CV of

Andrew C Ferguson

Andrew Ferguson Consults

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Personal Statement

Vastly experienced, highly committed lawyer with advanced negotiation, presentational and communication skills. Extensive track record of successful publication on legal topics as well as seminar/other presentations. Energetic, focused and innovative in approach. Special focus on governance issues.

Employment History

1985 – 1989: Solicitor, Pagan Osborne & Grace, Solicitors, Cupar. Trainee/assistant solicitor, specialising mainly in property matters.

1989 – 1996: Solicitor/Principal Solicitor, Kirkcaldy District Council. Main specialisms in planning and commercial property, e.g. sale of land for Chapel Farm Retail Park, Kirkcaldy; stock transfer of all Glenrothes Development Corporation housing to KDC.

1996 – 2002: Solicitor, Fife Council. Transferred to Dunfermline office to assist with compulsory purchase/complex three way property deal that led to Debenhams development in Dunfermline town centre. Created style planning agreements for opencast developments that protected Fife from multimillion pound liabilities for restoration following collapse of industry.

2002 – 2011: Team Leader, Committee Services, Fife Council. In addition to clerking committees etc acted as special projects solicitor on, e.g., Ship to Ship Transfer of Oil in Firth of Forth and Fife's successful opposition to Edinburgh congestion charging proposals.

2011 – 2020: Manager, Committee Services, Fife Council. Key player in advising on governance issues for Chief Executive and other senior officers, as well as Joint Leaders of Administration and other senior councillors. Leading committee team. Author of comprehensively rewritten governance documents following 2017 elections to implement new committee structure.

Successfully implemented a new committee management system which is a bespoke build out of Sharepoint, to ensure agendas and reports can be assimilated and produced as effectively as possible.

Current consultancy work includes work on Standards Commission for Scotland's suite of guidance documentation supporting the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Writing, Presentation and communication

Publications include:

- Common Good Law, Avizandum, 2006 second edition published 2019;
- Local Planning Reviews in Scotland (with John Watchman) Avizandum, 2015;
- Numerous articles for Scots Law Times, Law Society Journal, Scottish Planning and Environmental Law.

Accomplished presenter, having given talks and seminars for, amongst others, Central Law Training (CLT); Legal Services Agency; and Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators in Scotland (SOLAR). Internal training for Fife Council included a programme for committee administrators to enable them to take on additional duties.

Other Career Achievements

Leading multi-disciplinary team which created Fife's common good register, some years ahead of statutory obligation to do so. I have given evidence to four Scottish Parliament Committees on common good law reform.

President of SOLAR 2011. Previously chaired both Planning and Conveyancing working groups for SOLAR.

Education

LLB (Hons) 2:1 Edinburgh, 1984

Diploma in Legal Practice, Edinburgh, 1985

Other Interests

Music; Spanish.