

Catherine Marney



Projects:

- Tenement law compulsory owners' associations;
- Heritable securities;
- Aspects of leases;
- Nature conservation consolidation.

Previous experience:

In 2019 I graduated with a degree in English Literature. I then started a career in Scotch Whisky where I worked for smaller distilleries and whisky companies. Working in small teams meant I did a bit of everything; arranging diaries, making drinks, giving tours, book-keeping and even making a Youtube series! My strengths lie in writing and language, so I progressed to working in the marketing of Scotch Whisky. I then switched paths to a very enjoyable career in TEFL, working for a year in Madrid and then teaching in colleges in Glasgow.

I graduated with my 'fast-track' LLB from Strathclyde in 2025. During that period, I managed to squeeze in a legal internship at Glasgow City Council in the summer of 2024, working in the Property team on the Common Good project and helping to digitize historic writs. Working in law reform requires that you consider all of the people who may be affected by a change in the law and I think that having a broader experience helped me to visualise and understand how people are affected in different ways.

Future plans:

Following my time at the Commission, I will be back at university, once again, to undertake the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice. While I'm not sure what lies ahead, I hope that I can build on the legal research skills, drafting skills and public sector knowledge that I have built up in my career so far.

Can you tell us about a recent piece of work?

Recently I have been researching nature conservation law. I have read legal textbooks like those written by Professor Colin Reid and also the insightful biography/handbook of Wildlife Detective Alan Stewart. The nature project is a consolidation one, so there won't be changes to the law. The team and I have also attended meetings to discuss how best to approach and structure this type of work.

Why would you recommend being a legal assistant?

The Commission is a very supportive place to work. Each project is a very small team and so it is easy to get to know each other, feel listened to and to learn from your more senior colleagues. The library has ample resources: many, many books situated just a few feet away from your desk and extremely helpful and proactive library colleagues. After all this reading you may be asked to write briefing notes, paper chapters or even Bill instructions! So, another exciting part of being a legal assistant is the opportunity to have a hand in making the law.

I recommend being a legal assistant if you are interested in reading, getting into the detail of the law and meeting people. I would also like to echo the thoughts of a previous Legal Assistant, Rachel Irvine, who said that in law reform there is always something thought-provoking to discover in every project.

What's the best thing about being a legal assistant?

It would either be:

- 1) working with knowledgeable, impressive and kind colleagues or
- 2) having the bragging rights that you were involved in an SLC report – and potentially a new law!