

## Partner and Associate level promotions at Digby Brown

Digby Brown Solicitors have announced two new Partners and three new Associates in a series of promotions across the firm's specialist personal injury and clinical negligence teams in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Kirkcaldy.

Ruth Kelliher (Clinical Negligence department) and Catherine Hart (Head of Professional Support) are both assumed as Partners. Ruth Kelliher has been a leader within Digby Brown's top-ranked Clinical Negligence Department since its creation in 2008.

Catherine Hart has been Head of Professional Support at Digby Brown since 2014. Digby Brown is one of only a small number of Scottish firms to have a Professional Support Lawyer, particularly among firms specialising in personal injury litigation.

Of the three new Associates, Gary Ross is part of the firm's Industrial Disease team in Glasgow, Suzanne Hedderman sits within Digby Brown's Kirkcaldy Insurance Litigation team and Ashley Sturrock is part of the firm's Network department in Edinburgh.

Digby Brown Chief Executive Fraser Oliver described the promotions as demonstrating the scope of the firm's expertise and its commitment to leading the sector in areas like professional support.

Fraser Oliver said:

"Our clients expect us to have breadth as well as depth of expertise and to be leaders in everything we do. Giving our people the opportunity to develop themselves and their careers is central to achieving that.

“Ruth Kelliher has a wealth of experience in Clinical Negligence and will be a strong leader within our successful team in this specialist area of practice.

“Catherine Hart has made a huge contribution since she joined us in 2014 to head our Professional Support team. Investing in Professional Support is an area we are really proud to be leading on as it helps our people and delivers significant benefits for our clients.

“Gary Ross has been at the heart of our landmark legal work on behalf of victims of asbestos disease, Suzanne Hedderman successfully runs complex personal injury cases with an excellent record in court and Ashley Sturrock’s capabilities and acute commercial awareness is an important asset in working with members of the Compensate Personal Injury Network and clients referred to us via that route.

“I am delighted to announce this set of promotions and look forward to working with these colleagues in their new roles.”

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#### **Notes to News desks**

**Photo attached** with this press release; “*DigbyBrownPromotions2017*”. From left to right; Gary Ross, Ashley Sturrock, Catherine Hart, Ruth Kelliher, Suzanne Hedderman

**More information** on each of the individuals promoted is given below:

#### **Ruth Kelliher (Clinical Negligence) – promoted to Partner**

Accredited as a specialist in Medical Negligence Law by the Law Society of Scotland, Ruth has been a key part of the firms’ Clinical Negligence department since its creation in 2008. This extensive experience means Ruth has the knowledge and commercial understanding necessary to consistently succeed for clients in a very specialised area of practice, including in high-value and complex clinical negligence

cases. Hard working, extremely conscientious and a proven litigator, Ruth will continue to play a leadership role in a team widely regarded as being among the very best in its field.

**Catherine Hart (Professional Support Lawyer) – promoted to Partner**

Recognised as a leading Professional Support Lawyer, Catherine joined Digby Brown in September 2014 as Head of Professional Support. Catherine and her team have established Professional Support as a key function within the firm. Catherine is responsible for LEP within Digby Brown and actively promotes wider best practice in the profession, including in ASPIC.

Digby Brown has demonstrated its commitment to the role that professional support can play in a successful modern law firm. We believe the provision of a team dedicated to the support of our fee earners sets Digby Brown apart in the field of pursuer personal injury litigation.

**Gary Ross (Industrial Disease) – promoted to Associate**

Gary has been with Digby Brown since 2011, joining as a trainee. He has developed in-depth expertise in asbestos litigation, achieving particularly notable successes as principal solicitor in 2 of the most important judgements achieved for pursuers suffering from industrial illness in Scotland in recent years – *Wales* and *Harris*.

**Suzanne Hedderman (Insurance Litigation) – promoted to Associate**

Suzanne joined the firm in 2006 and has been a long-standing leader within the insurance litigation department in Kirkcaldy, coaching and mentoring junior staff members and successfully taking on complex cases. A tenacious and well-respected litigator, Suzanne has been increasingly appearing in court taking on more contentious advocacy.

**Ashley Sturrock (Network) – promoted to Associate**

Ashley has also spent her whole career with Digby Brown, joining as a trainee in 2010. Ashley has been a consistently high performer, achieving excellent results for clients as a litigator, including in complex cases, and helping develop the Edinburgh Network team, which works with members of the Digby Brown Compensate Personal Injury Network.

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