

**John Kielski**

I wish to stand for the Council because Scotland is where I began my legal career and where my values as a solicitor were first shaped. Having lived and practised in Scotland before returning to Canada and being called to the Bar in British Columbia, I carry with me a deep respect for the Scottish legal tradition—its integrity, sense of community, dedication to justice, and the maintaining of the highest standards of ethics.

My practice across both jurisdictions has shown me how vital it is for the profession to stay connected, adaptable, and grounded within a changing professional landscape. As a director of a non-profit charity providing housing and programming for vulnerable children who have lost parental care, I have seen firsthand the transformative impact that access, advocacy, and compassion can have. These experiences continue to remind me why the law matters beyond the office and courtroom.

If elected, I would bring a Canadian perspective informed by Scottish roots, a commitment to fairness and inclusion, and a belief that our profession's strength lies in both its principles and its people. It would be a privilege to give back to the community that first inspired me to practise law.



Alexia Maas, I am privileged to have enjoyed a 30-year career as a Scots-qualified lawyer - one that has taken me from private practice in the UK to global C-Suite leadership abroad. Throughout, I have considered myself an ambassador for the Law Society of Scotland and for the strength, integrity, and adaptability of the Scottish legal profession.

For the past 16+ years, I have represented our profession overseas, serving as Global General Counsel and Chief Legal & Compliance Officer for Volvo Financial Services, a Fortune 500 company operating in 48 countries with \$25bn assets under management.

During my first in-house role with CHC in Aberdeen, I was proud to create the first ever in-house traineeship approved by the Law Society of Scotland — a program that launched the career of my trainee (Jennifer Adams Blair), now a Global General Counsel herself.

Today, as a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Association of Corporate Counsel, and Global Counsel Leaders, I continue to advocate for Scottish excellence and global connectedness in our profession and champion cross-border collaboration, responsible leadership, and global engagement. I

believe the Scottish legal community has a powerful international voice - and I would be honoured to help amplify it through service on the Council of the Law Society of Scotland and, indeed, to bring my international experience, strategic insight, and deep commitment to legal education and professional ethics to the Council, serving as a voice for Scottish solicitors practising outside the UK.



Dr Giulio Marini, Over time, I noticed that Scottish Solicitors overseas play a key role in cross-border cases; their knowledge of the UK legal system and of the Country where they live often simplifies the communication between all the parties involved, reaching faster and more satisfying solutions.

However, being distant from Scotland may cause the risk their voices are not heard, so they need to be properly represented before the Law Society.