

## **Applications are now open for the European Lawyers Programme (ELP) 2018 in Edinburgh**

### **3 months' experience in a common law legal system interacting with Scottish advocates and judges**

The ELP is a three-month programme for European qualified lawyers at the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish Bar) providing an unrivalled opportunity to work with judges and practicing lawyers in Scotland. The ELP is free of charge and allows successful applicants to shadow advocates and a judge of the Court of Session (the highest civil court in Scotland) and the High Court of Justiciary (the highest criminal court in Scotland).

The Scottish legal profession is divided into solicitors and advocates (split bar system). The ELP provides placements with advocates. Advocates (like English barristers) are part of an independent referral bar of specialised court pleaders, immediately recognisable by their wig and gown when appearing in court. The ELP provides a superb opportunity for 10 European lawyers to gain first-hand experience of an adversarial English-speaking legal system. Previous participants have developed long-lasting and profitable relationships with Scottish and European lawyers. The Scottish legal system should also be of considerable interest for lawyers from continental Europe, as it is a "mixed" system - it is primarily a common law/adversarial system, but also contains some uncodified civil law concepts and principles.

The programme consists of two parts. The first part is a two-week introductory course on the Scottish legal system. This includes a wide range of legal subjects (including written pleadings and oral advocacy), delivered by judges, advocates and academics. The second, and principal, part of the programme involves placements with a Court of Session/High Court judge, a senior (Queen's Counsel) and a junior advocate.

The ELP is organised by the Faculty of Advocates ([www.advocates.org.uk](http://www.advocates.org.uk)) and the European Lawyers Association ([www.european-lawyers.org](http://www.european-lawyers.org)) and has run successfully for over 40 years. The programme enjoys financial support from Vialegis ([www.vialegis.be](http://www.vialegis.be)).

The next ELP takes place between 3 April 2018 and 29 June 2018. If you are a qualified lawyer, preferably with a minimum of two years work experience, and have good knowledge of English (equivalent to IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 100), we look forward to receiving your application. The ELP is free of charge but participants have to cover their own accommodation and living expenses during their stay in Edinburgh. To access the application form and for further information please contact the national representative for Slovakia and Czech Republic, Adriena Petrová at [adriena.petrova@gmail.com](mailto:adriena.petrova@gmail.com) or by phone +421 907 963 415. The deadline for submissions of applications is 31 October 2017.