

Vote

Ken Macintosh

for chair of court



About Me

I am a trusted figure at the heart of public life in Scotland, offering proven judgement and the creative, persuasive, and communicative skills which come from a wealth of experience in challenging and high-profile roles. My career has been in media, communication, current affairs, and politics, for the first thirteen years with the BBC, both in London and Scotland, and for the subsequent two decades, through elected office as a Member of the Scottish Parliament. I was elected as Presiding Officer in 2016 and having stepped down in 2021, I now work domestically and internationally on good governance programmes as well as an event chair, a charity Trustee, and a Non-Executive Director.

I was born in Inverness and educated at primary schools in Portree and Oban before moving to Edinburgh. I went on to study history at the University of Edinburgh, including a year studying abroad at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

I am married to Claire and we have six children, four of whom are currently at university.

Experience

PRESIDING OFFICER, THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT | 2016- 2021

- Chair of the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body (SPCB)
- Chair of the Parliamentary Bureau
- Director & Chair, Scotland's Futures Forum
- As Presiding Officer, I chaired plenary sessions of Parliament in the Debating Chamber, selecting speakers, amendments to motions and questions including those asked at the weekly First Minister's Question Time
- I hosted and chaired numerous conferences and events including the Edinburgh International Culture Summit and meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- At the annual Festival of Politics, I hosted 'in-conversation' events in front of an audience with well-known public figures such as Michael Heseltine, Mary Beard, and Tom Devine.
- I chaired the boards appointing to a range of senior public posts including the Auditor General, the Children's Commissioner, and the Public Services Ombudsman
- I represented the Scottish Parliament at home and abroad, receiving delegations from around the world, and delivering speeches at events across Scotland and at international conferences

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT | 1999- 2021

- Elected as MSP for Eastwood in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections and for the West of Scotland in 2016
- Served in several frontbench spokesperson roles including Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education as well as for Finance, for Culture and External Affairs, and for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights
- As Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Cancer for six years I chaired the annual Scottish Cancer Conference
- Chaired multiple local public meetings from planning objections and Citizen of the Year awards to Fair-Trade events

TELEVISION PRODUCER & BROADCAST JOURNALIST | BBC NEWS | 1986- 1999

- I worked in News and Current Affairs for the BBC from 1986 until May 1999
- I moved to Breakfast News then to the Nine O'Clock News and Breakfast with Frost before being appointed as the Scotland Producer based in Glasgow for Network News

Current Commitments

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT, PUBLIC SPEAKER & CONFERENCE, EVENT CHAIR | 2021-

- Consultant with the NDI (National Democratic Institute) in Tbilisi, Georgia on democratic strengthening
- Associate Director with Arden Strategies working on anti-corruption in Africa, Eastern & Central Europe
- Associate with Global Partners Governance on parliamentary support in Iraq
- Chair or speaker at various conferences & events across Scotland & UK

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITIONS | 2021-

- Member of the Board of Revenue Scotland (Scotland's tax authority)
- Trustee of the Bank of Scotland Foundation (distributing £5m annually)
- Trustee of Lar Housing Trust (Mid-market housing charity with £150m investment programme)
- Trustee of MASScot (Patient-centred Melanoma and Skin Cancer Charity)

Education

MA HISTORY | 1980-1984 | UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Other

- Member of the Privy Council
- Fellow of the Royal Academy of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce
- Honorary Vice-President Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland