



CHARLES OLIVER



Year of Call

2020

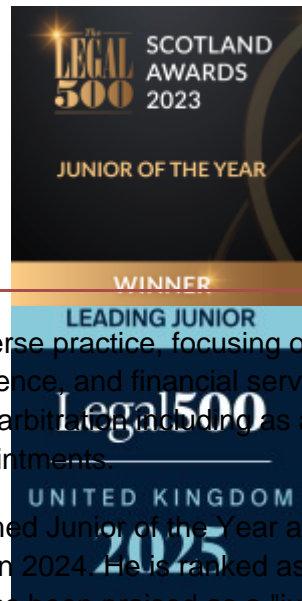
Devil Masters

David Turner KC

Jamie Dawson KC

David Nicolson KC

LinkedIn Profile



Practice Profile

Charles is a highly sought-after Counsel with a busy and diverse practice, focusing on commercial litigation, construction, property disputes, professional negligence, and financial services. In addition to his litigation work, Charles has experience in international arbitration, including as an arbitrator. He accepts both instructions to act as Counsel and neutral appointments.

Recognised for his excellence in advocacy, Charles was named Junior of the Year at the inaugural Legal 500 Scotland Awards 2023 and was nominated again in 2024. He is ranked as a Leading Junior across three practice areas by Legal 500, where he has been praised as a "junior with mastery over the facts in a case", being "well received by judges" and having a "compelling manner in court".

Charles' clients include corporates, third-sector bodies including social landlords, and individuals. He is often instructed in cases that cross disciplinary lines and jurisdictions, including enforcement matters.

Previous instructions have included representing a social landlord in a complex construction dispute raised by way of group proceedings; acting for former partners of a dissolved partnership in a cross-border commercial dispute concerning a foreign state, including advising on issues under the State Immunity Act; and representing numerous pursuers in civil fraud proceedings arising from a large-scale property scam, linked to what was at the time the UK's longest criminal trial.

Charles is also instructed in a group of claims relating to private medical treatment including allegations of mis-selling and clinical negligence, together with associated Consumer Credit Act claims against the financing lenders. He has advised on the group management of these actions in the Sheriff Court outside the scope of formal Court of Session Group Procedure including providing draft Practice Notes for the Sheriff Principal's consideration. In addition, he has acted for a former business owner in defending allegations under the Proceeds of Crime Act. He was also instructed in relation to a cross-border claim for recovery of funds advanced to a spiritual teacher involving disputed issues of foreign law.

He is regularly instructed in cases that straddle multiple areas of law including those outwith his core practice areas. For example, he is often instructed in family litigation with cross-border elements, commercial assets or enforcement issues.

Beyond his litigation practice, Charles sits on the governance committee of the regulator of the Scottish Bar (the Faculty of Advocates). He has also served on the board of a major Scottish Housing Association for five years. He now accepts instructions to act both for and against Registered Social Landlords. He has also served as an ad hoc Reporter to the Law Society of Scotland in relation to professional conduct matters. He has taught commercial law, business entities, and delict at the University of Edinburgh, and was called to the Bar as a Lord Hope Scholar.

Appointments

- Member of AM Commercial Law Practice Group (2023–present)
- Board of Management Member, Kingdom Housing Association Ltd (2018–2023)
- ad hoc Complaints Reporter to the Professional Conduct Sub Committee, Law Society of Scotland (2019–2022)

Selected Cases

- **Rose v Baston [2024] CSOH 104**
Acted for successful Pursuer at debate in a boundary dispute in debate involving issues concerning rectification under the Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012 of a title registered under the Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979, the extent to which multiple bounding titles can exclude the need for evidence, and the type of conduct required to amount to harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.
- **Parks of Hamilton (Townhead Garage) Ltd v Deas 2022 SCLR 292**
Appeared both at first instance and on appeal for the successful Pursuer and Respondent, on both occasions without Senior. Appeared at first instance and successfully resisted dismissal of the Pursuer's claim concerning rejection of a motor vehicle valued at almost 142,000. Thereafter, appeared on appeal to defend a challenge to the Sheriff's decision based, in part, on her reliance on expert reports not incorporated into the pleadings.
- **Davie v Powerteam Electrical Services (UK) Ltd 2024 SLT 85, 2024 SCLR, 2023 GWD 50-425**
Instructed along with Senior Counsel on behalf of Pursuer in 20 Million occupiers' liability action in the Court of Session. The decision concerned the assessment of foreseeability under the Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960, whether the Act required a staged approach, and the extent of any duty owed under the Act.
- **Gilchrist v Govan Dental Centre & Another 2024 GWD 7-56**
Appeared without Senior for the successful Pursuer in a commercial action challenging a discharge of claims signed by the patient of a dental practice. The court granted a declaration that the discharge was unenforceable under the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and also found that, on a proper construction, it did not preclude the Pursuer from advancing a claim in negligence. Court finding that had it been wrong on the interpretation issue, the Pursuer would have also had a relevant case to challenge the discharge on the basis of essential error and undue influence.
-

B v P 2019 Hous. L.R. 19

Appeared for the successful Defender. Decree reponed after almost 4 years. Statutory defences to division and sale of a family home by trustee of client's sequestrated estate.

- **AB v CD 2018 Rep. L.R. 15**

Acted for the successful pursuer in obtaining Summary Decree in personal injury action where the Defender had previously been convicted of assaulting the Pursuer

Areas of Practice

- Clinical and Professional Negligence
- Commercial
- Family
- Personal Injury
- Property
- Public Law
- Taxation

Publications & Seminars

Better the Devil You Know Seminar - COVID: Easing the Lockdown on Expenses Recovery - 10th June 2020

Civil Procedure: Case Law Update - Commercial Practice Group Seminar 10th March 2025

Directories

Charles was the winner of the "Junior of the Year" award in the inaugural Legal 500 Scotland Awards 2023. He was again nominated for the award in 2024.

Charles is also treble-ranked as a "Leading Junior" by Legal 500 (2025) in the practice areas of Commercial Disputes; Property, and Planning and Construction; and Personal injury and medical negligence. He is reported on as follows:

'Charles has a strong legal mind and a compelling manner in court.' (Property, Planning And Construction, Legal 500 2025)

'A junior with a clear and succinct approach to instructions.' (Personal injury and medical negligence, Legal 500 2024)

'Charles is a very intelligent advocate who can quickly get to the heart of a dispute. He is well received by judges.' (Commercial Disputes, Legal 500 2024)

'A junior with mastery over the facts in a case and confident in court.' (Property, Planning And Construction, Legal 500 2024)