lawyers Without Borders Canada, July 2016.

A Case Study on Complementarity: Impunity Mechanisms in Colombian Justice (Spanish). Lawyers Without Borders Canada. April 2016.

Contributions of Justice and Peace Decisions on Women's Rights (Spanish). Lawyers Without Borders Canada. December 2015.

A Look at Enforced Displacement: Criminal Prosecutions, Organised Power Structures and Land Restitution in the Colombian Context (Spanish). Lawyers Without Borders Canada. September 2015.

Peace with Transitional Justice: Contributions for Colombia from International Law (Spanish). Lawyers without Borders Canada. December 2014.

Additional Information

Fluent Spanish speaker.

Faculty of Advocates Scholarship, 2016.

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Excellence Award 2010; Fighting serious crime.