

# CAMPBELL CONNON

Solicitors and Estate Agents

---

*1958 - 2008*  
*50 Years of Legal Service*

36 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YF  
Scotland, U.K.  
Telephone: (01224) 585585  
Fax: (01224) 580766  
e-mail: [info@campbellconnon.co.uk](mailto:info@campbellconnon.co.uk)  
DX AB14 - ABERDEEN-1

Campbell Connon are celebrating their Golden Anniversary this year, the Firm having been founded by Campbell Connon, Solicitor in Aberdeen (not a member of The Society) on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 1958. The present partners of the Firm, Jock Hendry and David Morrison, want to make it clear that they have not been around since the founding of the Firm, although Jock celebrated 40 years with the Firm in September.

According to Professor Phil Love who has said that he had the great fortune to be Campbell's apprentice (no "trainee solicitors" in those days), Campbell combined in one person all that is best both humanly and professionally in the most able kind of Scots lawyer. Campbell like his brother Frank (of whom more later) were both second generation lawyers – their father being William Connon also a Solicitor in Aberdeen (not Bill Connon of Mackenzie & Wilson who was a distant relation) who was a Partner in the Firm of Whyte & Connon which was later incorporated into Davidson & Garden.

In 1961 Campbell's brother, Frank Connon, along with his Secretary, Marjorie McIntosh, still with us after ? years (now David Morrison's Secretary) "defected" from Burnett & Reid where Frank was an assistant and set up on his own, occupying two rooms at Number 58 Dee Street where Campbell already had his office. Although the brothers carried on separate businesses, any Court work for both Firms was dealt with by Campbell, with Frank dealing with conveyancing.

Discussions were underway to amalgamate both Firms when Campbell died suddenly of a heart attack while skiing in the Cairngorms on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1963 at the age of only 42.

Frank took over Campbell's business, including the young apprentice, Love, who became a Partner in the Firm which became Campell Connon & Co.

In 1968 a young law graduate by the name of John (always “Jock”) F. Hendry joined the Firm as the new law apprentice and David Morrison joined in 1969. They shared a cramped garret at the top of Number 58 until the Firm moved “West” soon after to 36 Albyn Place.

Jock and David were assumed Partners in 1972 where they have remained ever since! Both are members of the Society.

Our most famous “old boy” is, of course, Professor Philip N. Love, CBE, DL, AcSS, MA, LLB, Hon LLD, former High Sheriff of Merseyside – there may be other insignia of which we are not aware. Phil left the Firm as a partner in May 1974 (although remaining a Consultant until 2005) to become the First Professor of Conveyancing and the Professional Practice of Law at Aberdeen University. Phil subsequently became President of The Law Society of Scotland in 1981-82 (immediately following his friend Michael Park of Paull and Williamsons who held that office in 1980-81), a Scottish Law Commissioner between 1986 and 1995 and between 1992 and 2002 he was Vice-Chancellor of The University of Liverpool. Now retired (or so he says) Phil lives in Formby. He is the only Aberdeen lawyer we know of who has appeared in “Hello” magazine being pictured there some years ago with Yoko Ono after he had conferred on her an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in Recognition, inter alia, of her unsung philanthropy in creating John Lennon Memorial Scholarships to help students who would otherwise be unable to afford a University education.

Another alumnus of the Firm is Margaret Ross who trained with the Firm, was a Partner for some years before following Phil Love to the “so called” ( claim Margaret and Phil ! ) ivory towers of academia where she is now a Senior Lecturer and Head of the University of Aberdeen Law School. Margaret has a great practical knowledge of the law which helps to balance the more theoretical academics at Old Aberdeen by whom she is greatly outnumbered. Until quite recently, Margaret was a Consultant to the Firm giving us a direct link to her own special knowledge and that of some of her colleagues at the University.

Other well known members of the legal profession in Aberdeen who trained with the Firm are Ian McLennan and Alan Michie who have both gone on to greater things. In addition, two more mature (sorry gentlemen!) members of the profession have graced our portals, namely James (“Jim”) J. Bruce and Hamish Mitchell, each of whom has been enjoying his well earned retirement now for a number of years away from Registration of Title, Stamp Duty Land Tax, the Complaints Commission and Home Reports.

Frank Connon's Son, Roger (formerly Ledingham Chalmers, now McGrigors) who must be one of the few third generation lawyers in Aberdeen was with the Firm for a time, running his father's Property Company "Ploys Limited" before embarking on his own legal career.

The Firm has been fortunate over the years in also having experienced members of the profession to assist in a Consultancy capacity. There was Rae Barton of Aboyne whose business amalgamated with the Firm on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1992 and Dr. David C. Coull whose Firm of MacDiarmid and Craig was incorporated into the Firm on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1999. Rae died in 2001 at the age of 62. David has just retired completely from private practice and is already enjoying his retirement.

Frank Connon was Senior Partner in the Firm from 1963 until his sudden death on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1998. Frank, who was a member of the Society, was a much respected member of the profession in Aberdeen, had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and with his extra curricular activities including The Lyric Music Society and The Kildrummy Veteran and Vintage Vehicles Club provided the Firm with a wide range of clients. Frank taught his apprentices well from his own legal knowledge and his knowledge of the world.

Since Frank's death the Firm has continued with Jock Hendry and David Morrison as the Partners. Gavin Cooper who was probably the first trainee solicitor in Scotland to have his traineeship at two Firms simultaneously, the other being Churchill & Company, is now an Associate and Graeme Dean who has considerable experience in the profession in Aberdeen is an assistant solicitor. Graeme is also a member of the Society.

The Firm has just taken on Paula Lukins as its first trainee since Gavin Cooper in 2003.

We would not, of course, be able to function (and to have lasted as long as we have) without our long suffering and very loyal staff both past and present.

The Firm cannot hope to match the longevity of Burnett & Reid, Paull & Williamsons, Wilson & Duffus or Storie Cruden & Simpson, but 50 years is "a good age" and the Firm (although not the current Partners) is looking forward to the next 50.

## **Postscript**

The legal profession in Aberdeen has always had its “characters” and we were very fortunate to have our own “character” who will probably now be known only to a few of the older members of the profession. This was, of course, Royston J. Milne (otherwise “OFT” short for “Old Father Time”, “Horatio Hornblower” and other names (sorry – in joke)). Roy was a very good friend of Campbell and was held in high esteem by him for many reasons, not least his immaculate command of the English and Scottish languages. Many of the Firm’s lengthy style deeds came from Roy’s pen. Past and present members of the Firm and beyond have as prized possessions humorous verses written by Roy who was the 1930s version of “Scotland The What” and their offspring “The Flying Pigs”, and that is no joke – just ask Steve Robertson.

Here is an example of Roy’s work. Unfortunately a letter from ourselves in connection a conveyancing transaction had the wrong address for a Torry flat “Walker Road” instead of “Victoria Road” which had brought a suitable riposte from the other side suggesting conveyancing difficulties in dealing with a tenement which had moved its location.

Dear Sirs,

We have your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> February with its alarming disclosure that the tenement containing our clients is no longer heritable but moveable and that it was, when last sighted, in Walker Road – i.e. bearing away westward towards the River Dee.

Let us inform you straight away that this unorthodox conversion has been effected entirely without our clients’ consent and that we hold you and your clients liable in reparation for all loss and damage which Mr and Mrs Anderson may sustain in consequence. We cannot view the potentialities with the lightheartedness apparent in your letter.

You do not indicate the tenement’s present course and speed but our charts suggest that if its progress is not interrupted it may at any moment become water borne somewhere between Craiginches and Torry Dock. If this is allowed to happen consequences vexatious to both our Firms will almost certainly arise. We assume that you will have obtained a Warrant to Arrest and Dismantle and that the Sheriff Officer has been appropriately instructed, but what if these measures fail? Will the law to be applied then be the lex situs or the Merchant Shipping Acts? And if the lex situs, will it be the law affecting ferrae naturae, or the Dogs Act? It is

true that *Buckle v Holmes* 1926 2KB (cat killing pigeons) is authority for the proposition that there is no liability for injury caused by a domestic animal following a natural propensity which cannot be overcome by training, but what if the tenement becomes a danger to navigation? Again, is it stored, equipped and in all respects ready for sea? We had thought that you had already invested this simple transaction with every complexity which inertia can bestow but really this is too much!

It is no part of our duty to tender advice as to what action you should take in this emergency but you may not resent our suggesting that if you have not already done so you might with advantage alert Aberdeen City Police, The Lower Dee Water Bailiffs, The Harbour Board, HM Customs and Excise (Waterguard), The Lighthouse Commissioners, The Coastguard Service, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Lloyds' Lutine Bell Ringer, The Foreign Office, HM Consulates Abroad, The Mission to Distressed British Seamen and The Royal Navy (with special reference to the refraining from firing on any unidentified craft within territorial waters which does not respond to signals).

If the word "tenement" which occurs in your letter is the name by which the subjects are to be known if and when they enter the water, please let us know also what Port of Registry is contemplated and let us see a Search in the Register of Floating Charges.

In proffering these suggestions, however, we are not to be held as accepting either for our clients or ourselves any responsibility for the extraordinary situation which has arisen.

Meantime we await the early return of our draft Disposition (or Bill of Sale, as the case may then be) with your comments on the points which we raised with you so long ago.

We regret having to write to you at such length but the situation is to say the least of it unusual.

We are,

Yours faithfully,