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LAW SOCIETY

Jan/Feb 2025

Family fortunes

The family-law system is on the verge of its most radical overhaul in a century



PLUS: Trial by jury is a quintessential expression of democracy • Charities regulator stresses need to clarify role of the sector • The Sinn Féin courts of 1920-23 were surprisingly progressive



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LAW SOCIETY

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A BIG JOB OF WORK



More to do

Another significant issue is that many smaller practices are struggling across the country. One significant example of this challenge is that 11 counties did not have a trainee last year. This is a worrying trend for many communities, where reduced availability of solicitors could seriously affect access to justice. I want to reassure colleagues in smaller and sole practices that looking into ways to overcome your challenges in terms of business viability and succession is also a high priority for me this year.

We all agree that widening access to legal education is important, so we can have a more inclusive and diverse profession that more closely represents

our changing society. While the profession is changing, we need new initiatives – including financial supports and new routes to legal qualifications – to encourage more people to become a solicitor, particularly from underrepresented backgrounds.

You may recall the new programme I mentioned in my December bulletin about the 2025 practising certificate (PC) renewal. A portion of your PC fee will contribute to the creation of the 'Professional Access Programme', which aims to reduce barriers for those seeking to enter, return to, or progress within the solicitors' profession.

Looking forward

In December, I was delighted to announce that the 2024 Calcutta Run had raised an impressive €325,000, and I presented two cheques for €160,000 to Dublin Simon Community and the Hope Foundation, who provide services for those facing homelessness in Dublin and Kolkata. A further €5,000 was raised for Hope and Share by the Cork Calcutta Run, managed by the Southern Law Association. This achievement is a direct reflection of the generosity and commitment of all who supported this worthy event.

So, whether your new year's resolution is to be more active or just keep in touch with your legal colleagues, why not keep Saturday 24 May free to join me for the next Calcutta Run, and support your wellbeing, as well as those less fortunate.

EAMON HARRINGTON
PRESIDENT

We are looking into ways of overcoming business viability and succession challenges

A new year always brings change and, for me, that is the privilege of undertaking a 12-month term as President of the Law Society. I look forward to working on your behalf over the next year to improve the justice and legal system in this country, as well as ensure that the Law Society does everything in its power to help the solicitors' profession thrive.

With that in mind, the Law Society was busy seeking commitment from political parties during the recent general-election campaign on four key priority areas to benefit the justice system, legal sector, and wider public.

A lot done

Now we have a new Taoiseach and Cabinet in place, and it is gratifying to see the inclusion of some of the Law Society's access-to-justice and law-reform priorities in the Government's five-year programme. These include investing in the courts system, creating a solicitors' portal for enduring-power-of-attorney applications, reforming property law, and promoting diversity in the profession.

Now the work truly begins in continuing to engage with the relevant Oireachtas representatives and other key stakeholders to ensure these much-needed commitments are realised and to help improve the accessibility, efficiency, and fairness of the Irish legal system in the coming years. Along with all in the Law Society, as your representative, I will be working actively on pursuing these improvements, while also following up on other outstanding issues, like the civil legal-aid review, the establishment of the Mediation Council of Ireland, and the promotion of alternative-dispute-resolution options.





the
BIG
picture

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

The Jabalia refugee camp, north of Gaza City, lies in ruins following the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces and the implementation of a ceasefire, on Sunday 19 January 2025. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians flooded back into northern Gaza on 27 January, after Israel opened military checkpoints that had divided the strip for more than a year. On 7 October 2023, Hamas-led militant groups launched a surprise attack on Israel, taking 251 hostages and resulting in the death of 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 815 civilians. Palestinian health authorities say that Israel's military response has so far killed more than 46,600 people, with just over half of identified victims being women, children or older people, although *The Lancet* estimates that the death toll could be up to 41% higher than that.

people

■ WHO ■ WHAT ■ WHERE ■ WHEN ■

Golden service honoured by MSBA

The Mayo Solicitors' Bar Association (MSBA) Dress Dance was held at The Lodge at Ashford Castle on 29 November 2024. President Gary Mulchrone welcomed Mr Justice George Birmingham (retired Court of Appeal president), his wife Myra, and Mr Justice David Barniville (President of the High Court). The Perpetual Daniel Shields Award was presented to Patrick O'Connor (past-president of the Law Society) in recognition of his 50 years on the Roll of Solicitors; (*front, l to r*): Rosemarie Loftus (senior vice-president, Law Society), Mr Justice George Birmingham, Dr Jimmy Devins, Judge Mary Devins, Patrick O'Connor, Gillian O'Connor, and Judge Eoin Garavan; (*back, l to r*): Mr Justice Tony O'Connor, Myra Birmingham, Judge Sandra Murphy, Gary Mulchrone, Colin Mitchell, (president, Law Society of Northern Ireland), Judge Brian O'Callaghan (Western Circuit), and Mr Justice David Barniville



All pics: John O'Grady



Nessa Cox and Tony Aherne



Dr Jimmy Devins, Judge Mary Devins, Gary Mulchrone, Judge Sandra Murphy, Charles Gilmartin, and Judge Eoin Garavan



Áine Boyle BL, Dermot Halloran BL, Dr Laura Byrne BL, Gary Mulchrone, Patrick I Murphy BL, and Grainne Quinn BL



Judge Sandra Murphy and Charles Gilmartin



Neil McCole (secretary, MSBA), Cliona Boland BL, and David O'Malley



Gillian O'Connor and Patrick O'Connor



Catherine Tolan and Catherine McDarby



Irish Woman Lawyer of the Year

The 'Irish Woman Lawyer of the Year' Ms Justice Marie Baker, with VIPs and members of the IWLA committee (*front, l to r*): Judge Fiona O'Sullivan (Circuit Court), Judge Sinéad Behan (Circuit Court), Judge Patricia McNamara (District Court), Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly (Supreme Court), Ms Justice Marie Baker (retired, Supreme Court), Rosemarie Hayden (chair, IWLA), Ms Justice Denise Brett (High Court), and Ms Justice Siobhan Lankford (High Court); (*back, l to r*): Marjorie Farrelly SC, Rosemarie Loftus (senior vice-president, Law Society), Hilikka Becker (chairperson, International Protection Appeals Tribunal), Cliona Kimber SC, Noeline Blackwell (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission), Fiona McNulty (Council member, Law Society), Louise O'Reilly SC, Deirdre Fox, Tracey Donnery, Jane McGowan BL, Aoife McNicholl, Niamh McGuinness, Deirdre O'Hanlon, Cathy Smith SC, Valerie Peart (junior vice-president, Law Society), Katherine Kane, and Anne Tuite



The Presidents' Hall at Blackhall Place



Diana Panova, Demilade Adeniran, and Rapelang Molosiwa



Mary McColgan and Aoife McNichol



Fiona McNulty, Aoiffe Moran, Amy Grant; (back, l to r): Ellen Reid, Chloe Wilkinson, Yvonne Kennedy, Lorena de Carvalho, and Hannah Gallagher



Aoife McNicholl (left) is presented with a bouquet by Rosemarie Hayden



Celebrating with Ms Justice Marie Baker were (front, l to r): Judge Siobhan Langford, Lorraine O'Sullivan SC, and Claire Collins SC; (back, l to r): Judge Fiona O'Sullivan, Marjorie Farrelly SC, Judge Helen Boyle, Judge Sinead Behan, Jane Hyland SC, Anne Ahern BL, Katie Stevens BL, Judge Eileen Creedon, and Judge Aileen Donnelly



Solicitors appointed to District Court

Solicitors appointed to the District Court made their declarations at the Supreme Court on 6 December 2024. (From l to r): District Court President Judge Paul Kelly with Judge Áine Clancy BL, Judge Catherine Ghent, and Judge Peter White



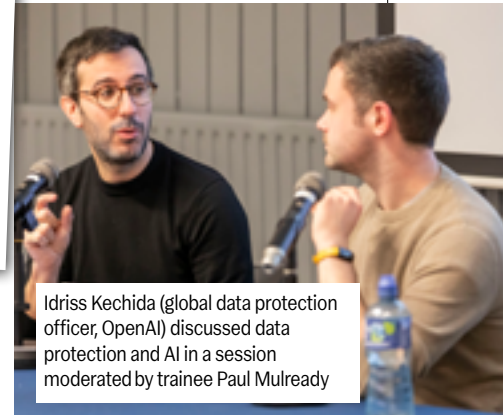
Head start - trainees check out the Courts Service VR experience at the summit

Trainees scope out tech trends

The Law Society's director general, Mark Garrett, discussed the challenges and opportunities for the legal profession and legal-services market at the Future of Legal Practice Summit, held at the Law Society's Education Centre from 9-10 January



The topic 'Making *pro bono* legal services work for your firm' was addressed by (l to r): Katie Ward (PPC trainee), Niamh Counihan (partner, Matheson), and Christopher Bowes (legal officer, FLAC)



Idriss Kechida (global data protection officer, OpenAI) discussed data protection and AI in a session moderated by trainee PAUL Mulready



Taking part in the discussion on 'High-impact lawyering - a passion for public law' were June Reardon (solicitor and chief parliamentary counsel), Faye Breen (deputy director general, Office of the Attorney General), Maria Browne (chief state solicitor) and Claire McGee (head of public policy, Law Society)



Angela Denning (CEO, Courts Service) shared her insights on the future for technology and the courts

■ Woman lawyer of the year ■ 'Regulation Answers' launched ■ Calcutta Run gifts €325K to charities

news

■ YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE ON ALL THINGS LEGAL ■



Photo: Alamy

Revenue to be 'pragmatic' on storm impact

Revue has said it will work with businesses affected by the recent storms Éowyn and Herminia to ensure that good compliance records can remain on track, despite the disruption caused.

The tax body said that it was aware that the exceptional weather events over recent days had caused difficulties for many, and

could affect timely tax compliance. Collector-general Joe Howley said that Revenue would be "pragmatic" in its approach where taxpayers or agents had been delayed in filing returns due to internet connectivity issues.

Worrying time

"The recent storms may have impacted taxpayers and businesses in different ways,

and we are aware that this is a worrying time for those affected," Mr Howley said.

"Revenue will be pragmatic in its approach where taxpayers or agents have been delayed in filing returns due to internet connectivity issues arising as a result of damage caused by the adverse weather conditions."

The collector-general added that Revenue had "a proven track record in successfully agreeing flexible payment arrangements" where taxpayers and businesses were facing temporary cashflow difficulties.

Capacity to pay

Revenue would work with those affected by the recent storms to take their financial circumstances and

capacity to pay into account.

"Our advice to taxpayers and businesses impacted by the disruption caused by Storms Éowyn and Herminia is to contact the Collector-General's Office once their circumstances allow, to agree mutually suitable arrangements to restore timely tax compliance."

Revenue's Collector-General's office can be contacted at 01 738 3663, or through the 'MyEnquiries' service on Revenue's website.



JUSTICE MARIE BAKER NAMED 'WOMAN LAWYER OF THE YEAR'



The Irish Women Lawyers' Association (IWLA), in collaboration with Law Society Skillnet and supported by EirGrid PLC, were delighted to welcome friends and colleagues to the Law Society on 30 November 2024 for the annual IWLA Gala.

For many, this event is a chance to catch up on an annual basis. Attendees travelled from far and wide, with a strong contingent from Cork in support of the 'Irish Woman Lawyer of the Year', Ms Justice Marie Baker.

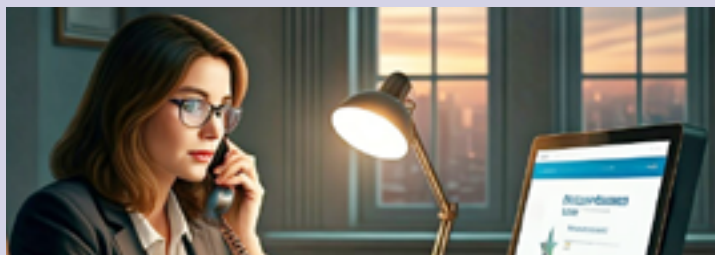
Recently appointed IWLA chair Rosemarie Hayden welcomed everybody, noting that the association had had an extremely successful year. Although 34 years had passed since Mary Robinson (an IWLA founding member) had become President of Ireland, Ms Hayden commented that the empowerment of women was needed now more than ever.

Throughout 2024, the IWLA collaborated with the Irish Red Cross regarding the 'Legal Information' series and CPD event for Ukrainians who had moved to Ireland. The IWLA was also shortlisted for the PILA and Irish Law Awards in *pro bono* categories, and had hosted a successful webinar and provided guidance on the 8 March referendum.

The chair thanked vice-chair Jane McGowan BL, the IWLA Gala organising committee, and the junior IWLA committee, in particular Diana Panova, Demilade Adeniran, and Rapelang Molosiwa. Empowering junior members would ensure a vibrant future for the IWLA, she added.

Ms Hayden commended Ms Justice Marie Baker and presented her with the IWLA 'Lawyer of the Year' Award. In her acceptance speech, Ms Justice Baker commented that she was standing on the shoulders of women who had supported her during her legal career.

Got questions? Regulation Answers



A new free regulation helpline - 'Regulation Answers' - has been launched by the Law Society to help solicitors comply with their regulatory obligations.

The existing statute-based framework places considerable regulatory pressure on members of the profession. In response, the Regulation Department has developed the new helpline, which will assist solicitors in meeting their regulatory compliance obligations.

'Regulation Answers' provides a range of free support and guidance resources on all areas of regulatory compliance, including the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations*, anti-money-laundering, professional indemnity

insurance, and practising certificate matters. There is also helpful information on cybersecurity, Law Society accounts investigations, and what to do if a complaint is made against you.

You can access [Regulation Answers](#) by clicking on the 'For Solicitors' tab on [lawsociety.ie](#). Alternatively, you can call the helpline at 01 879 8788 or email regulationanswers@lawsociety.ie with your queries. Telephone lines are open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 12 noon.

The helpline is for general guidance queries only. It cannot provide legal advice, offer second opinions, or comment on specific scenarios or circumstances.

Legal Tech Summit spotlights tomorrow's world



There was a hectic start to 2025 at Blackhall Place, with discussions and events at the Future of Legal Practice Summit taking place at three separate venues from 9-10 January, writes *Andrew Fanning*.

Over 60 experts highlighted current and future-focused legal knowledge, innovation and technology trends for trainee solicitors during the 25 sessions, focusing on ‘next-generation lawyering’ (improving the practice of law for solicitors, clients and society), and practical perspectives on AI and legal tech.

In a first for the summit, live-streaming gave solicitors and trainees access to the ‘LegalTech – Voices from the Field’ panel discussion online, where legal-tech entrepreneurs shared their perspectives.

Good hair day

A panel discussion on the ‘Law Firm of the Future’ heard that lawyers, like hairdressers, would be among those least affected by the introduction of AI, as human judgement was central to their work.

A discussion between Matheson partner Tara Doyle and MHP Sellors’ partner Ronan Hynes, moderated by Niamh Coyne of the Law Society, heard that AI tools were already affecting junior lawyers, often automating routine tasks that previously took up much of their time. Panellists agreed, however, that the human element of legal practice

– particularly in client interactions, complex legal analysis, and strategy – remained irreplaceable.

Paper ‘burden’

In a separate session, the Courts Service Chief Executive, Angela Denning, outlined her plans to modernise the courts system, with a particular focus on improving the case-management system. Denning told the event that court users had told the service that they did not want “photocopying and paper”, describing this as “a burden” on the legal profession.

She warned, however, that the service had to make sure that digitisation did not create barriers to access to justice, citing areas of the country where broadband or phone coverage was weak.

Optimism on smaller practices

In a session on smaller and rural practices, two sole practitioners told trainees that they were still optimistic about the future, despite the many challenges – including succession issues and difficulties attracting staff.

Liam Keane (state solicitor for Co Meath, Liam Keane & Partners) said that, while he expected more specialisation, there would still be small, rural practitioners, describing them as “indispensable”. Sonia McEntee (principal, Sonia McEntee Solicitors) described

the Law Society’s introduction of hybrid courses and other routes to qualification as “a huge positive” that could bring older solicitors into the profession.

Public law

On day one, trainees heard from a distinguished panel on public law, with Chief State Solicitor Maria Browne telling them that, while there were no bonuses on offer in the public sector, “the rewards are different – people feel part of something bigger than themselves”, she told the discussion.

Faye Breen (deputy director general, Office of the Attorney General), who had previously practised as a barrister, described her work as “exciting and rewarding”, adding that she had never regretted her move. June Reardon (chief parliamentary counsel, Office of the Attorney General), who was the first solicitor to head her office, told the trainees that those who chose to pursue a career in public law would be “part of a much bigger picture”.

Another highlight of the two-day event was a recording of the legal-focused Fifth Court podcast, with hosts Mark Tottenham BL and Peter Leonard BL questioning James Duggan (managing partner, Flynn O’Driscoll) and Rachel Stanton (country head for Ireland, Simmons & Simmons).

(See also ‘People’, p10)

ENDANGERED LAWYERS



On 10 January 2025, Tran Dinh Trien (65) was convicted by the People's Court in Vietnam and found guilty of "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon state interests". He was sentenced to three years in prison. The court said that he had written posts on his personal Facebook page containing "unauthenticated content" that "affected the reputation of the courts and the chief judge of the supreme court personally".

The Vietnam News Agency stated: "The trial panel determined that Tran Dinh Trien's actions were very serious, negatively affecting security, order, and social safety." His licence to practice had been suspended the week before.

Tran Dinh Trien is head of the Vi Dan ('For the People') legal firm in Hanoi, which he founded in 2006. He was deputy chair of the Hanoi Bar Association from 2013-2018.

He was arrested in June 2024 in response to three Facebook posts uploaded in April and May 2024. In them, he criticised the chief justice of the supreme court who, he said, prevented defendants' family members from attending trials and journalists and lawyers

from recording video during open trials, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW). He also criticised the chief justice for ruling against a death-row inmate, Ho Duy Hai, despite considerable evidence of irregularities during the investigation of the case.

He is known for defending activists and representing clients on sensitive issues such as land confiscation. In 2011, he participated in the defence team for activist [Cu Huy Ha Vu](#), and joined fellow lawyers to walk out of the court during the trial in protest against unfair treatment of the defence team. In 2013, he represented one of the defendants in a famous case of [armed resistance against land confiscation](#).

He is the latest high-profile lawyer to be targeted by authorities for what he has written online. Rights campaigners say the Vietnamese government has, in recent years, stepped up a crackdown on civil society and weaponised the law to silence critics. While Vietnam notionally allows free speech, in practice it is very tightly restricted, and Reporters Without Borders ranks the country 74th out of 180 for press freedom, describing it as one of the world's worst jailers of journalists.

Article 331 of the penal code – the section Trien was charged under – was used to convict and sentence at least 24 people in 2024 alone, according to HRW. Tran is the latest in a series of prominent lawyers targeted by the authorities for public internet posts. In 2023 and 2024, at least four Vietnamese lawyers sought asylum in the US for fear of arrest.

Alma Clissmann was a longtime member of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society. (With thanks to IAPL and France24.)



New judges

Mr Anthony Collins (*left*), former Advocate General to the Court of Justice of the European Union, made his declaration as a judge of the Court of Appeal on 12 December in the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Denis McDonald (formerly of the High Court) made his declaration as a judge of the Court of Appeal the same day.

Separately, Sara Phelan SC made her declaration as a judge of the High Court on 13 December.

ONLINE SESSION ON AUTO-ENROLMENT PENSIONS

Are you aware of the new pensions legislation that comes into effect later this year? As of 30 September 2025, employees who do not have a workplace or personal pension scheme, who earn more than €20,000 per year and are aged between 23 and 60, will be automatically enrolled into the new system.

The Law Society is hosting an online information session at 1pm on 26 February to discuss the implications of this legislation for solicitors in legal practices. David Spollen (president of the Irish Institute of Pensions Management) will discuss the steps employers need to take before the auto-enrolment legislation comes into effect.

Register your attendance at lawsociety.ie/info-session; queries to: solicitorservices@lawsociety.ie.



CALCUTTA RUN PRESENTS €325K TO CHARITIES



The Law Society has presented a cheque worth €325,000 to its Calcutta Run charity partners: the Hope Foundation and Dublin Simon Community.

Both charities received €160,000, with a further €5,000 being donated to the Southern Law Association for its charity partners, Hope and Share.

Each year, the Calcutta Run raises much-needed funds to support people facing homelessness in Dublin and Kolkata.

Support

Speaking at the cheque presentation event, Law Society President Eamon Harrington thanked everyone who took part and donated: “The Calcutta Run has raised over €5.6 million in support of homelessness services since its inception in 1999, and the legal profession is proud to continue to support these worthy causes,” he said.



IRLI ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) has announced the appointment of Maria McCloskey as its new executive director. Maria joins IRLI from Public Interest Litigation Support (PILS), where she was director and solicitor. A Northern-Ireland focused legal hub, PILS promotes and supports the use of public-interest litigation to ensure equality and the protection of human rights.

Maria started her legal career with Napier Solicitors in Belfast, where she remained for over 15 years. Practising in civil litigation, she progressed to the role of associate director. She was also supported by the firm to undertake a volunteer placement in Mozambique in 2013.

Shortly after returning, Maria enrolled on a master’s in human rights law at Queen’s University, Belfast. In March 2020, she moved into the ‘third sector’, taking up the role of immigration solicitor at the Children’s Law Centre, where she represented unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and child victims of trafficking.

In 2014, she was awarded a Certificate in Advanced Advocacy

from the Law Society of Northern Ireland and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. She is now chair of the Advocacy Course Working Group and, in October 2024, taught on NITA’s San Diego trial advocacy programme. She is a member of the Law Society of Northern Ireland’s Human Rights and Equality Committee and a former chair of the Immigration Practitioners’ Group.

Maria joins IRLI at a pivotal time in the organisation’s development. With the expansion of its staff teams both in Ireland and in Malawi, and the initiation of a strategic and organisational review, IRLI will be charting its course for the future. It will use this opportunity to enhance key partnerships across the island of Ireland and continue supporting rule-of-law systems across the world.

IRLI is a charity established and supported by the law societies and bars of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and is now supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is dedicated to promoting the rule of law in resource-constrained countries, including Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia.



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All lectures are webcast and available to view on playback, allowing participants to catch up on coursework at a time suitable to their own needs. Diploma Centre reserves the right to change the courses that may be offered and course prices may be subject to change.

Theresa Marnane (née Sweeney) 1962 – 2023

Theresa Sweeney Marnane, late of Bansha House Stables, Bansha (and formerly of New Inn), Co Tipperary, passed away on 2 December 2023.

Theresa studied law at UCC, graduating with a BCL degree in 1985. She attended the Law Society's 19th Professional and Advanced Courses and qualified as a solicitor in 1991. After qualifying, she worked with the firm at which she had been apprenticed, namely Kennedy Frewen O'Sullivan, Solicitors, in Tipperary Town. She dealt with the core practice areas at the time of litigation, probate, and conveyancing, and went on to specialise in the latter.

Theresa was a very well-liked and respected colleague in the legal profession in south Tipperary and beyond, and was an enthusiastic member of the Tipperary Solicitors' Bar Association. With her legal expertise, professionalism and empathy, she gained the trust and respect of the farming clientele of the Golden Vale and surrounding areas.

She was a beautiful, kind, and special person who lit up every room she was in with her warm and engaging personality. She took pride in her appearance and was always stylish in an understated way. Theresa maintained a core circle of close friends from her time in UCC and Blackhall Place. She was sociable and fun-loving, and enjoyed any opportunity to reconnect with old friends – thoroughly enjoying the 30th reunion of her BCL class in UCC in 2015.

Throughout the years and alongside her commitment to her profession, Theresa maintained her love of horses. Her husband Con developed a very successful career in the horse-breeding and racing industries. In 2004, she decided to step away from legal practice to take a more active role in Con's



Theresa Marnane, daughters Amy and Olivia, and husband Con brandish the trophy won by Different League in the Albany Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2017

business. Her years of legal experience proved to be a real asset, particularly for the management and administration aspects of running their business.

She became a hugely popular member of the equine industry alongside Con and their daughters, Amy and Olivia. The Marnane family is associated with countless top-notch graduates, including Group 1 winners *Sands Of Mali*, *Fleeting Spirit*, *Amadeus Wolf* and *Rio De La Plata*. Theresa's horse *Palace Episode* won the Group 1 *Racing Post Trophy* in 2005. *Different League* took the Group 3 Albany Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2017. She was one of the leading owners in France, with over 250 winners. It was fitting that *Givemethebeatboys*, racing in Marnane's distinctive yellow and black silks, won the prestigious Group 3 Marble Hill Stakes for two-year-olds at the Curragh in May 2023.

Theresa maintained a deep Catholic faith instilled by her parents, Breda and Larry. Her faith helped her throughout her life, especially when she had to confront cancer for the second time. She showed remarkable strength, braving her illness with fortitude and courage.

The tributes paid by her old clients, legal colleagues, and business associates at her funeral were a testament of the wonderful person she was. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Theresa is survived by her beloved husband Con and adoring daughters Amy and Olivia, by her loving mother Breda Sweeney, and is predeceased by her late father Larry Sweeney. ☞

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.

WD (with sincere thanks to VMacC, PC, MJC, and JR for their input.)

I'M GOING HOME!

Mary Hallissey meets Deirdre Tuohy, who took advantage of the Law Society's Returners Programme to recharge her legal career. Since 2019, the programme has supported over 120 solicitors in returning to law – opening up a rich vein of talent for savvy law firms

Deirdre Tuohy, originally from Dublin, began her working life after school in marketing and sales with Prudential Life, where she specialised in technical sales, supporting brokers with high-net-worth clients and complex financial planning. This sparked an interest in law, especially after working alongside a colleague who later became a solicitor.

In her 30s, Deirdre took the brave decision to remortgage and return to education. She enrolled in a part-time law degree while continuing her full-time work in the brokerage sector, advising clients on pensions, tax planning, and more.

Her studies were a significant balancing act, with evening lectures and occasional weekend courses in London, alongside the grind of a full working week. She started with a certificate to build confidence, before committing fully to the degree.

I woke up this morning “I love to study,” she says. “I’ve been fortunate with exams and just seem to manage to get them. The variety of people in that class, including older

The way things have unfolded over the years feels a bit like a patchwork quilt at times, but when I look back, all those different pieces are coming together to create something really fulfilling and meaningful

students and professionals from diverse backgrounds, made the experience even richer.

“I was also able to apply my years of work experience in marketing, sales, and financial services to my studies, which helped deepen my understanding of both law and business,” she reflects.

After three years of hard work, Deirdre graduated with first-class honours, the first such graduate from the Dublin School of Law. “That was a huge personal win for me,” she says – one that strengthened her resolve to pursue a legal career.

Deirdre qualified as a solicitor in Ireland in 2004 and her career journey has been far from conventional. She has worked internationally in Britain, New Zealand, and Australia. She is also qualified at the New York Bar.

A stint specialising in international insurance law, and later moving into an in-house counsel role, reflects the breadth of her experience. A pivotal moment in her life was the death of her mother, which prompted a re-evaluation. Deirdre returned to Ireland and considered contracting work, a shift that shaped her outlook on work/life balance and helped her realise the importance of

flexibility in her professional life. A period as a legal contractor to *The Irish Times*' HR department was followed by a move to Standard Life.

Hear me calling

She then heard about the [Law Society Returners Programme](#). Though unsure whether she was a good fit, she went ahead and applied, and was assured by Law Society facilitator Shane



I WANT TO KNOW

Career breaks, whether for childcare, eldercare, travel, or personal reasons, are a natural part of many professionals' journeys. However, outdated perceptions about career gaps often prevent highly skilled individuals from re-entering the workforce.

The Law Society's 'Returners Programme' seeks to dismantle these barriers and demonstrate the immense value that these solicitors can bring to law firms with their wealth of life experience and professional expertise.

Since its inception in 2019, the programme has supported over 120 solicitors. It focuses on rebuilding confidence, refreshing job-seeking skills, and facilitating networking with modern workplaces in mind. Delivered online, the programme includes small-group sessions and one-on-one support. The programme spans five to six months, allowing participants to progress at a manageable pace.

I'D LOVE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Returners bring a unique set of advantages:

- Diverse skills and experience - returners often have strong backgrounds in negotiation, project-management, and client relations. Many have honed leadership, adaptability, and critical thinking skills during personal challenges, making them invaluable assets to teams.
- Enriching team diversity and strengthening client connections - diverse life experiences not only enhance team dynamics, but also help build deeper connections with clients. Returners bring perspectives that have influence in both internal collaboration and client relationships.
- Innovation and fresh ideas - varied experiences allow returners to approach challenges creatively, offering fresh solutions and driving innovation.
- Commitment and passion - motivated by the desire to return after a career break, returners often bring renewed energy and dedication. They are typically seeking roles that offer flexibility, excelling in environments that allow them to contribute meaningfully.
- Quick adaptability - returners frequently surprise firms with how quickly they get up to speed, drawing on their resilience and problem-solving skills to adapt and thrive in new environments.

The legal profession has evolved with the rise of hybrid-work models, part-time roles, and in-house opportunities. The accessibility of upskilling resources also makes reintegration easier for returners. Returners represent an untapped talent pool capable of filling skill gaps, enhancing diversity, and driving innovation. Don't let that untapped source of talent go to waste!

For information on the Returners Programme or additional solicitor supports, contact Shane Farrell at solicitorservices@lawsociety.ie.

Farrell that she would be a great addition.

Deirdre joined a bunch of people who hadn't practised law for a while, but were keen to get back in the field. "What struck me was that none of us had any confidence at the beginning, but we walked away after the first session with a sense of accomplishment," she recalls. "It very much gives

you a rounded view and gets you thinking about how to get a platform for going back into practice. I found the course amazing, and Shane is very encouraging in terms of keeping people going, and getting a pitch for yourself."

Her current role with Mitsubishi Electric allows her to apply her compliance and regulatory knowledge, while working closely with

legal counsel on specialised matters. The flexibility of the role has allowed her to explore other interests, particularly in mediation. She is in the early stages of building her mediation business, DT Mediation, while benefiting from mentorship through her Local Enterprise Office.

"The way things have unfolded over the years feels a bit like a patchwork quilt at

times, but when I look back, all those different pieces are coming together to create something really fulfilling and meaningful," she says. "One of the most rewarding parts of this phase has been the variety. Every day brings something new, and I'm constantly learning," she says. 📧

Mary Hallissey is a journalist at the Law Society Gazette.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING...

This Government has a maximum of 257 weeks until the next general election. What does it have in mind for justice and law reform – and will it really address the challenges and the opportunities that are within our sector? Mark Garrett surveys the political landscape

With the appointment of new ministers, the formal process of outlining the priorities for the next Government is now complete. The votes have been counted, seats filled, negotiations held, jobs allocated, and the Programme for Government published.

So, the obvious question is: what is this Government going to do? And, especially, what is it going to do when it comes to justice and law reform? Well, as the famous aphorism goes, “The best way to predict the future is to shape it”. And that is why, over the last six months, the Law Society has set out to help shape what is contained within this Programme for Government.

Headlines come and go, but the Programme for Government will be one of the main documents that will shape the legislative agenda for the 33rd Dáil over the next five years. In advance of the election, the Law Society met with the policy teams in the political parties and set out key policy priorities to help deliver a just and accessible legal system that works for everyone.

We have a shared objective to deliver for the people who use the justice system, to create a legal system that is a model of justice, fairness, and accessibility – serving the needs of all



Director General Mark Garrett

We were glad to see many of them reflected in the party manifestos published before the election and, subsequently, in the Programme for Government. That’s an important start, but there is a lot of work ahead to bring those proposals to reality – and fill the gaps where important issues have not been addressed.

The Law Society has welcomed the additional investment in justice and law reform indicated by the new Programme for Government, and congratulated the newly appointed Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O’Callaghan. The new minister will bring a deep understanding of the legal and justice system from his legal career.

We look forward to working collaboratively with him and his department to implement plans for law reform in key areas, as well as delivering upon the much-needed modernisation of the courts system. From the experience of solicitors and their clients around the country, there are many challenges to be addressed.

Family justice

Not a week goes by that we do not hear of another family’s poor experience in our justice system. This leaves a lasting mark on their

lives. The minister must place priority on delivering the Family Law Court complex at Hammond Lane. The hole in the ground has been there for far too long. A child-centred approach will be crucial to the Government’s commitment to developing an implementation plan for the new Family Courts system in 2025, as well as creating a successor to the Family Justice Strategy. This will be closely watched.

Indeed, there needs to be a twin-track approach, where essential services for children and families navigating the justice system that do not need legislative change can be funded and expedited. This has the potential to become a lasting legacy of this Government – if the necessary ambition, collaboration, and funding are put in place.

EPA challenges

The challenges many people face when trying to establish an enduring power of attorney (EPA) are well-documented. The digital process and the excessive criteria to create an EPA limit access for those who need it most. The commitment outlined in the Programme for Government to collaborate with the Law Society in developing a solicitors’ portal is a positive first step.

This initiative will help solicitors better support their clients in creating EPAs, streamlining what is currently a complex and restrictive process. Additionally, the planned review of the *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015* presents a valuable opportunity to further enhance the process, making it more accessible for individuals who wish to plan for their personal and financial affairs.

Access to justice

With criminal-legal-aid fees still well below adequate levels, the number of solicitors willing



President Michael D Higgins appoints the new members of Government on 23 January 2025

to engage in criminal work is declining, leading to broader negative impacts across the entire justice system.

There is a renewed commitment to fully restore criminal-legal-aid fees, alongside reforms to the wider criminal-justice system. Decisively addressing this issue is crucial to ensure that individuals receive effective legal representation, and that the criminal-justice system remains functional.

The Programme for Government offers very little detail on civil-legal-aid reform, which is concerning given the significant need for change in this area. The lack of information raises doubts about the prioritisation of civil-legal-aid reform within the Government's broader agenda, despite the urgent need for action to ensure access to justice for all.

Modern system

The ongoing delays and the poor physical condition of many Irish courts reflect the serious underinvestment that has plagued the system for decades. The Law Society campaigned ahead of the election for significant increases in funding to improve the physical state and accessibility of courts, and to leverage technology and data to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the courts system for users.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the minister and his department to implement plans for law reform in key areas

The Government has made a commitment to establishing a modern courts and legal system, aimed at ensuring fair access to justice with greater efficiencies and improved experiences for all court users. This is a shared objective.

Other actions outlined in the Programme for Government include the appointment of 20 additional judges within 12 months, with plans for further increases to address growing demands. The programme also promises to complete a review of the Courts Service by 2025, focusing on making the courts digital, modern, cost-effective, and responsive to the needs of victims. These steps signal progress, but sustained investment and action will be essential to fully address the challenges facing the system.

The commitment to establish a modern, fit-for-purpose coronial system is very important – including the establishment of the Office of Chief Coroner – and will bring much-needed strategic reform and support to the existing system.

Housing threat


Housing remains the most urgent issue for the Government to tackle, both socially and economically. Access to housing has transcended a social concern and has become a significant threat to Ireland's economic growth and investment.

While the Government's commitment to increasing housing supply is welcome, the Law Society stresses that this must be paired with meaningful reforms to property law. These reforms should aim to accelerate property transactions and provide homeowners with the certainty and confidence that their sales and purchases will proceed smoothly.

Outdated legislation is holding back the property market, creating unnecessary delays and stress for people. The commitment in the Programme for Government to amend legislation and speed up the registration of property titles is very welcome, and we look forward to working with Government and the relevant State agencies to ensure this proceeds at pace. The commitment to realise 'Conveyancing', a secure digital process for property transactions, by 2027 is also welcome.

Election 2030

The Programme for Government is only a statement of intent. However, the new minister will want to make his mark. As mentioned, he brings significant knowledge of the system, client and public needs. The Law Society looks forward to working with him and sharing the profession's expertise and experience.

We have a shared objective to deliver for the people who use the justice system, to create a legal system that is a model of justice, fairness, and accessibility – serving the needs of all. The last possible date for the next general election is 18 January 2030. The clock is ticking. 

Mark Garrett is director general of the Law Society.

Family fortunes

Radical overhaul of the family-law system will be the biggest change to Ireland's courts system for over a century, but we can't afford to wait for change to happen – we need it now, argues Keith Walsh SC

The *Family Courts Act 2024* completed its passage through the Oireachtas on 7 November 2024 and was signed into law by the President on 13 November. This marks only the end of the beginning of a long and tortuous path towards reorganising the family-justice system following the introduction of judicial separation and divorce, and which began with the publication of the Law Reform Commission's *Report on Family Courts* in 1996. The changes in the act will not come into effect until the necessary commencement orders are made.

The main changes proposed are the establishment of a specialist family-court division within the existing structures of the District, Circuit, and High Courts, with the creation of new specialist family-law districts and circuits, which will be different from the existing districts and circuits.

Although not specified in the *Family Courts Act 2024*, it is likely that these new districts and circuits would cover much greater geographical areas than currently, and would provide for specialist family-court centres of justice to be established around the country. This would rationalise the entire family-courts system into a number of regional 'hubs', and would be one of the greatest changes in the entire court system since the *Courts of Justice Act 1924* established the District Court, Circuit Court, High Court, and Supreme Court. ➤



Doing things differently

The new family courts will sit in a different building or rooms than those in which sittings of any other court are held – or on different days and times from which sittings of any other courts are held. There is an exception where the safety or welfare of a party to the proceedings (or a child to whom the proceedings relate) is likely to be adversely affected if the proceedings are not heard as a matter of urgency; or due to the urgency of the case; or in exceptional circumstances when the court is satisfied that compliance with that subsection is not possible.

Guiding principles will be introduced for all those involved in the family courts, which will emphasise the importance of the welfare of the child or children involved, as well as promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) where appropriate and encouraging the efficient conduct of business in the family courts.

Currently divorce, judicial separation, civil partnership, and cohabitation cases must be taken in either the Circuit or High Court. Cases with a monetary jurisdiction of over €3 million must be taken in the High Court.

District Court jurisdiction

The act provides that these cases can now also be taken in the District Court, and it increases the jurisdiction of the District Court from its general limit of €15,000 to €1 million for these family-law cases.

District Court maintenance limits will also increase – from €150 per child per week to €500 per child per week; the maximum lump-sum order per child from €15,000 to €50,000; and the maximum weekly maintenance for a spouse from €500 per week to €1,500. Similar increases apply for civil partners and cohabitants.

The jurisdictions of the Circuit and High Court remain the same, except that the Circuit Court will be given concurrent jurisdiction with the District Court for the making of child care orders and related matters.



Joint applications for a decree of judicial separation or divorce are proposed, and there is a limitation on personal cross-examination by the applicant to the respondent in family-law proceedings

New rules of court

A new Family Courts Practice and Procedure Committee (see section 52), composed of the three principal judges of the District, Circuit and High Courts and no more than two members of the Courts Service, will propose new rules of court for the existing courts rules committees.

Joint applications for a decree of judicial separation or divorce are proposed, and there is a limitation on personal cross-examination by the applicant to the respondent in family-law proceedings, which is similar to the pre-existing limitation contained in the *Domestic Violence Act 2018*.

The Law Society – under successive Family Law Committees, led by Peter

Doyle and Helen Coughlan, and with the assistance of Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Director General Mark Garrett, and many others – has worked tirelessly to promote a better family-justice system. That work has yielded some positive changes and will continue.

Area of concern

While a number of civil-society organisations, the Law Society, and the Bar Council have, generally, welcomed the changes, one significant area of concern raised by them is the proposal to greater expand the jurisdiction of the District Court. This, they say, would create a two-tier system of justice and lead to more delays and inefficiencies rather than less, due to the currently overworked and under-resourced nature of the District Court.

The Minister for Justice made changes to the final version of the bill, which has clarified the concurrent nature of the jurisdiction. Section 39(3) states that “where family-law proceedings may, under an enactment, be initiated in the Family District Court or another court, nothing in this act shall require such proceedings to be initiated in the Family District Court”.

Greatest challenge

The greatest challenge for all stakeholders in the family-justice system is to ensure that the resources required to fund this huge programme of change are forthcoming. Family law has always been, along with mental-health law, the ‘poor relation’ when it comes to funding. Unless these changes are properly funded, they will make the system worse rather than better, since they will create a ‘Rolls Royce’ system with a scooter budget. We have, unfortunately, been here before, with the underfunding of the *Children and Family Relationships Act 2015*, which provided parties (in theory) with access to voice-of-the-child reports, but without taking into account the resources required to provide them. The result has been an overwhelming of the District Court system in particular.

The *Family Courts Act 2024* is a long-term solution to a problem that has been around since family law was first practised



District Court maintenance limits will also increase – from €150 per child per week to €500 per child per week; the maximum lump-sum order per child from €15,000 to €50,000; and the maximum weekly maintenance for a spouse from €500 per week to €1,500. Similar increases apply for civil partners and cohabitants

– that is, the underfunding of the family-law system. We should not wait for the implementation of the *Family Courts Act* to improve our system – we should start the work now by:

- Streamlining the *Family Court Rules*,
- Implementing the necessary guidelines to improve focus on ADR in appropriate cases,
- Permitting joint applications where settlement has been reached, and
- Reducing the waiting time for divorce from two years to one, thus almost eliminating the need to issue judicial-separation proceedings – saving both costs and court time.

An interim working group composed of judges, county registrars, Courts Service staff, legal professionals, representatives of litigants, expert-witness representatives (such as forensic accountants), and section 32 assessors should immediately be established with a brief to consider what can be done now. Most changes will not require significant resources. If we wait until the *Family Courts Act* is fully resourced, it will be too late for yet another generation of families caught up in the family-justice system.

Keith Walsh SC is a solicitor focusing on family law. He is the author of Divorce and Judicial Separation Proceedings in the Circuit Court – A Guide to Order 59 and co-author with Sonya Dixon BL of Domestic Violence: Law and Practice in Ireland, both published by Bloomsbury Professional.

LOOK IT UP

LEGISLATION:

- *Children and Family Relationships Act 2015*
- *Courts of Justice Act 1924*
- *Domestic Violence Act 2018*
- *Family Courts Act 2024*

LITERATURE:

- Law Reform Commission, *Report on Family Courts* (1996; LRC 52-1996)

Charitable institution

The public and other stakeholders, including legal professionals, need greater awareness about charity regulation, Madeleine Delaney tells the *Gazette*

Since the 2009 *Charities Act* came into force, the word ‘charity’ is a protected term. This means that only entities that are officially registered and meet regulatory criteria – known as the ‘charity test’ – can use the term.

“You can’t call yourself a charity unless you’re actually registered,” says Madeleine Delaney, the chief executive of the statutory body charged with regulating the charity sector.

There is often public confusion between non-profits doing good work and charities that are registered and regulated by the authority.

“Charities are one type of not-for-profit organisation, and what distinguishes them is that there must be an actual benefit from a charity’s activities, and the benefit must be to the public in general or a sufficient section of the public. This is a key part of the test that is set out in the legislation and applied by us as part of the registration process.”

The chief executive sees a large body of educational effort ahead to clarify the role of charities, stressing the importance of good governance and how to navigate issues such as charity succession planning and regulatory compliance.

Closer collaboration

She hopes for closer collaboration between the Charities Regulator and the legal profession, especially to ensure that legal advisors understand charity law and governance obligations and how to properly advise their clients.

Education is also essential to help charity trustees – especially those in volunteer-only charities – to understand their governance responsibilities.

It’s important to educate trustees about their duties and the legal requirements, particularly in relation to governance,

managing charitable funds, and making key decisions, the chief executive says.

Trustees are responsible for ensuring that their charity operates within its defined purpose, and in the best interests of its beneficiaries.

Most importantly, this includes avoiding any ‘drift’ in the charity’s purpose over time, which can happen when the original mission shifts or changes.

Avoiding ‘drift’

Sometimes, charity volunteers can become distracted from their initial goal as fresh needs pop up, but Delaney says that staying ‘on mission’ is crucial. “It’s about people keeping sight of basic principles of what they are supposed to be doing. It’s about running your organisation effectively so that it sustains into the future,” she warns.

Delaney notes that some trustees may be unaware of their full responsibilities, especially in larger organisations with employees, and may mistakenly think their only accountability is to funders.

“In some ways, it’s conceptually easier for smaller charities, where the trustee is doing everything, to understand what the obligations are.”

There can be an assumption that paid charity employees are taking care of everything in respect of compliance, when this isn’t always the case.

Notable failures

The Irish charity sector has seen some very public and notable failures of honesty and good governance, accompanied by a betrayal of public goodwill.

Delaney’s perspective is that most volunteers, trustees, and charity employees work hard at governance, while doing worthwhile work. “The vast majority of charities operate in good faith and work hard to meet their responsibilities. Over 90% are compliant and performing well,” she says.

As part of the regulator’s awareness drive to promote good governance, the *Charities Governance Code* has been developed in collaboration with the sector. ►►



It sets out six principles to guide trustees, such as fulfilling the charity's purpose, ensuring the charity's activities are aligned with its mission, managing conflicts of interest, and ensuring accountability.

The code should not be seen as just a compliance checklist, but as a way to run charities effectively and ensure long-term sustainability, the chief executive says. Trustees need to understand that governance isn't just about avoiding penalties, but about creating an environment where the charity can thrive and meet its mission. Basic documentation and meeting practices (such as written and circulated agendas, records of decision-making, and conflict-of-interest policies) are key to managing governance.

Conflicts of interest

The regulator encourages trustees to embed these practices into their day-to-day operations, so they become second nature.

Conflict-of-interest policies are particularly important, especially in smaller, volunteer-run charities, where trustees might have personal or professional ties to people or organisations involved in the charity. Such conflicts of interest must be managed by clearly documenting them and discussing them openly at meetings.

Delaney points out that having a clear policy on conflicts of interest helps to normalise the process of addressing potential conflicts, and makes it easier for trustees to handle issues without fear of damaging relationships.

The regulator has updated its guidance on this issue to help charities to handle conflicts effectively. Conflicts should be a regular agenda item at board meetings, so that it becomes part of the routine and isn't viewed as a taboo subject, she advises.

While some trustees may feel that governance codes are an unnecessary burden, especially in smaller organisations, the regulator stresses that these practices protect both the charity and the trustees themselves. "Good governance practices reduce risks and make charities more resilient," she says.

Financial statements

It's also about ensuring financial transparency. She points to the practice by some large charities of publishing abridged financial statements, which they are entitled to do under company law.

As regulator, she hopes this practice – often



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Where charities become involved in political advocacy, they must ensure that their charitable purpose remains clear and that their activities don't become entangled in purely political campaigning

accountant-advised – will end with an upcoming amendment to the existing legislation. This is important in order to build trust with donors, regulators, and the public at large, she believes.

The regulator sees public trust in the charities' sector as key to its continued success in this country. She wants to drill home the message that money must be spent carefully and thriftily, and always with the end goal of the charitable purpose in mind.

Charity trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity uses its resources effectively and that funds are spent only in alignment with its charitable purpose. This includes making sure that any payments to employees, contractors, or service providers are reasonable, necessary, and transparent. While such expenditure is perfectly permissible, each charity must ensure it is getting the best value for money and that all its decisions are properly documented and justified.

This is why all charitable endeavour must keep its purpose 'front and centre', the regulator says.

Self-sufficient

In 2022, the Charities Regulator became a mature, self-sufficient organisation with a staff cohort of 44, following a lengthy initial gestation process whereby it was run by civil servants, many on secondment.

"It was a massive effort, but it was very worthwhile once we got there," Delaney says. "A lot of seconded staff stayed on, which is a compliment to us, to be honest."

Many staff at the regulator work at executive-officer grade, handling casework, including processing charity-registration applications and liaising with solicitors, trustees, and applicants.

Delaney herself moved from private practice with Beauchamps into the public sector, drawn by the opportunity to have a greater impact through strategic problem-solving. Her career path has been diverse, from an initial focus on criminal law and regulation, to working as a solicitor in various public-sector bodies. She ultimately transitioned to leading the Charities Regulator because it allowed her to blend legal work with high-level strategic decision-making.

Critical thinking

She regards problem-solving as a key solicitor skill. She also values the critical thinking and organisational skills that solicitors can bring to public-sector and regulatory roles.

Legal advisors and solicitors play a crucial role in the charity sector, particularly around

applications for charity services or in cases where a charity is winding up or transferring assets.

As regulator, Delaney is keen to deepen engagement with the profession, whether that is at PPC or post-qualification level, with specialist education about charity regulation, especially in areas such as wills, probate, and conveyancing. She sees a real opportunity to engage solicitors early in their training, potentially offering credit for understanding charity law and encouraging them to contribute to the sector in a more strategic manner.

Lawyers have an immense contribution to make to the sector in ensuring good charity governance, she believes. Charities often struggle with volunteer recruitment and retention, and she would encourage professionals to volunteer as trustees. This can be an excellent opportunity for people looking to give back or broaden their skill set.

While many charities have a long lifespan, others might have a natural end when their purpose is fulfilled. Some charities on the register might be inactive or not fully engaged. The regulator encourages them to either become more active or formally wind up, with assets being reinvested into other charities.

Some might not realise that they should wind up or transfer their assets when they no longer serve a clear function. This is where the Charities Regulator can step in with guidance. Charities that have assets or remain active should engage with the regulator to ensure that those assets are managed properly and in line with their charitable purposes.

Searchable register

One of Delaney's goals as regulator is to improve the searchability of charity information online, with improved digital infrastructure to make the register more user-friendly, and the wider use of the charity classification standard.

The register has a record of every charity in Ireland, with brief information on their finances and activities, making it the single authoritative source of information on the more than 11,500 charities in this country.

Many charities work in similar fields, and it's essential for the public and stakeholders to easily find relevant organisations without having to dig deep into complicated structures. The regulator emphasises the importance of collaboration between established charities and newcomers who want to help. Rather than



Our ambition is to develop a regulatory model that is appropriate to the diversity of the sector and that supports good practice in the governance, management, and administration of charities

duplicating efforts, the goal should be to channel resources effectively where they are needed most. "A more user-friendly register will make it easier to identify charities and support greater collaboration," she says.

Defining 'human rights'

Another task ahead for the Charities Regulator is agreeing a definition of the 'advancement of human rights' as a charitable endeavour, which is also now part of the amended legislation.

"People have different views on this – of course they do – on what is and isn't a human right, and that is potentially contentious. I think everybody should agree, even if it's with difficulty, on some sort of definition and some parameters around it before it's commenced."

'Human rights' need to be defined in a way that is both broad enough to be inclusive, and specific enough to be workable as part of a regulatory framework, she adds.

The chief executive expects debate, especially about the boundaries of what constitutes a human right and what kinds of activities should qualify under this new provision.

Where charities become involved in political advocacy, they must ensure that their charitable purpose remains clear and that their activities don't become entangled in purely political campaigning.

Any changes to the regulatory landscape, especially those relating to human rights, will require wide consultation, and Delaney plans to invite a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in a consultative panel – NGOs, human-rights bodies, legal experts, and others – in creating a fair and workable framework.

Looking to the future, the Charities Regulator's next statement of strategy, which will run to the end of 2027, focuses on fair and effective regulation, deepening relationships with stakeholders, and developing its organisational capability.

Delaney says: "We aim to learn from what has worked well over the past decade and also what has not worked as well as we intended, and to bring that knowledge into our engagement with charities and our key stakeholders. Our ambition is to develop a regulatory model that is appropriate to the diversity of the sector and that supports good practice in the governance, management, and administration of charities."

Mary Hallissey is a journalist with the Law Society Gazette.



JURY, SERVICE?

The Supreme Court’s judgment in *Higgins* marks a historic watershed in defamation law – and its implications contradict the grounds advanced in support of the abolition of trial by jury in defamation cases, argues Mr Justice Bernard Barton

While most of the proposals contained in the *Defamation Bill 2024* are to be welcomed, the same cannot be said for the proposal contained in section 3, which constitutes a direct assault on one of the oldest civil rights known to the law: the right to trial by a jury of one’s peers – a right considered so important as the surest means of protecting the civil liberties of the citizen that it was enshrined in the *Magna Carta*.

If enacted, the proposal would not only strip the citizen of the right to choose the mode of trial by which the facts of a case are to be decided – whether by judge and jury or by a judge alone – but would also remove the public from participation in the administration of justice, which is wholly inconsistent with the democratic principles upon which our system of justice is constructed.

While the proposal is presented as a mere procedural change through the simple expedient of dispensing in the future with jury trial in High Court defamation proceedings, the means by which this objective is to be achieved is through the total abolition of an ancient legal right that has been an integral part of the common-law system for over 800 years. It follows that dispensing with the right to trial by jury would represent a fundamental change in the law – the consequences of which, for the administration of justice in this area of law, are profoundly undemocratic.

The concept of trial by a jury of one’s peers, whether for serious criminal offences or for civil wrongs, is designed to ensure impartiality in the decision-making process of a case and to engender public confidence in the administration of justice – an objective achieved through the random selection of 12 citizens, constituted as a jury, whose function it is to find the facts of a case on the evidence they see and hear during the course of a trial.

Jury trials and democracy

The doctrine of the separation of powers between the three branches of government – the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary – is a common feature of any democratic state founded on the sovereignty of the people.

The participation of the people in the administration of justice is no less important than the right to participate in the election of those who are to represent them politically, whether at local, national, or international forums.

Participation is achieved through the institution of trial by jury, a mode of trial that evolved as part of the common law in Ireland and in other democratic states sharing the common-law system. Above all else, the involvement of 12 impartial citizens in the decision-making process of a case represents a quintessential expression of our democracy.

Purpose of trial by jury

The purpose of trial by jury is to protect the litigant from the risk of judicial caprice, to place in the hands of the public that

share of the administration of justice that it deserves, and to prevent the encroachment of more powerful and wealthy citizens and other vested interests.

Tested throughout centuries, this mode of trial has been found to act as the most effective bulwark against the erosion of our civil liberties, which the proposal as currently constructed will entirely dismantle. It is ironic, is it not, that in an era where the right to choose is recognised and respected, the proposal seeks to remove the litigant's right to choose the mode of trial by which the facts of a serious case in defamation are to be decided!

Fundamental rights

It is repeatedly claimed by those advocating abolition that the retention of the right to trial by jury in defamation cases represents an illogical anachronism that should be swept away in circumstances where the right to trial by jury has already been abolished for most, if not all, other civil wrongs, and in which cases are tried by judge alone – a claim that is as factually incorrect as it is legally wrong.

The fundamental rights of the citizen particular to the individual guaranteed by the Constitution – specifically, the rights to liberty, freedom of expression, good name, bodily integrity, an ownership of property, including the inviolability of the home – are among a panoply of other civil rights recognised by law that may be vindicated through trial by jury.

Indeed, apart from the restriction of the right to jury trial in damages claims for accidentally caused personal injuries brought about by the *1988 Courts Act*, all actions commenced in the High Court for civil wrongs, recognised by law at Independence, carry a legal entitlement to trial by jury as of right.

Apart altogether from stripping the citizen of the legal right trial by jury in a serious case of defamation, and removing the public from involvement in the



The suggestion by ministers that there is a likelihood of a disproportionate award of damages in a defamation case tried by a jury is not borne out by an examination of appeal decisions heard under the *Defamation Act 2009*

administration of justice in such cases, the proposed abolition would create an illogical and inconsistent anomaly whereby, of all of the civil rights open to vindication by jury trial, only in defamation would the citizen be compelled to have the case decided by a judge sitting alone without a jury.

Furthermore, Ireland would become an outlier among other common-law countries, where there is either an entitlement, as of right, to jury trial in defamation cases or where such trial may be ordered by a court on application, in the interests of justice. Among the most prominent of these are Canada (except in Quebec, which has a civil legal system), most states in Australia, New Zealand, the USA and the UK, including Northern Ireland (on application).

Review of the *Defamation Act*

The proposed abolition in serious defamation cases is founded on the conclusions reached (and a recommendation made) in a report of a review of the *Defamation Act 2009* carried out by the Department of Justice. The Government accepted the recommendations made and published the report in March 2022. Several arguments were advanced in support of the recommendation to abolish the right to trial by jury:

- The likelihood of disproportionate and unpredictable awards of damages will be reduced,
- Reduction in duration of hearings and the legal process, and the
- Consequential reduction in court delays and legal costs.

'Is that a... squirrel?'



These arguments are part of the report narrative that are repeated by ministers when speaking publicly on this topic, most recently by the Minister for Law Reform when moving the second stage of the bill. They also feature in the press release accompanying the publication of the bill.

The seriousness of the consequences of abolition for the administration of justice in this area of law calls for a thorough examination of these claims.

The suggestion by ministers that there is a likelihood of a disproportionate award of damages in a defamation case tried by a jury is not borne out by an examination of appeal decisions heard under the *Defamation Act*; indeed, the number of successful appeals on the ground of disproportionality can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Such cases represent a tiny minority of all cases heard by juries under the 2009 act – a fact conveniently unrecognised and almost always overlooked.

Supreme Court decision

So, too, is the decision of the Supreme Court in *Higgins v Irish Aviation Authority*, delivered one month after the publication of the report. The judgment of the court in *Higgins* marks a historic watershed in defamation law, the implications of which are directly relevant to the grounds advanced in support of abolition.

The court not only reversed the previous practice whereby it was not permissible to give guidance to a jury on damages by reference to monetary values or previous awards in similar cases, but has also set out categories

and ranges of damages to be applied in future cases for defamation (see ‘Defamation law developments’, William Fry).

The express purpose of the guidance is to ensure an award of damages that will be proportionate to the wrong/injury suffered in the circumstances of the particular case, the first objective for which abolition is advanced as necessary, but which the Supreme Court has already addressed.

The significance of *Higgins*, therefore, is that it sweeps away the factual and legal premise on which abolition rests. Not only has the issue of proportionality been comprehensively dealt with, but so too the issue of predictability. Henceforth, it will be possible to predict the likely range of damages within which a case will fall by reference to the *Higgins* categories of damages and guideline/value parameters.

Court of Appeal decision

It is particularly significant in the context of this debate that, in reaching its decision, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Higgins*. The reversal is significant in this context, because the report of the review on which abolition rests had highlighted and emphasised the Court of Appeal’s decision therein as a recent example to illustrate the risk of disproportionate awards by juries in serious cases of defamation. Furthermore, not only has the Court of Appeal decision in *Higgins* been reversed, but it is evident from the report that the review also considered and took account of, in reaching its conclusions and recommendations, decisions in other defamation cases involving disproportionate awards – cases that had nothing to do with the *Defamation Act 2009* but had been decided under the *Defamation Act 1961*, long since repealed.

It follows that, not only does the proposal rest on a factual and legal framework that is factually and legally flawed, but it has also been superseded by a fundamental development in the law that provides appropriate and necessary guidance to a court on the assessment of an award of damages in future cases of defamation.

In this regard, it is pertinent to observe that the guidelines are being successfully applied and are working (see ‘Supreme Court guidelines’ panel). Applying the guidelines in *Gordon v Irish Racehorse Trainers’ Association*, the Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the verdict and award of the jury.

Joint Committee recommendation

In the exercise of the statutory powers conferred upon it, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice



scrutinised the scheme for a new *Defamation Bill*, published by the Government in March 2023. Having invited and heard submissions from all interested parties, and having considered the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Higgins*, not only did the committee unanimously recommend the retention of the right to trial by jury in High Court defamation proceedings, but it also adopted a recommendation made previously on the issue by the Law Reform Commission that the final word on damages should be left to the trial judge.

Notwithstanding, and for reasons that have never been explained, neither recommendation was accepted by the Government, nor have the responsible ministers engaged with the decisions of the Supreme Court in *Higgins* or the Court of Appeal in *Gordon*. Given the importance of the issue, it is to be expected that the passage of the bill through the Oireachtas will not only afford ample opportunity to address these questions, but also the opportunity to reflect on the fundamental developments material to the proposal that have taken place since the publication of the report on which the proposal is based, developments that render the proposal nugatory.

Delays and costs

Insofar as there were delays in having jury trials in defamation cases heard, this had nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that the cases were jury actions, but rather was totally due to the lack of resources and failure to appoint a sufficient number of judges to deal with the enormous increase in court business, particularly over the last two decades.

Despite appointments and additional resources in recent years, Ireland has the lowest judge to population ratio in the EU. The recent welcome increase in the number of judges appointed to all courts has significantly reduced delays in court lists, including the High Court civil jury list – a development that renders the claim of delay in defamation hearings without substance.

With regard to the claim that the length of the litigation process and legal costs will be reduced by abolition of jury trial, it should not be overlooked that one of the longest defamation trials in recent times was a case tried by judge alone: the trial lasted 29 days. It is in the nature of defamation law that, in serious cases, trial duration can be protracted for reasons other than because the case is one tried with a jury.

It is also not generally appreciated that, for reasons that have been explained in many judgments of the superior courts, the judgment of a single judge – whether in a civil or criminal case – does not enjoy the same respect on appeal as the verdict



The purpose of trial by jury is to protect the litigant from the risk of judicial caprice, to place in the hands of the public that share in the administration of justice that it deserves, and to prevent the encroachment of more powerful and wealthy citizens and other vested interests

of a jury, the latter attracting a degree of respect almost approaching one of sanctity, on the ground that it represents the combined wisdom of 12 impartial citizens. Consequently, it is extremely difficult to overturn a jury verdict on appeal, much more so than the decision of a single judge.

There is well-documented historical and currently available evidence that contradicts the claims being made by those advocating abolition – that the duration of the litigation process and legal costs will be reduced by the removal of the right to jury trial in defamation.

Personal-injury cases

The historical evidence is to be found in the consequences that followed the abolition of the right to trial by jury in personal-injury cases brought about by the *Courts Act 1988*. Awards of damages increased, and the number of appeals from ‘judge-only’ decisions rose exponentially. The relevance of this fact is that, instead of delays in court hearings, the length of the litigation process, and legal costs being reduced as a consequence of abolition (a claim made then as now), the exact opposite occurred.

However, one does not need to go back to the 1990s and 2000s in search of evidence of what is likely to happen in the event of abolition. Similar claims were made in England and Wales before the *Defamation Act 2013* came into force, since when legal costs per day in the London High Court are now higher than at any time, a fact well illustrated by a number of recent public high-profile cases.

Test of time

The right to jury trial, whether for serious criminal offences or civil wrongs, has stood the test of time spanning centuries, and has yet to be surpassed as



FOCAL POINT

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

Value parameters on damages in defamation

The following general categories of damages in defamation were set out by the Supreme Court in *Higgins*.

Band/parameter 1
Range of damages for cases of very modest defamation: €0 to €50,000
Band/parameter 2
Range of damages for cases of 'medium' defamation: €50,000 to €125,000
Band/parameter 3
Range of damages for cases of serious defamation: €125,000 to €199,000
Band/parameter 4
Range of damages for cases of very serious defamation: €200,000 to €300,000
Exceptional cases
To these four general categories may be added truly exceptional cases of defamation, attracting damages in excess of €300,000.

The guidelines/value parameters have application to all defamation cases since the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Higgins* in March 2022. By way of illustration, applying the guidelines in *Gordon v Irish Racehorse Trainers Association*, the Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the award of damages made by the jury.

The express purpose of the guidelines is to assist the court in arriving at an award of damages that is proportionate to the wrong/injury in any given case.

the surest means of protecting our civil liberties. Significantly, as there is evidence that the guidance/value parameters set out by the Supreme Court in *Higgins* are working, there is no plausible reason to proceed with the abolition proposal.

If no other reason than out of respect for the decision of the court in *Higgins*, a reasonable time should be given for the guidance/value parameters to bed in, and for the consequences through the verdicts in a sufficient body of cases to be subjected to review in due course. Indeed, if considered appropriate, there is no reason why the guidance could not be placed on a statutory footing, as has happened with the guidelines drawn up by the Judicial Council for personal-injury cases.

Furthermore, the unanimous and meritorious recommendation of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice could be accepted and implemented, retaining the jury as the tribunal of fact, but placing in the hands of the trial judge the final decision on the award of damages.

In the final analysis, however, the issue essentially boils down to which mode of trial best represents democratic principles in the legal system, and is most likely to protect and vindicate the civil liberties of the citizen. The deep concerns and public opposition expressed by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties regarding the proposed abolition of jury trial in defamation should serve as a timely warning of the negative consequences that proceeding with the proposal will engender. There is still time to stop. ☒

Mr Justice Bernard Barton, retired, is former head of the Civil Juries Division of the High Court.

LOOK IT UP

CASES:

- [Gordon v Irish Racehorse Trainers Association](#) [2020] IEHC 425
- [Gordon v Irish Racehorse Trainers Association 2022](#) [2022] IECA 303
- [Higgins v Irish Aviation Authority](#) [2022] IESC 13

LEGISLATION:

- [Courts Act 1988](#)
- [Defamation Act 1961](#)
- [Defamation Act 2009](#)

LITERATURE:

- [‘Case procedure: New Zealand’](#), Ali Romanos (*Defamation Update*)
- [‘Defamation and privacy law in Australia’](#), Patrick George (*Australia Media Law Guide*, Carter-Ruck)
- [‘Defamation law developments’](#) (including Categories of Defamation General Damages Awards), Paul Convery (William Fry, 25 March 2022)
- [Increasing the Number of Judges in Ireland](#), Rebecca Halpin (senior parliamentary researcher [law], Library and Research Service, 17 May 2023)
- [‘Minister Harris publishes draft legislation to reform Ireland’s defamation laws’](#) (Department of Justice, 28 March 2023, updated 29 March 2023)
- [‘Q&A: Defamation claims in Canada’](#), Benjamin Fuhrmann, Hugo Saint Laurent, Justine Kocheburger, Mathieu Piché-Messier and Natalie Kolos (Borden Ladner Gervais LLP), *Lexology*, 10 June 2024)
- [Report of the Review of the Defamation Act](#) (Department of Justice, 2009)
- [Report on Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Defamation \(Amendment\) Bill](#) (Joint Committee on Justice, September 2023)
- [‘The final chapter - Depp v Heard and jury trials in England & Wales’](#), Kevin Modiri (*Nelsons Law*, 7 June 2022)
- [‘The use of juries in defamation proceedings in America and Australia’](#), Nathan Buck (Kennedys, 27 October 2022)

Needle and the damage done

A working group established nearly two years ago to look at reducing medical negligence costs published its report in September. But, says Johan Verbruggen, we need a little less conversation





The interdepartmental working group set up by the Minister for Health to examine the rising cost of medical negligence claims and to consider mechanisms to reduce costs – with a specific focus on high-value claims within the healthcare system – published its report on 20 September.

This is not the first time that the cost of medical-negligence litigation has been assessed by stakeholders and reported on. Rather, it has been the subject of multiple reports over the years. As recently as December 2020, there was the *Expert Group Report to Review the Law of Torts and the Current Systems for the Management of Clinical Negligence Claims* on how best to improve the medical-negligence system. The expert group was chaired by Justice Charles Meenan and it comprised both plaintiff and defence lawyers.

Regrettably, the changes to the litigation system as recommended in the *Meenan Report* are yet to be implemented. It comes as no surprise then that, after two years of analysis, the interdepartmental working group repeats many of the *Meenan Report's* recommendations.

Heartbreak hotel

It is worth noting that the working group did not include representatives from patient-advocacy groups or plaintiff lawyers. The group comprised representatives from the HSE, State Claims Agency, and a number of Government departments. Nine submissions were received through public consultations (via email or post), of which five were from doctors. Only two were received from members of the public. An additional 11 submissions were received from organisations approached by the group directly.

Given the group's composition, the low number of public submissions is perhaps not surprising. An injured patient or a family that has lost a loved one in a hospital may well have felt hesitant to engage with a

group that predominantly represented the medical and defence perspectives.

Those on the plaintiff side who participated described their experiences of the litigation process as “triggering, re-traumatising, shocking, and horrible”, finding its adversarial nature ill-suited to those already suffering from significant trauma.

Litigation is not undertaken lightly, as it can be both costly and emotionally exhausting. However, for those who have been wronged, the legal process often represents the best avenue to seek clarity about their care, receive explanations, and pursue an apology. They may also desire to prevent a similar harmful event occurring to someone else in the future. Financial compensation is also important; especially for those caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has been left with catastrophic injuries.

All shook up

Healthcare professionals also reported to the group that they experienced significant emotional harm from the litigation process. A recent survey by the Medical Protection Society found that over half of the 200 healthcare professionals surveyed reported lower self-esteem and a negative impact on their family life after experiencing a claim. The adversarial environment and media coverage further exacerbate stress, with practitioners feeling they cannot respond adequately to accusations.

Practitioners reported adopting defensive practices to mitigate the risk of litigation. Some expressed concerns to the group that the system seems to favour quick settlements over defending their practices in court. This may be hard for plaintiffs to reconcile, as their experience often reflects a perception of the State “delaying and defending” – even in cases where clear negligence exists.

The rising cost of litigation was found by the group to be mainly driven by the increasing financial settlements in a small number of catastrophic-injury cases, particularly those involving perinatal brain injury and cerebral palsy. In 2022, clinical catastrophic claims represented 59% of the total estimated outstanding liability (EOL) – the EOL for these claims increased by 59% from 2018 to 2022. The settlement costs of these claims have risen dramatically, with some awards reaching up to €35 million.

While clinical catastrophic claims accounted for 55% of total litigation costs between 2018 and 2022, they only represented 2% of new claims filed. The rising cost is attributable to factors such as increased life expectancy for injured parties, advances in assistive technologies, care and accommodation requirements, loss of earnings, and rising inflation. The impact of these factors is compounded by the reduction in the real rate of return following the Court of Appeal judgment in *Russell (a minor) v HSE*.

Non-catastrophic claims, by contrast, accounted for 31% of new claims and 23% of total costs over the same period. The primary driver in this category is the number of new claims, rather than the settlement cost, although the cost per claim is also increasing.



The number of new clinical claims received has been decreasing over the past few years. However, the number of new claims received each year still exceeds the number of claims finalised in any year. This makes for an increase in the open active claims being managed

It is notable that the number of new clinical claims received has been decreasing over the past few years. However, the number of new claims received each year still exceeds the number of claims finalised in any year. This makes for an increase in the number of open active claims being managed.

Promised land

Ireland is not alone in facing rising costs associated with medical-negligence claims. The report draws comparisons with England (where the cost of claims rose from £1.3 billion in 2012/13 to £2.4 billion in 2021/22) and with New Zealand and Florida – both of which operate ‘no fault’ systems for medical injuries. Although direct comparisons are difficult due to differences in healthcare and legal systems, the common trend of increasing litigation costs is apparent.

Certainly, there are steps that could be taken to make the litigation system less combative and more collaborative. Looking at the reforms to litigation recommended by this working group, they are, in essence, the same as those put forward in the *Meenan Report* in 2020.

The group’s recommended reforms include:

Pre-action protocols

A pre-action protocol (PAP) aims to promote the early resolution of disputes before litigation begins. The *2012 Report of the Working Group on Pre-Action Protocols* highlighted several benefits:

- Ensuring that patient records are disclosed early enables both parties to assess potential claims or defences comprehensively,
- PAP provides an opportunity for settlement discussions or alternative dispute resolution (ADR), potentially avoiding litigation altogether,
- By outlining key areas of disagreement early, PAP helps streamline the litigation process if settlement is not possible,
- PAP allows patients to receive appropriate apologies for adverse events, providing emotional relief and closure without necessarily progressing to court. It was, in fact,

part of the Government’s ‘Justice Plan 2023’ to deliver pre-action protocols by the fourth quarter of last year. It is unfortunate that this target was not met. Considering the time that has passed since this was first legislated for in 2015, it seems unlikely that it will be implemented by the fourth quarter of next year without significant progress.

Enhanced case management

Another critical reform is the implementation of enhanced case-management, something that was recommended in the *2013 Report of the Working Group on Medical Negligence and Periodic Payments*. The advantages of such an approach include:

- Early identification of key issues could lead to quicker settlements,
- Mediation would become a mandatory step, encouraging cooperation and reducing combative tendencies,
- Case-management rules would ensure cases progress more swiftly to trial where settlements could not be reached,
- Witness statements could be agreed upon in advance, reducing the stress of giving oral evidence,
- Enhanced case management, in conjunction with PAP, is expected to transform the medical-negligence litigation process by fostering cooperation and minimising unnecessary delays.

Dedicated High Court list

Another of the group’s recommendations, which was also put forward by *Meenan*, is the creation of a dedicated list within the High Court for medical-negligence claims. Although the establishment of a separate court for these claims is, at this point in time, deemed unfeasible due to staffing constraints, a specialised High Court list would expedite urgent cases and ensure that judges with expertise in medical negligence would handle these cases. This would allow for better case management and faster resolutions.

Mediation

Mediation is playing an increasingly important role in resolving medical-negligence claims without the need for a trial. According to the State Claims Agency’s 2022 report, 58% of claims were settled without court proceedings, and 34% of these cases involved mediation. Mediation offers a less adversarial platform for the early resolution of claims and has been particularly successful in resolving complex cases, such as those related to the H1N1 vaccination. By implementing PAP and case-management reforms, more claims could be resolved through mediation at earlier stages.

PPO resumption

Those representing plaintiffs with catastrophic injuries have long urged the Government to implement new regulations

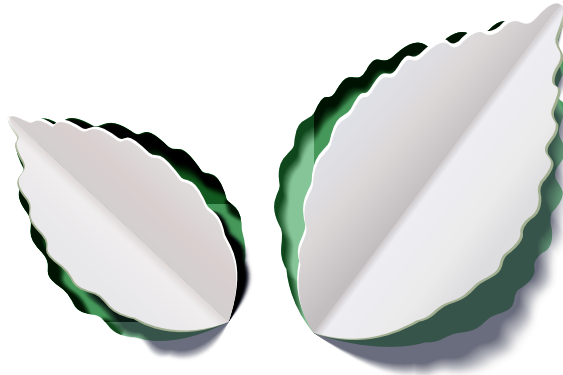


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allowing for a system of periodic payment orders (PPOs) for High Court settlements. A PPO is a court order requiring the defendant to make annual payments to the plaintiff for the remainder of their life, rather than paying out compensation in a single lump sum. This system would ensure regular, inflation-adjusted payments for lifetime care costs in cases of catastrophic injury.

The push for PPOs has been ongoing for over a decade, with families and their legal representatives arguing that it is a fairer form of compensation. Although statutory PPOs were introduced in 2017, the 2019 High Court ruling in *Hegarty v HSE* determined that the indexation rate for PPOs, as set by law, would lead to under-compensation due to its failure to consider wage inflation. As a result, many claimants have opted for lump-sum payments. In other cases, settlement agreements have allowed for the parties to negotiate an appropriate sum for a set period – for example, every three or five years – after which the parties re-engage to arrive at a figure for the next period. This arrangement, however, involves legal proceedings, and the agreed figures need to be ruled by the court. It also means repeated medical assessments, placing additional strain on injured individuals and their families. Frustrated by this process, many families opt for lump-sum payments instead.

The Minister for Justice recently accepted expert recommendations to create a more equitable system, where the PPO indexation rate will be based on 80% of the annual rate of change in nominal hourly health earnings, and 20% of the harmonised index of consumer prices, ensuring payments keep pace with healthcare costs and inflation. It is understood that regulations are being created to this end.

As acknowledged by the group, the introduction of PPOs is seen as a vital reform for ensuring that families of catastrophically injured individuals receive adequate, long-term compensation without the burdens of repeated court proceedings and financial uncertainty.

Suspicious minds

The group has identified a difficulty in obtaining expert-witness reports, which they say is because clinicians are often too busy or are hesitant to testify in cases involving colleagues. According to the group, this results in a reliance on a small pool of local experts or experts from abroad who may lack familiarity with the Irish healthcare system. That may be the defence perspective, but it is not necessarily the plaintiff's. The group suggests that this issue of expert unavailability might best be addressed by creating an independent panel of available expert witnesses within Ireland or abroad, where appropriate, who may be called on to provide either plaintiff or defendant opinion.

The most obvious problem with this proposal is that the creation of such a panel does nothing to guarantee an increase in the number of willing and qualified experts. The experts would need to be practising in their specialty, so their unavailability due to clinical commitments would continue to pose a problem. In fact, insisting on both parties to litigation


instructing experts from a panel would exacerbate the problem by confining them to a smaller pool of experts than is currently the case. That would only serve to cause additional delays.

For plaintiffs who have suffered harm in an Irish hospital, there may be a concern about the potential bias of Irish-based expert witnesses. Indeed, the potential for this is acknowledged in the group's report. As has been made clear by recent Court of Appeal judgments, it is the responsibility of the instructing parties to ensure that the expert witnesses they call to give evidence uphold their duty to assist the court by offering objective, unbiased opinion in relation to matters within their expertise. Any failure to comply with such requirements risks both the exclusion of their evidence and adverse consequence in costs.

The majority of medical-negligence cases in Ireland are brought against the Health Service Executive, an entity of the State. As a matter of logic, and of fairness, the State could not then be charged directly or indirectly with selecting the experts tasked with reviewing the acts and omissions of its own employees or agents.

It's now or never

There has long been bipartisan acceptance of the need for PAPs, case management, and a dedicated High Court list for medical-negligence cases. It is imperative that the Government introduces these mechanisms as a priority, to structure the early stages of engagement between the parties and to encourage early resolution of claims.

The resumption of PPOs, facilitated by amendments to the *Civil Liability (Amendment) Act 2017*, must also happen to end the deeply unsatisfactory situation we have at present, where families are faced with re-entering the litigation process every few years. 

Johan Verbruggen is head of medical negligence at Fieldfisher Ireland.

LOOK IT UP

CASES:

- *Duffy v McGee & Anor* [2022] IECA 254 (judgments of Noonan J and Collins J)
- *Hegarty (a minor) v HSE* [2019] IEHC 788
- *Russell (a minor) v HSE* (appeal no 2015/49) [2016] 3 IR 427

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- *Expert Group Report to Review the Law of Torts and the Current Systems for the Management of Clinical Negligence Claims* (2020)
- *Report of the Working Group on Medical Negligence and Periodic Payments* (2013)
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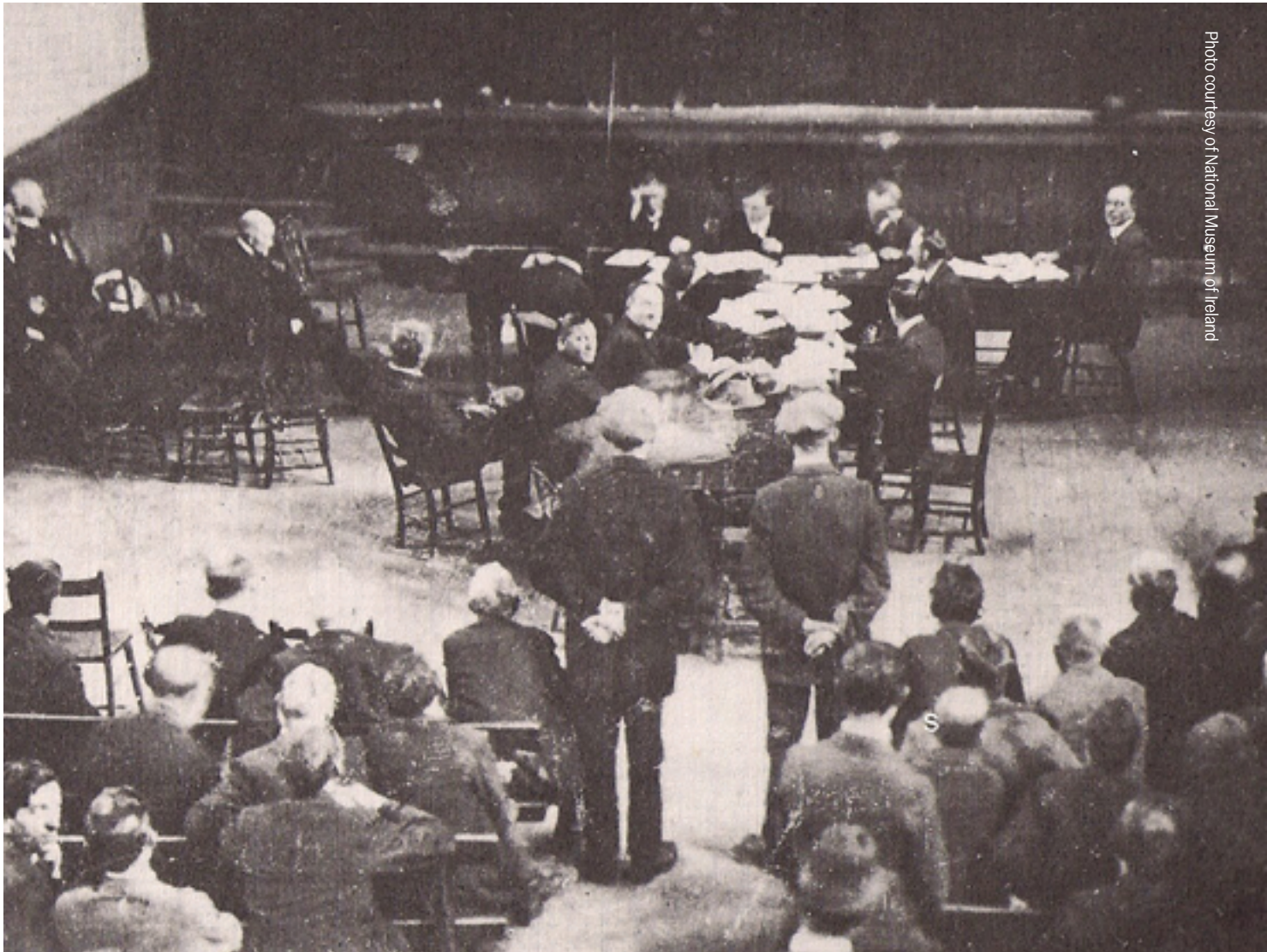


Photo courtesy of National Museum of Ireland

IMPROVISED JUSTICE?

When introducing legislation in 1923 to wind up the parallel courts' system established during the War of Independence, Minister Kevin O'Higgins characterised them as "an improvised system of justice". The true story, however, is one of complexity and resilience, write Barry Whelan and John Biggins



Michael Noyk – one of the more prominent solicitors practising in the Dáil Courts, who risked arrest at every sitting from raids by enemy forces



After the Great War, land agitation – especially in the west of Ireland – saw many litigants turn to ad hoc ‘Republican’ or ‘Sinn Féin’ arbitration courts for fair justice, advocated by Arthur Griffith since 1905. This was in similar spirit to courts established by the Land League in the late 19th century.

The outbreak of the War of Independence and the spread of agrarian unrest accelerated the movement of litigants away from the official ‘Crown’ Courts (petty sessions, county courts) towards arbitration courts. Better organised arbitration schemes emerged in particular areas, such as West Clare. They lifted the war to a higher plane – the independence movement stood not only for democracy, but also for the rule of law and equitable justice. The money raised by donations and loans by the then underground government, Dáil Éireann, ensured parties could find an alternative and fair court system for restitution.

Regularised system

A Dáil decree in June 1920 moved the dial from arbitration courts to a more regularised courts system. Court rules were developed through the autumn of 1920. By January 1921, a provisional constitution, including rules of court, had been issued by the Dáil Department of Home Affairs, though may

There were no robes, wigs, raised platforms or symbolism in the courts – its plainness spoke of a justice system that could reach all and dispense rulings quickly. Court sittings took place anywhere – in a school, pub, solicitor’s office or a barn

not have been in full circulation until after the 1921 Truce in hostilities in the War of Independence. The system was divided between Parish and District Courts, with mostly lay people adjudicating in both, and legally qualified judges presiding over Circuit sittings of the latter. A Supreme Court, comprised solely of legally qualified judges, was also established. In the District Courts, protection was provided by Republican police. These experienced IRA units were the only attendees who were permitted to wear caps in court, as a symbol of their office.

It became practice for judges of the Parish Courts to be appointed at conventions of Sinn Féin clubs, trades councils, members of the rural or urban authority, IRA Volunteers and Cumann na mBan. The collective parish judges then elected the district judges. Women, such as Jennie Wyse Power, adjudicated at these courts, showing a progressive element to this judicial system.

There were no robes, wigs, raised platforms or symbolism in the courts – its plainness spoke of a justice system that could reach all and dispense rulings quickly. Court sittings took place anywhere – in a school, pub, solicitor’s office or a barn. Urban sittings were usually riskier, as an enemy convoy could roll up and storm the premises before the court had time to hide any documentation or evade arrest. Rural sittings allowed the IRA to establish look-out posts and cordons but, with much of the country under martial law during the war, the sittings of these courts and travelling to them were still highly dangerous for all involved. In tandem with this, the IRA actively targeted the Crown Courts by destroying premises, threatening litigants, and forcing the British Army to deploy significant resources to guard their courts. The net impact of this was the near-total collapse of the established courts system and the movement of business to the Dáil courts: “The fact that Sinn Féin set its face against the use of violence for

the settlement of disputes and that the courts gave a fair hearing to everybody quickly won respect for the courts, even from those who looked upon them as usurping the functions of the English court.”

Solicitors’ vital role

Solicitors played a vital role in the Dáil Courts process because they represented clients, briefed barristers, prepared legal cases, and handled monies. The Law Society of Ireland supported their active participation in the Dáil Courts: “Where the interests of their clients require it, solicitors should be free to represent them in any court or before any tribunal.”

Hugh O’Brien Moran, Seán Ó hUadhaigh, William Corrigan, and Michael Noyk were some of the most prominent solicitors who practised in the Dáil Courts and risked arrest at every sitting from raids by enemy forces: “The court had hardly been in progress ten minutes when in came a number of British officers and Auxiliaries.” Noyk himself achieved a great coup against the established court system by holding a Dáil Court sitting under the noses of the Crown Courts at the Four Courts building. He rented a consultation room for the hearing of one of his cases before Judge Cahir Davitt.

Once solicitors attended Dáil Courts, they were aware that their card was marked in the eyes of Dublin Castle and the British authorities as being sympathetic to the Republican movement. However, again, the Law Society would defend their members against such charges by citing the privilege of the profession to act in their clients’ interests, and they presented this argument in person to General Nevil Macready – commander of the British forces in Ireland. In contrast, the Bar Council had passed a controversial resolution in June 1920 declaring it professional misconduct for barristers to appear before Sinn Féin courts. Nonetheless, barristers appeared before the Dáil Courts and the subsequent winding-up commission, including John A Costello and Michael Comyn.

Transition year

The approval of the *Anglo-Irish Treaty* in Dáil Éireann on 7 January 1922 ushered in a period of administrative transition. The Treaty did not explicitly address the future status of the Dáil Courts, but it was no secret that British political opinion was hostile. David Lloyd George – British prime minister and solicitor by profession – reportedly commented to his team during the Treaty negotiations that: “I shall have to tell them [the Irish delegation] that we shall have to scatter these courts.” Even so, the Dáil Courts were in their heyday after the Treaty. By April 1922, regularised criminal trials before judge and jury were also being held in some Dáil Courts. They were on borrowed time, however.

Following publication of the draft Constitution of Saorstát Éireann and the outbreak of the Civil War in June



‘Farm labourer as Sinn Féin judge - Thomas Hand, a Co Dublin farm employee, aided by his wife, is “dispensing justice”. His jurisdiction is wide and his “republican” judgments and declarations are recognised as effective.’
(Pic: Chicago Tribune Foreign News Service)

1922, the Dáil Courts came into sharper political focus. In the wake of Cabinet discussions in July 1922, communications were issued to the Dáil Supreme Court and judges on circuit to cease sittings. A more direct showdown between the Provisional Government and the Dáil Courts occurred when an order for *habeas corpus* was made by Judge Diarmuid Crowley, ordering the release of George Plunkett, son of Count Plunkett, from Mountjoy Jail after his capture at the Four Courts. Orders were also made for the arrest of the Minister for Defence and Governor of Mountjoy. In a public notice appearing on 1 August, the Minister for Home Affairs rescinded the original decree establishing the Dáil Courts, though initially limiting the effect to Dublin. Parish and District Courts outside Dublin were disestablished in late October 1922.

The status of claims and appeals pending when the Dáil Courts were abolished, as well as definitive registration and enforcement of court orders, went unresolved for some time. Eventually, the *Dáil Éireann Courts (Winding-Up) Act 1923* was enacted on 8 August 1923 (amended by a further act in 1924), establishing a statutory commission based at Dublin Castle. James Creed Meredith, former president of the Dáil Supreme Court, was initially appointed as Chief Judicial Commissioner until his elevation to the High Court of Saorstát Éireann in 1924. The commissioners were empowered to hear appeals against registered decrees; appeals against the registrar’s decisions to register (or refusals to register) decrees; outstanding proceedings and appeals pending before the Dáil Courts’ abolition; and to reopen certain other proceedings where defendants had previously abstained from the Dáil Courts on principle. Under 1925 legislation, the jurisdictions and powers of the commissioners were transferred to the High Court, and so a fusion of the revolutionary legal system with that of the new State was finally rendered complete.



A more direct showdown between the Provisional Government and the Dáil Courts occurred when an order for *habeas corpus* was made, ordering the release of George Plunkett from Mountjoy after his capture at the Four Courts. Orders were also made for the arrest of the Minister for Defence and Governor of Mountjoy

Trove of records

Perhaps one of the greatest legacies of the commission is its trove of records, which survive in the National Archives. The files reveal that a broad cross-section of Irish society came to rely on the Dáil Courts (and, later, the commission). Legal actions were wide in variety, many of them still familiar today, including debt recovery, breach of contract, negligence, and land disputes. Some of these materials are revealing of life at the ground level of society during a disturbed period, illustrated by the following examples from the Dublin files.

At a May 1922 circuit sitting in the North City District, two men were charged with armed robbery at Drumcondra Post Office, while a third was charged with threatening to kill the postmistress and the post office messenger, in February of that year. A witness statement from the postmistress conveyed how an ordinary day took a terrifying turn when she recalled: “On Tuesday morning about 12 noon, while engaged in my duties in Drumcondra Post Office, I saw men rush into the office. I thought there was something wrong and immediately one of the men put a revolver through the brass railing on the counter. I stood for a moment afraid to move or call...” Another employee recalled one of the men threatening the post office messenger that “if he stirred, he would shoot him dead”. The perpetrators made admissions in custody and, while the archival record is not entirely clear, they seem to have entered guilty pleas.

Another case concerned a substantial breach of contract claim levelled against a garage on the Conyngham Road. The defendant had allegedly failed to carry out repairs to a [Ford Laudette](#) in reasonable time, putting the plaintiff to considerable expense, particularly in hiring ‘taxi-cars’. It transpired in evidence that a damaged part from the

plaintiff’s car had been sent by the defendant motor works to a third party works, but was then allegedly stolen from there by ‘Sinn Féiners’. It was accepted in evidence that ‘armed men’ had taken the part. The plaintiff car owner was only awarded a fraction of his claim, while a claim of the defendant motor works was partially upheld in relation to the supply of petrol.

There was fluidity in the use of courts during this period, given that the inherited Crown Courts and the Dáil Courts functioned concurrently (albeit uneasily) in some places, particularly Dublin. On occasion, the two systems were activated at different points in the same chain of events. For instance, a woman was charged with stealing a fur coat from Arnotts in December 1921. She was taken into custody and remanded until January 1922, when she was tried before the Recorder of Dublin and a jury at the Criminal Sessions. When acquitted of the charge, she then initiated a claim against Arnotts at the North City Dáil District Court for false imprisonment. The plaintiff was successful at first instance, but Arnotts successfully appealed.

Consistent with the terms of their provisional constitution, it was also quite usual for the Dáil Courts and the commissioners to apply pre-existing law – that is, the common law and Westminster legislation. For example, on 14 June 1922, a complaint was made by a sanitary officer under the *Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878* about the bad state of repair and sanitation of certain properties at Kill o’ the Grange. The orders made against the landlord required him to “provide two water closets for tenement houses ... also new drains, gullies, intercepting trap, vent pipes etc, and connection with Rural District Council’s sewer in public road”.

Penalties for breaches of animal-disease regulations were also imposed by the Dáil Courts at a time when the keeping of cattle within the city was still widespread. In January 1922, a ‘cowkeeper’ with an overcrowded cowshed on Bow Lane, off Aungier Street, was summonsed and cautioned for breaching the *Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order 1908*.

These examples perhaps serve to demonstrate that, by the time of their abolition, the Dáil Courts had become much more than an “improvised system of justice”.

Barry Whelan is a historian with DCU. He works in the Law Society and is currently writing a biography of Michael Noyk, solicitor. John Biggins is a practising barrister, lecturer and researcher. He is currently writing up new research on the Dáil Courts. He gratefully acknowledges the support of the Royal Irish Academy in conducting the National Archives of Ireland research referred to in this article. The content of this article is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Royal Irish Academy or any other organisations to which the authors may be affiliated.

Migrant judgment a crucial victory

The European Court of Human Rights declaring Greece guilty of migrant pushbacks marks a crucial, historic victory, write Aileen Elliott and Alkistis Agrafioti Chatzigianni

On 7 January, human rights in Europe got a boost when the European Court of Human Rights condemned, for the first time, Greece's practice of 'pushbacks'. The historic case was supported by Oxfam's partner, the Greek Council for Refugees, and taken by a Turkish woman ('ARE') who tried to flee to Greece to apply for international application.

Instead of granting her the right to make an application, Greek authorities illegally made her board a small dingy and pushed her back over the Evros river to Turkey. 'Pushbacks' – pushing people back over a border or forcefully returning them to a country they are trying to leave without allowing them to apply for international protection – are a violation of human rights, international law and, most importantly, our collective values.

Wake-up call

The ECHR's judgment is not only a condemnation of

Pushbacks – pushing people back over a border or forcefully returning them to a country they are trying to leave without allowing them to apply for international protection – are a violation of human rights, international law and, most importantly, our collective values

Greece's pushback practices but also a wake-up call for the entire EU. Pushbacks are not isolated incidents: similar reports have emerged from other member states, including Hungary, Croatia, and Poland. The systematic violation of human-rights at Europe's external borders undermines the credibility of the European Union.

The court found that not only did the Greek authorities violate her right to ask for international protection, but that they illegally detained her and took her belongings (her shoes, mobile phone, and money). The court found that the victim was illegally detained by the Greek authorities before her pushback. This is further confirmation that the arrest and detention of irregular migrants – that is, a kind of temporary forced disappearance – formed part of the *modus operandi* noted in connection with the practice. The court found that the Greek judicial authorities failed to conduct an effective criminal investigation and archived ARE's



criminal complaint, despite the *prima facie* evidence.

For some years, the Greek Council for Refugees has been working with survivors of pushbacks seeking justice. Testimonies from hundreds of survivors show that pushbacks follow the same pattern:

- Informal arrest,
- Arbitrary and incommunicado detention,
- Illegal confiscation of personal belongings,
- Degrading strip search,
- Violent transfer to the Evros riverbank, and
- Finally, illegal expulsion.

In the case of ARE, the court found that Greek authorities had violated her right to personal liberty and security and her right to an effective legal remedy to complain for her rights' violations, among other things.

Systematic but unofficial

The court confirmed what survivors, Greek human-rights



Photo: Niclas Economy/Shutterstock

Syrian migrants arrive in Lesbos, Greece, from Turkey on an overloaded dinghy

The judgment is not only a condemnation of Greece's practices but also a wake-up call for the entire EU. Pushbacks are not isolated incidents: similar reports have emerged from other member states, including Hungary, Croatia, and Poland

defenders, independent authorities, international organisations, and the UN have reported for years – that the Greek State's use of pushbacks is systematic. Even though pushbacks are illegal, the Greek State has been using them as planned, but unofficial, *de facto* policy.

Greek human-rights defenders have repeatedly highlighted that, while Greek authorities have been breaking the law with impunity, they have criminalised humanitarians,

like Seán Binder, and lawyers and human-rights defenders, including colleagues in the Greek Council for Refugees.

This landmark judgment is a victory for human rights. The European court's recognition of the illegal and systematic practice of pushbacks by the Greek State is a vindication for thousands of victims at the EU's external borders. It is also a vindication for all human-rights defenders criminalised and targeted for supporting victims of pushbacks committed by the Greek authorities.

When authorities themselves are the ones breaking the law, it is particularly frightening.

The European court has affirmed that a state cannot simply turn its back on international law and the values to which it gives expression. There are more rulings to come: more than 30 applications against Greece are pending before the ECtHR that entail alleged ill-treatment at the EU's external borders.

The ECtHR ruling is an opportunity for EU member states, including Ireland, to reaffirm their commitment to international law, human rights, and our shared values. There is a lot of work to be done to achieve human rights at our borders, but human-rights defenders all around Europe are ready to continue this work. 🇪🇺



Aideen Elliott is migration policy lead at Oxfam Ireland. Alkistis Agrafioti Chatzigianni is an advocacy officer and lawyer at the Greek Council for Refugees.

Setting the benchmark

If you're not shaping your workplace culture with intention, you're leaving it to chance – and in law, that's a risk you can't afford, says the growing team at Law Society Psychological Services. Mary Hallissey reports

Success in law is often measured in outputs, such as targets, billable hours, and clients.

Increasingly, however, the human costs of achieving those outputs are becoming part of the business conversation.

“As a new generation of rising leaders joins the profession, those workplaces that can adapt to rapidly changing values, alongside a sea of change arising from technological innovation, are those that will endure,” says Antoinette Moriarty (head of Law Society Psychological Services).

“The AI revolution, coupled with a move away from traditional career progression, linked with expertise and earning power, are requiring law firms, as well as the in-house and public sectors, to rethink how law is practised,” she says.

She points out that legal workplaces that build lasting reputations are the ones investing in cultures where people are supported and empowered to do their best work.

This shift isn't theoretical – it's happening now. The Law Society's 'Well Within the

The Law Society's Well Within the Law initiative is collaborating directly with legal workplaces to rewire how they operate



Antoinette Moriarty

Law' initiative is setting a new precedent, with groundbreaking insights that redefine what success looks like in legal workplaces.

“The most impactful and interesting legal workplaces aren't built on a model that is slowly declining – or indeed reliant on exhausted minds or a predetermined idea that everyone wants to reach the holy grail of partnership in a corporate law firm – whatever the personal cost,” continues Antoinette. “They're built on cultures that challenge, support, and sustain the people who power them to do work that may well be tough – but is also human and affirming, and over which people have a sense of autonomy.”

Rethinking legal culture

The legal profession is at a turning point. Years of research – including the Law Society's *Dignity Matters* report, *Psychology at Work Report* (2018), and the International Bar Association's *Mental Wellbeing in the Legal Profession: A Global Study* – have made one thing clear: unchecked workplace culture is eroding the profession from within.

Punishingly tough environments, escalating anxiety and depression, and

underreported harassment reflect systemic failures that weaken workplaces and drive talent away. The Well Within the Law initiative is collaborating directly with legal workplaces to rewire how they operate.

A pilot with purpose

'Culture First: Well Within the Law' is a pilot programme between Law Society Psychological Services and RDJ LLP, in partnership with SEVEN Psychology at Work. It marks a defining moment in the transformation of legal workplace culture.

The process has provided a blueprint that equips legal workplaces with practical, scalable tools to turn culture into a strategic advantage. More than just a framework, it's a data-driven, evidence-backed approach that embeds psychological wellbeing, psychological safety, respect, leadership, and inclusivity into the fabric of everyday legal practice.

More than a decade after the Law School introduced its in-house counselling service – supporting thousands of trainees across 385 legal workplaces to date – this pilot has taken the next bold step.

The initiative goes beyond



individual support by transforming the very foundations of legal culture. RDJ's leadership team approached this initiative with openness and intent. The firm invited Law Society Psychological Services to work alongside its senior leadership to assess and strengthen workplace culture.

The 'Culture First: Well Within the Law' assessment reported some heartening results:

- 71% of employees reported satisfaction with their work/life balance,
- 74% stated that long hours were only expected in exceptional circumstances, and
- Employees identified a clear connection to the firm's values, seeing them reflected in daily practices.

RDJ's success proves that workplace culture is measurable, actionable and, importantly, a key driver of business performance.

Jamie Olden (managing partner, RDJ LLP) says: "We were proud to participate in this pilot programme. It was very encouraging to see that the report findings for RDJ did not reflect those highlighted in the recent IBA *Future of Legal*

RDJ's success proves that workplace culture is measurable, actionable and, importantly, a key driver of business performance

Services report (2023) and the Law Society *Dignity Matters* report (2021), but instead show that a large majority of our employees find the RDJ culture to be positive, friendly, and inclusive. Although very positive, there were clear areas where the firm could do better."

He added: "Over the coming weeks, we will be mapping our resources and supports against the report recommendations to develop a clear action plan. Our goal is to continue to build an uplifting culture that puts people at the heart of what we do, ensure that every person feels valued and empowered, and that our purpose to 'build better, stronger, and more sustainable businesses and careers' underpins everything we do at RDJ."

The legal profession is built on precedent – so, in 2025, the Law Society will build on the pilot, launching the Well Within the Law Chartership and establishing a gold standard for what a thriving, inclusive, and psychologically safe legal workplace should be.

In Q2 this year, chartership accreditation will offer legal workplaces a concrete, measurable way to showcase

their leadership in cultural transformation, moving beyond rhetoric and proving, through action, that employee wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainable success are woven into the DNA of a legal workplace. The vision is for accredited legal workplaces to set the benchmark for excellence, attracting top talent and strengthening client relationships.

And because progress and effort deserve to be celebrated, autumn 2025 will mark the first-ever Well Within the Law Chartership Ceremony. This event will celebrate legal workplaces that are embarking on the chartership journey and will spotlight game-changers – legal workplaces and individuals who are proving that legal excellence and workplace wellbeing go hand in hand.

Be part of the movement
Change is happening, and we're here to help you optimise its potential. Let's build the future of legal work – together.

Get in touch with the Psychological Services team today at ps@lawsociety.ie.

Mary Hallissey is a journalist at the *Law Society Gazette*.

Law Society Council meeting - 7 November 2024

Outgoing President Barry MacCarthy welcomed the newly elected Council members and nominees as extraordinary members, as well as the past-presidents of the Law Society in attendance. Past-president Geraldine Clarke confirmed the election of Rosemarie Loftus as senior vice-president and Valerie Peart as junior vice-president pursuant to the byelaws. She then delivered a tribute to Walter Beattie, recently deceased.

Barry MacCarthy noted his thanks to the Council, to Áine Hynes and the task force on DSS, to the Conveyancing Committee and task force on Tailte Éireann, the DG and staff of the Law Society, the officers, Owen Binchy and Philip Joyce. The outgoing president then passed the chain of office to incoming president, Eamon Harrington.

Medallion presentation

Eamon acknowledged the work done by Barry in his time as president and thanked him on behalf of the Law Society and the Council. He also thanked Barry's wife, Fiona, and family. The

president then presented Barry with the past-president's medallion.

Eamon acknowledged the past-presidents in attendance and thanked them for attending. He thanked his colleagues in the SLA, Jerome O'Sullivan, his colleagues, and his family. He also expressed appreciation to the late Moya Quinlan, Dan O'Connor, the late James O'Sullivan, previous directors of the Law Society, and the late Rosemary Fallon. The president also welcomed the newly appointed senior and junior vice-presidents.

Regulations amendment

Council approved an amendment to the regulations to implement the requirements of the *Protected Disclosures Act 2014* (as amended) and approved the PC fees for 2025. Council also approved appointments to internal and external bodies, following consideration of recommendations from the Coordination Committee, Court of Appeal Civil Users Group (Paula Cullinane), and CCBE Human Rights Committee (Mary O'Donoghue). Council noted the appointment of Donal Hamilton to the Employment Law Review Group (notified

to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment), and approved the renaming of the Green Hall Lecture Theatre in honour of Attracta O'Regan.

Council elections

Council considered turnout at the recent Council elections. The director general noted that it has fallen from 23% to 18% this year. The Law Society will consider this issue. There followed a discussion around broader issues with the election process and e-voting.

Council received a report on the AGM held on 6 November 2024. The minutes of the AGM on Thursday 9 November 2023 and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 were approved; the motion to amend the byelaws of the Law Society was withdrawn; the date of the next AGM was approved for 13 November 2025; and the appointment of scrutineers for 2024/2025 was approved. It was noted that there was no Ulster delegate appointed in the recent election, and Council will consider candidates for co-option under the provisions of the byelaws. Council also appointed its committees for 2024/2025 as detailed in the papers before it.

Geraldine Clarke spoke on behalf of the past-presidents, congratulating Alan Greene on 30 years of service to the Law Society, and President Eamon Harrington made a presentation, thanking him on behalf of the Council. 📷



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Occupancy conditions in planning permissions: acceptable evidence of compliance

The Conveyancing Committee has recently been asked to provide guidance to a solicitor on the best practice for a purchaser's solicitor seeking evidence that an occupancy condition, contained in a grant of planning permission for a house being sold, had been complied with.

Occupancy conditions or indigenous population conditions in planning permissions are common in rural areas, being deemed necessary to implement rural settlement strategies in county development plans.

In recent years, a number of planning authorities have been inserting somewhat similar provisions to enforce such occupancy conditions. Typical clauses in planning permissions provide that:

1. The proposed dwelling, when completed, shall be first occupied as a place of permanent residence by the applicant, members of the applicant's immediate family, or their heirs, and shall remain so occupied for a period of seven years thereafter,
2. Within two months of the occupation of the proposed dwelling, a written statement of confirmation of the first occupation of the dwelling shall be submitted to the planning authority in accordance with (1) above and the date of such first occupation,
3. This condition shall not affect the sale of the dwelling by a mortgagee in possession or by any person deriving title from such a sale.

Some planning authorities require, in addition, that the applicant enters into a legal agreement, such as a section 47 agreement, in regard to the occupancy, which can be registered on the title to the property in the appropriate registry.

What should a purchaser's solicitor require when buying such a property?

It is a given that the applicant for the permission was the owner for the relevant period, but a purchaser's solicitor should check this.

If a section 47 agreement is registered on the folio, the matter is straightforward. If the sale is within the seven-year period required by the planning permission, the vendor must obtain a release of this commitment from the local authority, such that the burden can be removed from the title to the property. If the section 47 agreement only deals with the matter of the occupation by the applicant for seven years or some other period, and that period has expired, the best and tidiest practice would be to have it released before completion but, if for some reason that is not practicable, it is clearly not essential.

When selling a dwelling that was erected on foot of a planning permission that included clauses (1) and (2) above, a purchaser's solicitor should seek the best evidence of compliance, which is a letter from the local authority confirming compliance. Procuring such a letter may present difficulties for a person who did not give the planning authority notice of the first occupation in accordance with the condition. People may generally be aware of the seven-year commitment, but the two-month limit to furnish confirmation of the first occupation is a trap for the unwary.

At the stage of taking up occupation, there is usually no solicitor or architect involved who might remind the applicant of the requirement to give notice to the planning authority of the date of first occupation, and the time limit for doing so. Local authorities will expect people to comply with the two-month notice period and are likely to be sceptical about requests for confirmation of compliance if the notice of occupation is given some years later.

The committee believes that it may be reasonable for a purchaser's solicitor to accept alternative evidence of compliance with such a condition if, for some reason, the best evidence is not available. A vendor may be able to produce compelling evidence of compliance with the actual occupation requirement, despite not having given notice within the two-month time limit.

Notice within time limit

The committee is of the opinion that, if a house has been erected more than seven years previously and there is compelling evidence of compliance with the condition that requires the occupation of the applicant, and the only breach is a technical breach due to the failure of the applicant to give notice of the first occupation, it would be reasonable for a purchaser to accept the situation on the basis that it is not a breach of condition that goes to the root of the planning permission or is contrary to public policy.

The committee was asked if the usual architect's certificate of compliance for the house could be accepted as sufficient evidence of compliance with such an occupation condition. The committee does not accept that the usual architect or engineer's certificate of compliance with planning permission is sufficient verification in respect of such a condition.

The Conveyancing Committee will keep the matter under review and will issue further guidance if necessary.

Residential Zoned Land Tax: update

Practitioners are reminded that the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced in the *Finance Act 2021*. RZLT is a new tax aimed at increasing housing supply by activating zoned serviced residential development lands for housing. It is an annual tax that applies at a rate of 3% of the land's market value.

The Conveyancing Committee previously issued guidance notes in 2023 and 2024 (see lawsociety.ie/solicitors/knowledge-base/practice-notes).

Practitioners should be aware that, where land is included on the final RZLT map prepared by each local authority, that land likely falls within the scope of the tax, and RZLT will be first due on 1 February 2025 and payable on or before 23 May

2025. The committee is of the view that it is not a matter for practitioners to identify whether a property falls within the final RZLT map. This is a matter for instruction from the client.

It had been the Conveyancing Committee's intention to issue a set of requisitions and explanatory memorandum in respect of RZLT some time ago. However, the committee has been liaising with Revenue, seeking clarity on certain aspects of the implementation of the legislation, and had hoped to have this clarity before publishing requisitions. While the discussions with Revenue are ongoing, indications are that we are unlikely, in the short term, to achieve the clarity sought.

The committee is, therefore, currently finalising interim requisitions and an explanatory memorandum,

which will take account of the information currently available. It is hoped to issue these shortly.

Practitioners are reminded that the persons liable to pay RZLT are the 'owners' of a relevant site, which has been defined very broadly by the legislation and includes any party or person who has an interest or a right to develop the land. There are only a limited number of exclusions from the scope of RZLT, and deferral of the payment is only possible in very limited circumstances.

The committee recommends that practitioners familiarise themselves with the legislation if acting on behalf of a vendor or purchaser of land that falls within the local authority's RZLT map, and that consideration be given to taking professional expert taxation advice before proceeding with the sale or purchase of any such lands.

It is anticipated that an online portal will be made available by Revenue in respect of RZLT, but the committee understands that it has not been fully developed. ☒

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DISCIPLINARY

NOTICE: THE HIGH COURT 2024 9 SA

In the matter of Patrick McGonagle (solicitor number S5843), a former solicitor previously practising as McGonagle Solicitors, 1 Main Street, Dundrum, Dublin 14, and in the matter of the Solicitors Acts 1954-2015

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Patrick McGonagle (respondent)**

Upon application by the applicant for orders pursuant to section 85 of the 2015 act, on foot of the applicant's determination of 21 December 2023 that the respondent was guilty of misconduct in that he:

1. Caused a potential deficit identified of €210,619 in client funds as of 31 October 2020,
2. Failed to maintain proper books of account, with 46 lodgments totalling €2,284,666.92 and 365 payments totalling €4,333,539.91 not recorded in the books of account, and failed to maintain vouching or supporting documentation to verify or identify such lodgments, thereby making it impossible to ascertain the true position with client monies,
3. Continued to practise as a solicitor, notwithstanding that he was adjudicated bankrupt in March 2020 and was automatically suspended from practice,
4. Failed to file his accountant's reports for the years ended 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2020 with the Law Society within six months of those dates, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014* (SI 516 of 2014),
5. During the 12-month period ending 31 October 2020, made a total of €268,554 in transfers to the office account in cases where there were no fee notes recorded and it was not possible to say whether this amount was beneficially due to the

respondent,

6. Caused claims of €519,174.05 to be made on the Compensation Fund,
7. Breached the following regulations of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations* (SI 516 of 2014):
 - a) Regulation 13(1), as proper books of account were not maintained at all times by the respondent,
 - b) Regulation 13(2), as the books of account did not show the true financial position in relation to the respondent's transactions with client monies,
 - c) Regulation 13(4), as each of the respondent's transactions with client monies was not recorded,
 - d) Regulation 13(7), as an office cash bank or office ledgers were not maintained,
 - e) Regulation 13(7)(a), as no nominal ledger accounts were maintained,
 - f) Regulation 13(8), as balancing statements for client accounts were not prepared at the due date,
 - g) Regulation 13(9), for failing to prepare an office balancing statement within two months of the accounting date,
 - h) Regulation 7(1)(a), for withdrawing clients' money in a manner not allowable by the regulations,
 - i) Regulation 7(2)(b), by discharging personal expenditure from the client account,
 - j) Regulation 9(4), by the withdrawal of monies from the client account other than as permitted,
 - k) Regulation 11(4), for failing to record fee notes on the office side of the relevant client ledger account,
 - l) Regulation 25, for not

maintaining the minimum accounting records required by a solicitor,

- m) Regulation 26(1), for failing to file accountant's reports not later than six months after the end of the relevant accounting period.

Take notice that, by order of the President of the High Court made on 15 April 2024, it was ordered that the respondent:

1. Is not a fit person to be on the Roll of Solicitors,
2. Be censured,
3. Pay a sum of €403,179.98 by way of restitution to the Compensation Fund,
4. Pay a sum of €2,262 in respect of measured costs before the tribunal,
5. Pay a sum of €1,754, being the measured costs of the High Court application.

*Dr Niall Connors, Registrar of Solicitors,
Law Society of Ireland*

*Dr Brian J Doherty, Chief Executive Officer,
Legal Services Regulatory Authority* 

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Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal

REPORTS OF THE OUTCOMES OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL INQUIRIES ARE PUBLISHED, IN SUCH MANNER AS THE LEGAL SERVICES REGULATORY AUTHORITY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 88 OF THE *LEGAL SERVICES REGULATION ACT 2015*

In the matter of Eugene Kearns (solicitor number S6452), a solicitor currently practising at Eugene P Kearns, 10 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT01]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Eugene Kearns (respondent)**

On 25 October 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 October 2021 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014* (SI 516 of 2014).

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Be directed to pay the sum of €1,000 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay the sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant under section 82(1)(j) of the act.

In the matter of Patrick Martin (solicitor number S8973), currently practising at Patrick M Martin, 148 The Old Distillery, North Anne Street, Dublin 7, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT02]
**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Patrick Martin (respondent)**

On 26 July 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €750 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the Law Society being the agreed costs of the applicant in respect of the inquiry under section 82 (1)(j) of the act.



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DISCIPLINARY

In the matter of Eugene Kearns (solicitor number S6452), currently practising at Eugene P Kearns, 10 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT04]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Eugene Kearns (respondent)**

On 25 October 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 October 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay the sum of €2,000 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay the sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant under section 82(1)(j) of the act.

In the matter of Martin Moloney (solicitor number S12431), currently practising at MP Moloney, Grattan House, 1 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT06]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Martin Moloney (respondent)**

On 2 February 2024, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he:

1. Allowed a deficit of €98,409.68 in the client account, as of the 30 November 2019 accounting date,

due to the existence of six client-ledger debit balances, in breach of regulation 7(2) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*,

2. Failed to maintain proper books of account with such relevant supporting documentation as would enable clients' monies handled and dealt with by the solicitor to be duly recorded and the entries relevant thereto in the books of account to be appropriately vouched, in breach of regulation 13 of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay the sum of €4,512 to the Law Society in respect of its costs for the inquiry, pursuant to section 82(1)(j) of the act,
3. Pay the sum of €10,000 to the Compensation Fund, pursuant to section 82(1)(l) of the act.

In the matter of Myles Gilvarry (solicitor number S4903), currently practising at Gilvarry & Associates, Unit 9 N5 Business Park, Moneen Road, Castlebar, Co Mayo, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT10]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Myles Gilvarry (respondent)**

On 21 August 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be admonished in relation to his misconduct under section 8 (1)(b) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund under section 82

- (1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant.

In the matter of David Gaffney (solicitor number S11667), formerly practising at Gaffney Solicitors, 4B Father Matthew Street, Cork, currently practising at Padraig J Sheehan, Village Green House, Douglas West, Cork, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT11]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
David Gaffney (respondent)**

On 21 August 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be admonished in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(b) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund under section 82 (1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant.

In the matter of Shane O'Donnell (solicitor number S15405), formerly practising at Flynn & O'Donnell, 4 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT15]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Shane O'Donnell (respondent)**

On 18 August 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2019 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant in respect of the inquiry under section 82(1)(j) of the act.

In the matter of Shane O'Donnell (solicitor number S15405), formerly practising at Flynn & O'Donnell, 4 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT16]

Law Society of Ireland (applicant) Shane O'Donnell (respondent)

On 18 August 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,

3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant in respect of the inquiry under section 82(1)(j) of the act.

In the matter of Maurice Regan (solicitor number S15062), currently practising at Maurice Regan & Associates, Unit 7 Scurlockstown Business Park, Dublin Road, Trim, Co Meath, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT17]

Law Society of Ireland (applicant) Maurice Regan (respondent)

On 6 October 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay the sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay the sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant in respect of the inquiry under section 82(1)(j) of the act.

In the matter of Alan Harrison (solicitor number S3395), currently practising at Harrison Solicitors, Paradigm House, Dundrum Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT19]

Law Society of Ireland (applicant) Alan Harrison (respondent)

On 5 August 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in

that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2019 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:


1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant.

In the matter of Alan Harrison (solicitor number S3395), currently practising at Harrison Solicitors, Paradigm House, Dundrum Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 [2022-LPDT21]

Law Society of Ireland (applicant) Alan Harrison (respondent)

On 5 August 2023, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society of Ireland an accountant's report for the year ended 31 December 2020 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*.

The tribunal ordered that the respondent:

1. Be censured in relation to his misconduct under section 82(1)(c) of the act,
2. Pay a sum of €375 to the Compensation Fund under section 82(1)(l) of the act,
3. Pay a sum of €1,512 to the applicant, being the agreed costs of the applicant. 



WILLS

Callan, Patricia (deceased), late of 93 Ballyfermot Drive, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, who died on 16 February 2021. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Wilkinson & Price Solicitors, 52 South Main Street, Naas, Co Kildare; tel: 045 897 551, email: info@wandp.ie

Carr, Mary (deceased), late of 719 Quarry, Athy, Co Kildare, who died on 11 June 1998. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Mark Collins, Tom Collins & Co LLP, Solicitors, 132 Terenure Road North, Dublin 6W; tel: 01 490 0121, email: mark@tomcollins.ie

Chamberlain, James Joseph (deceased), late of 109 Ringsend Park, Ringsend, Dublin 4. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased, who died on 1 October 2007, please contact AC Forde & Co LLP, Solicitors, 14 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4; tel: 01 660 8955, email: info@acforde.com

Dalton, Breeda Ann (deceased), late of 13 Whitehall Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased, who died on 1 September 2024, please contact Patrick J Farrell & Co, Solicitors, Newbridge, Co Kildare; tel: 045 431 542, email: niall.farrell@pjf.ie

Dunleavy, Marie Therese (Bláth) (deceased), late of Patrick Street, Durrow, Laois, and formerly of Raheen, Athenry, Co Galway, who died on 4 November 2024. Would

RATES

PROFESSIONAL NOTICE RATES

RATES IN THE PROFESSIONAL NOTICES SECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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• Title deeds - €325 per deed (incl VAT at 23%)
• Employment/miscellaneous - €163 (incl VAT at 23%)

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No recruitment advertisements will be published that include references to ranges of post-qualification experience (PQE). The Gazette Editorial Board has taken this decision based on legal advice that indicates that such references may be in breach of the Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004.

any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Clodagh M Gallagher, Solicitors, 43 Sli Na Sruthan, Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, Galway; tel: 091 521 352, email: info@cmgsolicitor.com

McClafferty, George (deceased), late of Rose Cottage, Kiloughter, Ashford, Co Wicklow, who died on 2 November 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Amanda Malone, O'Brien & Co, Solicitors, Main Street, Market Square, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow; tel: 0404 7000, email: info@obsolicitors.ie

Miller, Stephen (deceased), late of Highfield Healthcare, Swords Road, Dublin 9, and formerly of 246 Larkhill Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9, who died on 25 May 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Yvonne Fanning, Hanlon & Co, Solicitors, 6 Richmond Road,

Drumcondra, Dublin 3; tel: 01 836 9300, email: yvonne@hanlonandco.com

Moynan, Vera (deceased), late of Capponellan, Durrow, Co Laois, who died on 2 April 2021. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact William X White, WX White Solicitors, Clarmallagh House, Bank Place, Portlaoise, Co Laois; tel: 057 866 1881, email: info@wxwsolicitors.ie

Murray, Catherine (deceased), late of 37 Delaney Park, Dublin Hill, Cork, who died on 29 September 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the original will made by the above-named deceased please contact Killian O'Mullane, Eugene Murphy Solicitors, 'Sunville', Cork Road, Carrigaline, Co Cork; tel: 021 437 2425, email: killian@emurphysolicitors.ie

O'Brien, Gerard Vincent (deceased), late of 10 Grantham Place, Dublin 8, who died on 14 February 2022. Would any solicitor or person having

knowledge and details of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Emer Lyons, Lyons Skelly Solicitors, Suites 6 & 7 Lakeview Point, Claregalway Corporate Park, Claregalway, Galway; tel: 091 341 069, email: info@lyons-skelly.com

O'Riordan, John (orse Seán) (deceased), late of 14 Aisling Drive, Clareview, Limerick, who died on 4 November 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will executed by the above-named deceased please contact MMOD Solicitors LLP, Wood Quay, Ennis, Co Clare, V95 Y961; tel: 065 682 8405; email: info@mmodsolicitors.ie

Phelan, Martin Mary (deceased), late of 52 Alpine Heights, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, who was born on 8 December 1931 and who died on 14 May 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact email: marycmajor@outlook.com

Reddering, Johan (Hans) (deceased), late of Woodfield, Broadford, Co Clare, and formerly of the Netherlands, who died on 16 July 2022. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Elisa McMahon, Dundon Callanan LLP, 17 The Crescent, Limerick; tel: 061 411 022, email: elisa.mcmahon@dundoncallanan.ie

Reynolds, Michael (deceased), late of Iveagh Hostel, Bride Road, Dublin 8, who died on 16 November 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Tom McGuinness; tel: 087 749 5066, email: tmcgsum@yahoo.com

Schubert, Mirko (deceased), late of 41 Howth Road, Marino, Dublin 3, who died on 11 July 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Duncan Grehan and Partners LLP, 26 Fitzwilliam Street Upper, Dublin 2, D02 CT89; DX 109 030 Fitzwilliam; tel: 01 677 9078, email: reception@duncangrehan.com

Tuohy, Declan, Martin (deceased), late of 48 The Mill Apartments, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow, formerly of 73 Alexandra Walk, Clane, Co Kildare, and 31 Bayside Square, East Sutton, Dublin 13, who died on 4 July 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Sarah Flynn, Reddy Charlton LLP Solicitors,

12 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2; tel: 01 661 9500, email: sflynn@reddycharlton.ie

TITLE DEEDS

Notice of intention to acquire the fee simple: in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of part II of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978 and in the matter of property known as the Coach House, Tirelton, in the county of Cork, and in the matter an application by Cork Diocesan Trustees Public Unlimited Company

Take notice any person having an interest in any estate in the above property that Cork Diocesan Trustees Public Unlimited Company (the applicant) intends to submit an application to the county registrar of the county of Cork for

the acquisition of the fee simple interest and all intermediate interest in the aforesaid property, and any person asserting that they hold a superior interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the premises to the below named within 21 days from the date hereof.

Any person having any interest in the property held under lease of 17 May 1886 made between Jane Whitway of the first part, John Goode of the second part, and the Right Rev William Delany, the Very Rev Denis Canon McSwiney, and Rev John Lyons of the third part, should provide evidence to the below named.

In default of such information being received by the applicant, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar and will apply to the county registrar for the county of Cork for directions



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as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons entitled to the superior interest including the freehold interest in the said premises are unknown and unascertained.

Date: 7 February 2025

Signed: Ronan Enright Solicitors (solicitors for the applicant), 32 South Bank, Crosses Green, Cork

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2005 and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) No 2 Act 1978 and in the matter of an application by Junebay Limited in respect of a premises known as 47 North Strand Road, Dublin 3

Take notice any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in all that and those the property to the rear of 47 North Strand, Dublin 3, being currently held by Junebay Limited (the applicant) under an indenture dated 8 March 1972 and made between Albert Siev of the one part and Martin J O Reilly of the other

part, that the applicants, as lessees under the lease, intend to submit an application to the county registrar for the city of Dublin for the acquisition of the freehold interest in the aforesaid premises, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the aforesaid premises or any of them are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the aforementioned premises to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, Junebay Limited intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of the 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for the city of Dublin for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest including the freehold reversion in each of the aforesaid premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 7 February 2025

Signed: Griffin Solicitors (solicitors for the applicant), Gabriel House, 6 Cypress Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6W

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978 and in the matter of lands and premises known as 35-38 Belvedere Place (otherwise Belvedere Place) Dublin 1: an application by Greenfield Market Garden Limited

Any person having an interest in the freehold or any superior estate in 35-38 Belvedere Place (otherwise Belvedere Place), Dublin 1. Take notice that Greenfield Market Garden Limited, as holder of the premises pursuant to a lease dated 27 December 1793 and made between the Right Honourable Luke Lord Baron Mountjoy of the one part and Thomas Sherrard of the other part, intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county and city of Dublin for the acquisition of the freehold interest in the premises, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the premises is called upon to furnish evidence of their title to the premises to the below

named within 21 days hereof.

In default of such evidence being received, the above-named applicant intends to proceed with an application before the county registrar for the county and city of Dublin at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the said county registrar for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest including the freehold reversion in the premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 7 February 2025

Signed: Rice Jones (solicitors for the applicant), Castlevue House, 22 Sandymount Green, Dublin 4

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019 – notice requiring information from a lessor to: Francis George Hayes, late of Crosshaven House, Crosshaven, Co Cork; Charles Jermyn, late of 67 South Mall, Cork; and Lilian Annie Aldworth, late of 2 Woodlands View, Crosshaven, Co Cork, their executors, administrators, successors or assigns

Description of the lands to which the notice refers: all that and those that part of the lands of Knocknagore, otherwise Crosshaven, situate in the parish of Templebreedy, barony of Kerrycurrihy, and county of Cork,

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delineated on the attached map therein edged red and marked with the letter 'A'.

Particulars of the lease or tenancy: held under a lease for the term of 999 years agreed between Francis George Hayes as lessor and Robert Cleburne as lessee, dated 18 February 1905, to run from 25 March 1905; a sub-lease agreed between Charles Jermyn as lessor and John Aldworth as lessee dated 12 June 1924; a sub-lease for the remainder of the term of the said lease agreed between Lilian Annie Aldworth as lessor and Margaret Meagher, Ellen O'Brien, Katherine Twomey and Margaret Mary Sheehan as lessees, dated 23 July 1949.

Part of the lands excluded: none.

Take notice that Presentation Convent Trustees

UC, being the person entitled under the above-mentioned acts, as amended, proposes to purchase the fee simple and all intermediate interest in the lands described in the foregoing paragraphs and requires you to give us, within a period of one month after service of this notice on you, the following information: nature and duration of your reversion in the land; nature of any encumbrance on your reversion in the land; name and address of the person entitled to the next superior interest in the land and the owner of any such encumbrance; the owner of the fee simple interest in the land and any other intermediate interest or encumbrance.

Date: 7 February 2025

Signed: Babington, Clarke & Mooney (solicitors for the

applicant), 48 South Mall, Cork In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978 and in the matter of an application by Sean Halligan

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in all that and those premises at 1 Home Farm Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, being portion of land the subject of an indenture of lease dated 26 February 1903 between Francis Patrick Butterly of the one part and Michael Whelan of the other part (the lease) for a term of 186 years from 25 March 1903 at a rent of £40 per annum, the property the subject of the lease being therein described as follows: "all that and those the two lots of ground on the New Road leading from the High Road from Dublin to Swords, lot

no 1 containing in front to the said New Road 100 feet, and in breadth in the rear 100 feet, be the same more or less; lot no 2 containing in front to the said New Road 100 feet in depth, from front to rear 120 feet, and in breadth in the rear 100 feet, be the same more or less, all which said demised premises are part of the lands of Drishogue, Upper Drumcondra, and are situate in the parish of Clonturk, barony of Coolock, and formerly in the county but now in the city of Dublin, together with the use of a laneway ten feet wide at the rear of both the premises and of an existing laneway between the said premises lot no 1 and Mr Lightfoot's premises, and which said demised premises are more particularly delineated on the map thereof drawn hereon and coloured red".

Take notice that Sean Halligan,



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as the person entitled to the lessee's interest in the said lands as legal personal representative of Marie Halligan, intends to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin (the county registrar) to vest in him the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the said premises, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the said premises is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below-named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, Sean Halligan intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests including the freehold reversion in the aforesaid property are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 7 February 2025
Signed: Patrick F O'Reilly & Co (solicitors for the applicant), 9/10 South Georges Street, Dublin 2, D02 PN81

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of the property known as 2 St Peter's Road, Phibsborough,

Dublin 7, comprised in Folio DN74431L

Take notice that any person having any interest in the freehold and/or intermediate estate in the following property: all that and those the dwellinghouse or tenement known or called 2 St Peter's Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, which said premises is comprised in Folio DN74431L and under a lease dated 23 November 1893 and made between Peter Joseph Gaynor of the one part and James Whelan of the other part for the term of 200 years from 29 September 1893 and subject to the yearly rent of £25 and the covenants and conditions therein contained.

Take notice that Eamonn Kelly and Mary Robertson (the applicants) intend to submit an application to the county registrar of the city of Dublin for the acquisition of the fee simple interest in the aforesaid property, and any persons asserting that they have a superior interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the above named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of such notice being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar for the city of Dublin and will apply

to the county registrar for the city of Dublin for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests including the freehold reversion in the said property are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 7 February 2025
Signed: Donal Reilly & Collins, Solicitors LLP (solicitors for the applicants), 20 Manor Street, Dublin 7

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978 and in the matter of an application by CCT Education Limited

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in all that and those premises at 22 Fleet Street, Dublin 2, the subject of an indenture of lease dated 11 April 1921 between Marion Eleanor Jervis White of the one part and Joseph Isaacs and Henry Isaacs of the second part for a term of 300 years from 1 May 1919 and subject to the yearly rent of £70 per annum and to the covenants on the lessee's part and conditions contained therein, the property the subject of the said lease being therein described as "all that and those the house and premises known as 22 Fleet Street in the parish of Saint Mark and county of the city of Dublin, which premises are shown on the plan drawn on these presents and are edged red together with all easements therewith used and enjoyed".

Take notice that CCT Education Limited, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest in the premises (the applicant) intends to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin to vest in it the

fee simple and any intermediate interests in the premises, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest therein is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below-named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests including the freehold reversion in the premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 7 February 2025
Signed: Mason Hayes & Curran (solicitors for the applicant), South Bank House, Barrow Street, Dublin 4

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978 and in the matter of an application by CCT Education Limited

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in all that and those premises at 31 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2, the subject of an indenture of lease dated 12 July 1844 between George Alker, Anne Alker, Rev Joseph Vize, Samuel Alker, Walter Boyd of the one part and William Fry, John Fry, and Henry L Fry of the second part for a term of 250 years from 1 January 1844 and subject to the yearly rent of £250 per annum and to the covenants on the lessee's part and conditions contained therein, the property the subject of the said lease being therein described as "all that lot or parcel of ground



IMPORTANT NOTICE: MERGER OF AVANTCARD DAC, TRADING AS AVANT MONEY, AND BANKINTER S.A.

We would like to advise you of the proposed merger by absorption* of Avantcard DAC, trading as Avant Money, into Spanish bank, Bankinter S.A. which is intended to take effect on 1 April 2025.**

Loan Pack Documents

When completing and returning loan pack documents (in particular, the Undertaking in the Law Society standard form and the Deed of Mortgage (Form 51)), please carefully note:

1. Documents (other than the Loan Offer***) executed and dated on or after 1 April 2025 should reference Bankinter S.A.
2. Loan pack documents executed and dated on or before 31 March 2025 are unaffected and can be submitted as normal.
3. Documents (other than the Loan Offer) that are executed and dated on or after 1 April 2025 and reference the legal entity 'Avantcard DAC' or 'Avantcard DAC trading as Avant Money' or similar will not be acceptable. References to Avantcard DAC should be amended to Bankinter S.A.

* in accordance with the applicable provisions of the European Union (Cross-Border Conversions, Mergers and Divisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 233 of 2023).

** unless we subsequently issue a notification indicating a different date.

*** Loan Offers dated on or before 31 March 2025 will, by operation of law, have effect as if Bankinter S.A. is party to them.

Avantcard DAC trading as Avant Money is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

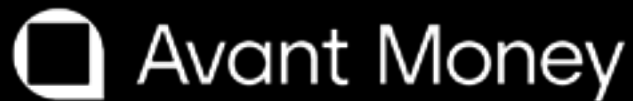
4. If you store any of the above listed documents in template form on your practice management system, please ensure they are updated accordingly.

Home Insurance Policies

On or after 1 April 2025, home and block insurance policies should note the lender's interest as 'Bankinter' or 'Avant Money'. We will accept variations of Bankinter, Avant Money or Avantcard for a transitional period.

Correspondence

Correspondence addresses, email addresses and contact numbers currently in use for Avant Money will remain unchanged. Also note that the IBAN for Avant Money will remain unchanged.



DAC BEACHCROFT

DAC Beachcroft bolsters corporate capabilities with appointment of partner Yvonne Costello

Yvonne, a dual-qualified Corporate lawyer in England and Ireland, brings significant experience in advising corporations of varying sizes and across all sectors, both domestically and internationally. Yvonne will continue to service clients in both jurisdictions whilst based primarily in the firm's Dublin office.

Ronan McLoughlin, partner and Location Head of DACB's Dublin office, says, *"This latest senior hire is another demonstration of our ambitious plans for growth based on client demand. We are responding to requirements and seizing market opportunities for the benefit of our clients and our firm."*

Lisa Broderick, partner and Practice Head of DACB's Dublin office, adds, *"Yvonne's experience and expertise perfectly complements our existing offering and bolsters our ability to offer a fully integrated, seamless service. We are delighted to welcome her to the team."*



Pictured from left to right: Ronan McLoughlin, Yvonne Costello and Lisa Broderick.

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hereinafter mentioned and described, that is to say that lot of ground on the east side of Westmoreland Street marked and distinguished on a map in the possession of the said commissioners and also on the map to the said hereinbefore recited indenture of lease of 8 December 1803, annexed by number 11, situate, lying, and being on the east side of Westmoreland Street, parish of Saint Mark, in the county of the city of Dublin, containing in breadth in the rear 21 feet, six inches; in depth from front to rear on the north side thereof 81 feet; and on the south side thereof 83 feet, be the said several admeasurements or any of them more or less, meared and bounded as follows, that is to say on the north by a lot of ground heretofore set by the said commissioners to Mr Roth, now in the possession of Messrs Pung and Company; on the south by a lot of ground set by the said commissioners to Mr John Manders, now in the possession of Mr Martin; on the east by a stable lane; and on the west by Westmoreland Street aforesaid, which said lot of ground is particularly delineated, laid down, and

described on the said map annexed to said indenture of lease, together with all and singular the dwellinghouse and the premises thereon erected and built, now known as number 31 in said street, and the rights, members, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining".

Take notice that CCT Education Limited, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest in the premises (the applicant), intends to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin (the county registrar) to vest in it the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the premises, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest therein is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests

including the freehold reversion in the premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date 7 February 2025

Signed: Mason Hayes & Curran (solicitors for the applicant), South Bank House, Barrow Street, Dublin 4; ref:MHC-36430432-1

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of section 17 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Act 1967 and in the matter of section 15 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978 and in the matter of the property situate at Main Street, Kilcormac, in the county of Offaly: an application by Teresa McCann

Take notice any person having an interest in any estate in the above property that Teresa McCann intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of Offaly for the acquisition of the fee simple interest in the aforesaid property, and any persons asserting that they hold a superior interest in the aforesaid property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the aforementioned premises to the

below named within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Any person having any interest in the property held under a lease dated 14 November 1882, made between Andrew Acre Stoney of the one part and Bridget Kelly of the other part, also held under a lease dated 21 May 1902 made between Edward Molloy, Walter John White, and Margaret Molloy of the one part and George Selvey of the other part, should provide evidence to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such information being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar and will apply to the county registrar for the county of Offaly for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest including the freehold reversion in the said premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date 7 February 2025

Signed: O'Connor, Menton & Co (solicitors for the applicant), Main Street, Roscrea, Co Tipperary

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Final verdict

PRO BONOBO



Expelliarmus Iaponica!

Warner Bros Japan has recalled full-sized replicas of Godric Gryffindor's sword after the items were found to violate Japan's strict weapons laws, says the [BBC](#).

More than 350 three-foot replicas sold for around €185 at the world's largest indoor *Harry Potter* attraction in Tokyo. Authorities told the company in November that the swords were sharp enough to be classified as real weapons under Japanese law, and would need to be registered.

Warner Bros asked buyers to contact the company for "necessary action, including logistics and refund".



Lord of the Ring

A Massachusetts woman, Caroline Settino, must return a \$70k engagement ring after the state's highest court ruled in favour of her ex-fiancé, Bruce Johnson, [The Washington Post](#) reports.

The court agreed with the plaintiff that engagement rings are 'conditional gifts' tied to the expectation of marriage, and must be returned if the engagement ends, regardless of who initiated the breakup.

The pair began dating in 2016 and Johnson proposed in 2017. However, their relationship soured later that year, culminating in a breakup. Johnson cited suspicious messages from Settino to another man as part of his reason for the split.

This ruling overruled a previous decision and set a new precedent, discarding the concept of 'fault' in the return of engagement rings.

EU court rejects salty slogan trademark



The [ECJ](#) has rejected Ukraine's bid to trademark the slogan 'Russian warship, go f*** yourself'. The phrase, attributed to Ukrainian soldiers on Snake Island during the early days of the Russian invasion, became a symbol of defiance and resistance.

The court said the slogan lacked "distinctive character" for commercial use, as it is primarily a political statement.

Ukraine's Border Guard Service had planned to use the slogan on a range of products and services, but the court found that it had been widely adopted in a political context to rally support for Ukraine's fight against Russia.

Snakes in the lane

A Melbourne driver had a terrifying encounter when a sneaky serpent slithered up her leg while she was driving at 80kph.

According to the [BBC](#), the visibly distressed woman pulled off to the side of the road, trying to flag down passing vehicles. Victoria Police arrived shortly after, responding to reports of a "hiss-terical" driver. (Bonobo sincerely apologises for that one.)

"Remarkably, she was able to fend the snake off and weave through traffic before pulling over and leaping out of her car to safety," the police said. Melbourne Snake Control safely removed the reptile.

The woman was taken to hospital as a precaution, though she avoided serious injury. Officers described her as "rattled".



EU & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STAGE INTERNATIONAL À PARIS 2025

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2025



Every year, the Paris Bar organises an International *Stage* in Paris and invites a limited number of lawyers from each jurisdiction to participate. The *Stage* is a fantastic opportunity for lawyers to discover and practice French law in the heart of Paris.

It takes place during the months of October and November and entails: one month attending classes at the *l'Ecole de Formation du Barreau*, and one month of work experience in a law firm in Paris. The programme also includes a visit to Brussels to the European Institutions.

The Irish participant will be selected by the EU and International Affairs Committee of the Law Society of Ireland.

¹ The EU & IA Committee will sponsor the participant with €3,500.



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Candidates must:

- **Be qualified in Ireland and registered in the Law Society,**
- **Have a good knowledge of French,**
- **Be under 40 years old,**
- **Have insurance cover** (for accidents and damages).

Tuition is fully covered by the Paris Bar; candidates must be willing to cover other expenses (such as, travel, accommodation, meals)¹

Pour plus d'informations: <https://www.avocatparis.org/stage-international>
See article from a previous 2023 participant at: *Law Society Gazette*.

INTERESTED?

To apply, please send your CV and a letter explaining your interest in the Stage (in both English and French) to Deirdre Flynn at: D.Flynn@LawSociety.ie

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, 14 March 2025



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