



Hugh Donald OBE



Hugh was formerly Managing Partner and Chairman of the Scottish legal firm Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP. He trained as both a family and commercial mediator and is skilled in coaching and facilitation. He is also a consultant to the Church of Scotland, supporting the development of “The Place for Hope” initiative.

Mediation Experience

- Mediated in a significant number of matters with a specific interest and skill in disputes involving senior managers and personnel within the workplace and in difficult family situations.
- Practised as a family mediator conducting significant caseload over 7 years.
- Trained as a commercial mediator with Core in 2003.
- Led and participated in mediation training provided to legal, commercial, public and voluntary sectors.
- Regularly involved in coaching on Core's mediation and negotiation training courses.
- Hugh's style is facilitative, quietly authoritative and empathetic, engendering trust and confidence in the process.

Professional Experience

- Partner and latterly chairman and chief executive of Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and London) from 1977 – 2010.
- Former Chairman of the Law Society of Scotland's Medical Negligence Accreditation Panel
- Member of the Law Society Standards Working Group
- Chairman of Family Mediation Scotland until 2008
- Involved in the establishment of the family mediation service in Scotland in 1984. Continued active role in the development of the national organisation and oversaw merger with Relate (Couple Counselling) in 2008.
- When Chief Executive, was responsible for the leadership of the firm, undertaking a reshaping of the business, implementation of a management infrastructure and planned geographical growth of the business. As Chairman was responsible for the overall governance of the firm, chairing Partners' meetings, Chairman of the Partnership Board which is responsible for the firm's strategy, working with the firm's Chief Executive, promoting and undertaking Partner development training and appraisals
- Considerable experience in representation at Fatal Accident Inquiries, General Medical and Dental Councils and Member of the Insurers Panel advising on solicitors' indemnity and for 25 years represented Medical Defence Organisations in Scotland, acting for doctors and dentists in the management of claims, advising on complaints and disciplinary action, including appearance at NHS Tribunals and GMC/GDC.
- Awarded OBE in 2000 for services to family mediation in Scotland.

Feedback

- “We were particularly impressed by Hugh Donald. Hugh was superb and the day was, in my view, a set piece example of facilitative mediation as it should be. However tempting it might have been to start evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the legal arguments, Hugh steadfastly stuck to the purist approach and achieved the best possible result. He also handled our client extremely well and this enabled us to move forward after each session.”
- “Hugh was great”, “clearly knew what he was doing”, “kept options open for as long as possible”, “made best use of the time available”, “everyone had confidence in him”.
- “The fresh perspective which Hugh was obviously able to offer seems to have made all the difference”.
- “In my very firm opinion without your helpful input we would have been unlikely to have resolved matters yesterday and certainly not in the way which we did.”