

## Robert Skinner



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Robert Skinner is recommended in the current editions of both Chambers UK and Legal 500 for his expertise in Licensing Law.

Ranked Band 1 for Licensing in the Chambers UK (2019), he is described as 'an outstanding advocate best known for his persuasive and robust style of advocacy, who has been involved in the most significant appeals in Scotland, often acting on the side of the trade. He is actively involved in a range of licensing matters including those relating to premises, liquor and late-night venue licensing. Skinner stands out for his practicality, sound judgement and commercial approach.'

***"Robert is a favourite with clients owing to his tenacious and full-blooded approach. He is a consummate communicator who can distil complex licensing matters into concise written opinions and pleadings."*** (Chambers UK, 2019)

***"He is brought in for particularly contentious issues and is not scared about negative reactions from the board."*** (Chambers UK, 2019)

The latest edition of the Legal 500 (2019) describes him as a 'an expert in licensing cases' pertaining to, among other areas, gambling, alcohol and taxi licences. Previous editions have highlighted his 'fantastic laid-back manner, [he] puts clients at their ease and speaks their language.'

## Biography

Robert Skinner is one of Scotland's most experienced and well known licensing counsel. In recent years he has represented most of the major supermarkets, public house chains, petrol station operators and casino operators, as well as a number of licensing boards. He frequently appears before licensing boards and committees and in the Sheriff Court and Court of Session. His experience includes liquor licensing, civic government licensing, security industries act licensing, firearms, betting and gaming, adult entertainment and the licensing of most other well known vices.

A frequent speaker at conferences, he is a member of the Law Society of Scotland Licensing Sub Committee and a consultant editor of Scottish Licensing Law and Practice. He was described in the Legal 500 Directory as a 'stand out' figure for licensing with a 'really impressive track record'.

Although best known for his work in the field of licensing, Robert practices in numerous other fields. He was a partner in a well known commercial law firm, and has experience in a wide range of commercial and administrative law work, including contract law, judicial review and land law. He also has substantial experience in professional negligence cases and reparation work. For many years he has acted as duty lawyer for a leading national newspaper and has an interest in defamation and media law. He is keen to develop his expertise in the field of tax, driven partially by his desire to pay less of it.

Robert has a keen interest in sport, mainly football, golf, rugby and boxing. He is a beer snob. To the astonishment of many who know him as a cultureless oaf, he has a love of opera and has attended various operatic performances both in this country and on the continent. He is very approachable and while he works extremely hard on his case load, he enjoys not taking himself too seriously.

### **Appointments**

Consultant editor of Scottish Licensing Law and Practice

### **Memberships**

Member of the Law Society of Scotland Licensing Sub Committee

### **Publications**

Robert has published articles in the SLT and in SLLP on various aspects of licensing law.

### **Recent Articles and Events**

Sex and The Civics

### **Recent Cases**

NATL (UK) Amusements Ltd - an appeal against the refusal to allow a variation of a licence to a cinema to allow alcohol to be taken into screening rooms  
Martin McColl Ltd v South Lanarkshire Licensing Board - an appeal regarding whether there was a proper legal basis for the refusal of an off sales premises licence for a convenience store  
Booker Ltd & Makro Wholesales Ltd - the impact of the Minimum Unit Pricing legislation on trade sale for wholesale traders  
McKeand v Dundee City Council - the enforceability of conditions requiring installation of electrical safety system within HMO properties  
Wiseman v Aberdeen City Council - the rationality of revoking a licence for an HMO following a criminal conviction under trading standards legislation  
McDonalds Restaurants Ltd - the renewal of a late night catering licence for a restaurant for police objections based on numerous complaints of nuisance  
Brightcrew Ltd v City of Glasgow Licensing Board - 2012 SLT - extent of jurisdiction of licensing board  
Ritchie v Aberdeen City Council 2011 SLT - taxi licences - adequacy of reason  
Mitchells and Butler Ltd v Dundee Licensing Board - legality of licensing promotion  
Glasgow City Council v Kelly 2011 - Traffic Commissioner- legitimacy of challenge to taxi fares fixed by Council  
Reid v Equiworld 2011 GWD - reparation - duty of care owed by equestrian establishment  
D Petitioner - 2011 SLT judicial review; competency of mode of challenge of refusal to grant legal aid.  
Drinkcafe Ltd v City of Glasgow 2011 SLT - legitimacy of licensing conditions  
Tesco Stores Ltd v Falkirk Licensing Board 2010 GWD - interpretation of stated case procedure  
Tesco Stores Ltd v Aberdeen Licensing Board 2010 GWD - interpretation of overprovision section  
William Morrison Supermarkets PLC v South Aberdeenshire PLC 2010 SLLP Judicial review justiciability of licensing board practice  
WWCM Ltd v Renfrewshire Licensing Board 2011 SLLP - variation of premises licence.  
Kell (Scotland) Ltd v Glasgow Licensing Board 2010 SLT - licensing conditions  
ROC UK Ltd v City of Edinburgh Licensing Board 2010 SLT - licensing of Petrol stations  
Co-operative Group Ltd v Aberdeen Licensing Board 2009 GWD - licensing of petrol station  
Tesco plc & Morrisons plc - review hearing on objectors challenge on drinks promotion  
Ormsby v Chief Constable 2008 SCCR - reparation - duty of care owed by Chief constable to police

officers

Killen v Dundee City Council 2008 SLT -licensing of HMO premises

Alldays stores Ltd v Central Fife Divisional 2007 GWD - licensing - fit and proper person test

BP Express Shopping Ltd v Perth & Kinross Licensing Board 2005 SLT - licensing of petrol stations

Haddow v Glasgow City Council 2005 SLT Reparation - employers' liability

Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders v Lothian and Borders Police Board 2005 SLT - judicial review of decision of Police Appeals Tribunals

Davis v Renfrewshire Council 2005 SC - licensing of taxi cabs

Robson v Law Society of Scotland 2005 SC - Appeal - ECHR compliance of Solicitors Discipline Tribunal

Malik v Ali 2004 SLT - illegality of performance of contract

WRG Trading Ltd v Ali 2003 SLT Judicial review of decision on regular extension

Harrison's Executors v Student Loans Company Ltd - wrongful dismissal of Chief Executive

Newman Shopfitters v Gleeson 2003 SLT - delay in prosecution of arbitration