

ADMISSION CEREMONY – 19TH JUNE 2009

Ladies and Gentleman, I am Lorna Jack the Chief Executive of the Law Society of Scotland.

I would like to thank Sheriff Bobby Dickson for joining us today. His distinguished career in the law is a great example of what can be achieved in the legal profession. We very much appreciate his contribution and his thoughtful advice to your Admission Ceremony. Thank you.

Let me add my congratulations to you all. It is a fantastic achievement to have reached this mile stone and a reminder of your connective professional values and you should feel justifiably proud. Wherever your careers take you in the law, I am sure it will be a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

As Chief Executive of your Law Society I am delighted at the opportunity to get out and about and meet members of the Profession to hear their

views. I especially welcome the opportunity to speak with you as new members this morning at the very outset of your legal careers.

The Society is a membership organisation . you are our members and our work is to provide the services you need to ensure that you and the solicitor profession in general, is successful and continues to meet the high standards expected of it.

We recognise that we are all operating in incredibly difficult times and while we don't claim to have all the answers . we want you to get in touch with your questions. Part of what we do is to provide support to the profession . from advice you might need when dealing with a client, to clarifying rules and guidelines to providing professional training. Many of you will know some of the Law Society Education & Training team already . Liz and Katie are here today . but you should also know that we have a professional practice team offering a support hotline to all solicitors and our Update team which runs events, seminars and conference throughout the year . including those for newly qualified solicitors. You will I hope all get to know Heather McPhee, our Development Officer, in Education and Training Policy .

I would encourage you to take the opportunity to get involved with these services. They have been designed with you in mind.

Our Law Reform Department organises a large number of Committees to scrutinise legislation . current examples would be input to court reforms, the recent report to the Calman Commission, Criminal Justice and Licensing Bills. We have professional practice committees, regulatory committees, and for those of you intending a career outside the traditional legal firms, in say local government in the corporate sector, I would encourage you to get involved with the in-house lawyers group. There are a myriad of ways that you can get involved in the work of the Society and we would be delighted to hear from your. Indeed you may in future be attracted to wear the robes and chain of office.

We keep our members informed with what is going on through the award-winning monthly Journal magazine . which I am sure you read avidly every month . its not all about dogs . and we have a monthly e-bulletin and a website currently undergoing upgrade. They present opportunities to get involved, air your views and share your experience

right from the outset of your legal careers . and I am sure Peter Nicholson, the Journal Editor, would be keen to hear from some potential new contributors to his magazine.

In short, I want to welcome you to your Society.

It is my job now to round off the more formal part of today's proceedings and invite you to join us for a celebratory drink behind these screens. In doing so can I finally ask you to join me in thanking those who organised today's event, Katie, Liz and the Admissions Team from the Law Society, our President Ian Smart and our Guest Speaker Sheriff Bobby Dickson and finally to your families, friends and to your good selves. You are the reason we are all here and it has been a privilege to share your day.

Thank you.