



# FUTURE OF LEGAL PRACTICE SUMMIT

9 & 10  
JANUARY  
2025

#Futurelegalpracticesummit2025

## CONCEPT NOTE

The Future of Legal Practice Summit is an interactive legal education event which runs over two days (09 & 10 January 2025) on the campus of the Law Society of Ireland. A conference style event, it is designed to bring together extensive current and future-focused legal knowledge, innovation and technology trends in a creative and interactive space. This event delivers unique networking opportunities as PPC trainees can connect with their peers while joining thought provoking demonstrations and conversations around digital technologies, legal services and the future of the profession.

## SUMMIT THEMES

The 2025 Summit is designed around two main themes;

- Next generation lawyering - improving the practice of law for solicitors, clients and society
- Practical perspectives on AI & Legal Tech

## EMBEDDED IN CURRICULUM/ ATTRACTA O' REGAN PRIZE

The Summit forms part of a module on the Law as Business – Managing a Legal Practice course. The assessment for this module involves assigned firms/collaborative groups being tasked to record an elevator pitch based on an idea originating at the summit (full details available on the course hub).

The group with the best submission will be awarded the '**Attracta O' Regan Future of Legal Practice Summit prize**' named in honour of our colleague in the Law School who passed away in 2023.

To assist with preparation for this task Trainees will have the opportunity to join an interactive online workshop on maximizing iPad for presentations. These workshops facilitated by Select Academy will take place in early January. Trainees can access the course Hub for further details on how to register for these sessions in advance.



# STREAM 1

Venue: Lecture Theatre

## 09 JANUARY

**10.00 – 10.45:** *New Technologies and the Law*

- Barry Scannell, Partner, William Fry

**11.15 – 12.00:** *The Client Experience – What the Client wants from their Law Firm*

- Eleanor Daly, Director & Associate General Counsel, Meta
- Adrian Mulryan, CEO, Invesco Investment Management

**12.20 – 13.10:** *Challenges to the Profession & Legal Services Market*

- Mark Garrett, Director General, Law Society of Ireland

**13:30 – 14:15:** *Innovation and Technology in Legal Solutions*

- Paula Fearon, Partner, Head of Project Services, McCann Fitzgerald
- Chris Murnane, Legal Solutions Director, Johnson Hana

**14:30 – 15.15:** *Fifth Court Podcast Live*

- James Duggan, Managing Partner, Flynn O'Driscoll
- Rachel Stanton, Partner, Country Head for Ireland, Simmons & Simmons

## 10 JANUARY

**10.00 – 10.45:** *The Law Firm of the Future – Evolution or Revolution*

- Tara Doyle, Partner, Matheson
- Ronan Hynes, Partner, MHP Sellors

**11.10 – 12.00:** *The Future for Technology and the Courts*

- Angela Denning, CEO, Courts Services

**12:15 – 13:00:** *In House in Demand - The Rise of the In-House Function*

- Jennifer Hartnett O'Connor, General Counsel, eShopWorld
- Roisin Magee, Solicitor, Dept of Agriculture
- Deirdre McDermott, European General Counsel, Phoenix Tower International

**13:20 – 14:05:** *The Future of Rural Firms and Smaller Practices*

- Liam Keane, State Solicitor for Co. Meath, Liam Keane & Partners
- Sonia McEntee, Principal, Sonia McEntee Solicitors





## STREAM 2

Venue: Green Theatre

### 09 JANUARY

**10:10 – 10:55:** *Transforming Legal Service Delivery through Technology – The In-House View*

- Seán Groeger, Senior Legal Counsel, BNP Paribas
- Margaret Maguire, General Counsel, Fexco Group

**11:10 – 11:50:** *Making Pro Bono Legal Services Work for Your Firm*

- Eilis Barry, CEO, FLAC
- Niamh Counihan, Partner, Matheson

**12:20 – 13:05:** *The Changing Landscape of Environmental and Energy Law in a time of Climate Crisis*

- Garrett Monaghan, Partner, Pinsent Masons
- Justine Schönfeld-Quinn, Environmental Justice Lawyer, Community Law & Mediation

**13:20 – 14:05:** *eConveyancing, The Future of Property Transactions*

- Dr. Gabriel Brennan, Law Society of Ireland

### 10 JANUARY

**9.45 – 10.30:** *Data Protection and AI*

- Idriss Kechida, Global Protection Officer, OpenAI

**11.00 – 11.45:** *AI Regulation - Shaping AI's Future*

- Labhaoise Ní Fhaoláin, Non-practising Solicitor and PhD Researcher (Computer Science)

**12:05 – 12:50:** *Horizon Scanning - Emerging Trends and the Future for Dispute Resolution*

- Gerard Kelly, Partner, Mason Hayes Curran
- Graham Kenny, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland

**13:15 – 14:00:** *Perspective on Navigating AI in Legal Practice*

- Isabel Humburg, Associate, Pinsent Masons
- Patrick Keeney, Senior Account Executive, Clio
- Donna O'Leary, Associate, Mason Hayes Curran





# STREAM 3

Venue: James O'Sullivan Room

## 09 JANUARY

**10:15 – 11:05** : *High Impact Lawyering: A Passion for Public Law*

- Faye Breen, Deputy Director General at Office of the Attorney General
- Maria Browne, Chief State Solicitor
- June Reardon, Solicitor and Chief Parliamentary Counsel

**11.30 – 12.15:** *Trauma-informed Lawyering*

- Sarah Benson, CEO, Women's Aid
- Simone George, Human Right's Lawyer, Activist and Commercial Litigator

**13.00pm – 13.45:** *Overcoming Current DE&I Challenges and Challenging the Future in the Legal Industry*

- Elaine Cahill, Managing Associate, Addleshaw Goddard, Vice-Chair, disAbility Legal Network
- Amy Martin, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Partner, John Sisk & Son
- TBC

## 10 JANUARY

**10.15am – 11.00am:** *The Role of the Lawyer in the Digital Age*

- Daniel Lucey, Of Counsel, McCann Fitzgerald
- Jennifer O'Sullivan, Senior Legal Counsel, Volkswagen Group and Financial Services Ireland

**11.15– 12.00:** *LegalTech – Voices from the Field*

- Isabella Hughes, Co-Founder, Simple Probate
- Anthony Joyce, Solicitor, Co-Founder of hd-intelligence
- Gavin Sheridan, Co-Founder and CEO, Vizlegal

**12:15-13.00:** *The ESG Megatrend and what it means for Clients and Law Firms*

- Suzie O'Shea, Responsible Business Executive, A&L Goodbody
- Hannah Shaw, Senior Associate, A&L Goodbody
- Jill Shaw, ESG & Sustainability Lead, A&L Goodbody



## IN COLLABORATION

We wish to acknowledge the time given by all our expert speakers to enable us to host such an exciting event for the current PPC class. The PPC team recognises the input of many colleagues in organising this event and the assistance provided by Law Society Professional Training, The Diploma Centre, Younger Members Committee, Technology Committee, In-House Committee and Law Society Psychological Services.



# PPC CONNECT PRESENTS

Our Trainee representative group PPC Connect will host the following sessions during the Summit

## THURSDAY 09 JANUARY



Niamh Counihan

### **Making Pro Bono Legal Services Work for your Firm (11.10-11.50 Green Theatre)**

This session will delve into the shared professional responsibility of lawyers to promote access to justice and provide pro bono legal assistance to those in need. Our speakers will discuss guidance in establishing a pro bono practice at law firms, and consider the wider benefits of pro bono.



Amy Martin

### **Overcoming Current DE&I Challenges and Challenging the Future in the Legal Industry (13.00-13.45 James O'Sullivan Room)**

This panel will share their personal experiences in relation to DEI challenges in legal practice. They will discuss how DEI challenges can exacerbate mental wellbeing issues, how to build back confidence, and how we can all access leadership from within to create a more inclusive and welcoming culture in our profession.

## FRIDAY 10 JANUARY



Idriss Kechida

### **Data protection and AI (09:45-10:30 Green Theatre)**

Data Protection expert Idriss Kechida, Open AI's first global data protection officer, will speak about his current role and the data protection and privacy challenges resulting from the emergence of new AI models.



Jennifer Hartnett  
O'Connor

### **In-House In Demand - The Rise of the In-House Function (12.15-13.00 Lecture Theatre)**

This panel discussion will consider the trend that has seen enormous growth in the number of practicing in-house lawyers in Ireland and across the world. Looking to the future, our panel will share their views on whether the trend of the growth of the in-house lawyer will continue and discuss current issues of importance for in-house lawyers and at board level.



Liam Keane

### **The Future of Rural Firms and Smaller Practices (13.20-14.05 Lecture Theatre)**

Liam Keane and Sonia McEntee in conversation about the future of legal practice and smaller firms. Is this a future of 'legal deserts' or are there new and innovative approaches that firms can take to thrive into the future?

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