

Oration for Mrs Lucy Scott-Moncrieff CBE

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff CBE is a mental health and human rights solicitor who has made an outstanding contribution to improving access to justice for everyone, the wider legal profession and public services.

She has spent the majority of her working life representing the most vulnerable in society, including those detained under the Mental Health Act.

Lucy has won a number of test cases in domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) protecting and asserting the rights of this section of society. She acted in the first case under the Human Rights Act that resulted in a remedial order (a ministerial amendment to legislation), as a result of which the discharge criteria to be applied by Mental Health Tribunals was amended in favour of detained patients.

Lucy founded the firm Scott-Moncrieff & Associates in 1987, after the birth of her first child, as she wanted the flexibility of self-employment so she could combine work with motherhood. Initially specialising in mental health and human rights law - and a pioneer in flexible and remote working - the firm has since expanded to cover many areas of law.

In 2012 she was appointed President of The Law Society where she is now Chair of its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and in 2013 was awarded Commander of the British Empire for her valued contribution in the legal sector. Lucy was the House of Lords Commissioner for Standards from 2016-2021.

She makes a valuable contribution across a huge range of roles. The Co-Chair of the Legal Aid and Access to Justice Committee of the International Bar Association and a Commissioner with the Judicial Appointments Committee, Lucy sits as a Tribunal judge and is a member of the Bach Commission on Access to Justice. She has been an Act Commissioner, was a founder member of the QC Appointments Panel, was a commissioner with Postcomm from 2008 to 2011, and is an Associate with Verita, which carries out investigations on behalf of public bodies.

We are also incredibly grateful to her contribution to the work of our School of Law. Lucy chaired the Nuffield Foundation's advisory board during the creation of our School of Law's UK Administrative Justice Institute project (UKAJI) in 2014 and oversaw the Nuffield funded stages of the project. She has since maintained close links with those from the University of Essex ever since.

In recent years, Lucy has spoken and written widely on the benefits of a virtual way of working, and her growing firm prides itself on its dedicated team who work on behalf of the vulnerable and incapacitated. In 2019, Lucy was awarded the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by The Law Society for her outstanding contribution to the legal profession.

Lucy has not only built a hugely successful legal firm, but has also built her reputation as a mental health and human rights lawyer, and as a passionate promoter and supporter of administrative justice, human rights and equality.

Pro-Chancellor, I present to you Lucy Scott-Moncrieff.