**‘JUNIOR JUNIOR’ COUNSEL TO THE ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND**

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

The Advocate General for Scotland invites expressions of interest from junior Counsel and solicitor advocates wishing to represent the Secretary of State for the Home Department at Immigration and Asylum First Tier Tribunal hearings in the place of Home Office Presenting Officers. Those appointed as ‘Acting Presenting Officers’ are likely to receive ad hoc instructions over a period of six months.

It is anticipated that these posts may be of most interest to recently called advocates and solicitor advocates who wish to gain experience of government work.

Applications are invited from any member of the junior Scottish Bar who has called for three years or less and solicitor advocates, called for the same period, unless currently appointed as an Advocate Depute or as Standing Junior to the Advocate General or Scottish Government. The applications will be assessed by a panel comprising OAG solicitors and at least one Home Office official. The number of appointments is not fixed. The appointment will relate only to the Home Office and will be for a six month period. Counsel joining the scheme will be required to read, and confirm that they have read, guidance on handling government information before they are added to the scheme.

In line with the parallel scheme operated in England, fees are £45 per hour for preparation of appeals (to a maximum of 5 hours per case) and £45 per hour for appearing before the Tribunal (to a maximum of 5 hours appearance work) for each list of cases.

Applications should be made by letter and should be accompanied by a current CV. Applications should provide the applicant’s current contact details, together with details of his or her main specialisms/areas of work and professional qualifications. Applicants should also mention any other qualifications and/or experience which they would like to be considered as part of their application. Junior Counsel should give their year of call and solicitor advocates their year of admittance as a solicitor advocate.

Applications should be emailed to businesssupport@advocategeneral.gov.uk for the attention of Hannah Robinson and Lauren Smith by midnight on Sunday 22 August 2021.

**PRESENTING OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Presenting Officer role requires the post holder to be able to remain positive and focused in a dynamic and fast changing environment. Applicants must be able to think quickly and proactively in a complex legal environment to deliver effective representation of the Secretary of State’s position. The post holder must be articulate under pressure and able to deliver as an effective advocate within the Tribunal environment. It is a challenging position that allows for personal flexibility and decision making in preparing and presenting cases in the first tier Immigration Tribunal.

* Present cases before the Immigration Tribunal adhering to professional standards and ensuring conduct is appropriate to a public Tribunal.
* Maintain an effective knowledge of Immigration law and processes.
* Prepare cases in a manner that assesses their potential to be sustained and then identify key evidence to allow for effective supported argument.
* Work flexibly around any court listing changes or operational requirements.
* In an adversarial court environment provide structured cross examination and submissions to ensure appeals are upheld appropriately.
* Undertake post hearing work in a timely and accurate fashion.