



Year of call 2025

Telephone 0131 226 5071

Email matthew.mcpherson@themis-advocates.co.uk

Areas of Practice

Crime & Public Law

Profile

Matthew called to the Bar in 2025, having qualified as a solicitor with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

As a Procurator Fiscal, Matthew prosecuted a broad range of criminal matters, from road traffic infringements to assaults, drugs offences and domestic abuse. He also appeared in procedural hearings in the Sheriff Courts for matters on indictment, including successfully opposing bail in a high-profile murder prosecution. Whilst at the Crown's appeals unit, he regularly briefed Advocates Depute on defence appeals against conviction and sentence, including cases of child abuse, rape and murder that attracted media attention.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Matthew served for over a decade as a Special Constable (voluntarily) and Police Constable (full-time) with Lothian and Borders, and latterly Police Scotland. He specialised as a community and school-link officer, which required him to work creatively with diverse communities and investigate all areas of crime. He also held various policy and casework roles within both the UK and Scottish parliaments. Following a sabbatical as President of Edinburgh University Students' Association, he held additional university governance roles, including as chair of the public affairs committee, for 5 years.

Whilst a law student at the University of Edinburgh, Matthew won three university prizes, including the Hastie Stable prize for mooting, the negotiation prize and was a world semi-finalist in the International Client Consultation Competition. He graduated the LLB with distinction.

Whilst devilling, Matthew took on the additional responsibility of providing pro bono legal assistance in employment law. He appeared on several occasions in front of senior judges of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, providing oral and written submissions on behalf of those who could otherwise not afford legal representation. His civil law experience was broadened through shadowing cases regarding immigration, personal injury, commercial dispute and guardianship orders. Devilling to an Ad-Hoc Advocate Depute, he gained a valuable insight in High Court prosecution, assisting in the preparation of two attempt murder trials.

Alongside his legal career, Matthew continues to serve as an Information Warfare officer in the Royal Navy Reserves. Working within complex and demanding environments both in the UK and abroad has provided him with a unique perspective and valuable experience. He is seeking to build a mixed practice of criminal and public law.

Qualifications

University of Edinburgh, 2008–2011

- Sociology, MA (Hons), 2.i

Chartered Management Institute, 2018–2020

- Leadership and Management, Level 7

University of Edinburgh, 2019–2021

- LLB, distinction

University of Edinburgh, 2021–2022

- Diploma in Professional Legal Practice