



# Alan Paterson OBE

- Chair, International Legal Aid Group
- Director,  
Centre for Professional Legal Studies,  
Strathclyde University, UK

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2001 - Present Director, CPLS, (an independent think tank focusing on access to justice and the legal profession) at Strathclyde University Law School, Scotland.
- 1984 - Present Professor of Law, Strathclyde University Law School
- 1975-1984 Lecturer in law, Edinburgh University Law Faculty
- 1980 Solicitor, Scotland

## BIOGRAPHY

Professor Paterson is the Chair of the International Legal Aid Group (an international network of 150 or so leading policymakers and legal aid researchers in the Access to Justice field) and has organised research based conferences to discuss evidence based policymaking biennially for ILAG in different countries around the world ( this year's conference – the fourteenth - was held at Harvard University, USA in June ).

Chair of the Legal Aid and Legal Services Group of the International Working Group on Comparative Legal Professions;

Chair of the Legal Services Group of Citizens Advice Scotland;

Research Adviser on Quality Assurance to the Scottish Legal Aid Board and the Scottish Law Society (responsible for the training and monitoring aspects of the peer review of all legal aid lawyers in Scotland);

Professor Paterson was the academic adviser to the independent Strategic Review of Legal Aid in Scotland established by the Scottish Government 2017-18.

Paterson's work for the Council of Europe includes Assessment of the Free Secondary Legal Aid System in Ukraine (2016), Legal Aid Governance Models and Independence(2018)and Assessment of the Civil Free Secondary Legal Aid System in Ukraine(2020). He has recently acted as a consultant to the UNODC (2019) and the UNDP (2021). With Avrom Sherr he has worked globally for more than 20 years on the professional competence of legal service providers, primarily through Peer Review. His publications in this field include Peer Review of Legal Aid Files: A Toolkit for the National Legal Aid Centre for China (with Avrom Sherr) (China / EU Access to Justice Programme, 2016); UN Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes (with Miri Sharon) (UNODC, 2019) and UNDP Inception Report: The International Experience of Applying peer review of legal services in the public sector(2021).