



LAW SCHOOL NEWS



CLIMBING FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

This year a team of trainee solicitors summited the highest mountain in Africa – Kilimanjaro and raised over €10,000 for the Ballymun Community Law Centre.

Their goal was not only to raise funds but also awareness of the Ballymun Community Law Centre (BCLC), which works to ensure that access to justice is available to all who need it.

The €10,000 will help equip BCLC with the necessary resources to provide legal services to the community and safeguard its ongoing commitments.

One of the trainees behind the project, Matthew Mulrooney of RDJ LLP who wrote about the socio-economic barriers to access to justice during his undergraduate degree, describes the climb as a “passion project”.

His interest in BCLC was sparked by a lecture from the centre’s board

member Gary Lee during the early stages of the Professional Practice Course.

Matthew believes the work of organisations such as BCLC is important, as community law centres are in “a unique position to build a relationship of trust between the legal profession and the lay person”.

The group that undertook the trek was a mix of experienced hikers and people who are relatively new to the activity. They battled through the night for 7 hours on the back of 5 days of hiking, facing wind chill of -16 and altitude sickness for this achievement and they did it as a team.

Huge congratulations to Hamzza Khosa (McKeever Rowan), Sophie Walsh (A&L Goodbody), Dan Donoghue (McCann FitzGerald), Oliver Dunner (Addleshaw Goddard), Eoghan Davis (Oiger), Dylan Byrne (Matheson), Fearghal Ryan (Addleshaw Goddard) and Matthew Mulrooney (RDJ).

CLIMBING FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE



The Kilimanjaro team at Blackhall Place with Law Society President Barry MacCarthy and representatives of BCLC

2024 MICHAEL PEART CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Michael Peart Challenge Cup Katie Ward (Matheson), Nimah Donnelly (Eversheds Sutherlands), Caoimhe Daunt (Arthur Cox) and Alexander Dunne (Mason Hayes & Curran).

This cross-border competition is a collaboration between the Law Society of Ireland and the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) at Queens University Belfast. The competition promotes the value of resolving disputes through mediation, and is designed to help trainees from both institutions to develop their mediation skills in tandem with receiving feedback from expert practitioners.





LAW SOCIETY MOOTERS REPRESENT IRELAND AT FDI ARBITRATION MOOT GLOBAL FINALS

A team of 4 trainee solicitors comprised of Jennifer Floyd (Arthur Cox), Kate Ní Mhaoláin (William Fry), Liza Dundon (William Fry), and Matthew O'Shea (DLA Piper) represented Ireland recently in the 2024 FDI Arbitration Moot. The global final rounds took place from 1-4 November at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

The team scored highly on their prior written submissions and were placed in a very strong group of teams from around the world for the oral rounds. They took on the African regional champions, an Indonesian team which went on to place 5th overall, and excellent teams from Tsinghua University in Beijing and Gujarat National Law University, India. While the ultimate win was captured by the Jindal Global Law School of India, the Law Society team placed well amongst fierce competition.

Coached by T P Kennedy of the Law Society and Ciara Murphy, advisor to the UK Government on International trade, the team formulated arguments on a number of complex matters arising from an Investor-State international trade dispute. The dispute centered around the operation of low-earth orbit telecommunications satellites, rural development, environmental regulation and national security. Some 'hot topic' investment arbitration issues, such as the interpretation of new arbitration rules, were also central.

Strong advocacy skills were on display in all rounds, with experienced arbitrators presiding over each round and challenging the teams with tough questions.

Well done to the team and coaches, who have been preparing for the competition for 6 months.



EMPIRE MOCK TRIAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CHICAGO

The Law Society were delighted to sponsor a team of students from Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny competing in the Empire Mock Trial World Championships in Chicago.

The team of Lucy Byrne, Aoibhne Murphy, Lucy O'Connell, Aoife Kirby, Clodagh Callan, Sara Mulrone, Laura Cahill, Ruby Cotter, Ava O'Dwyer, Abby Butler, Pia Langton, Charlotte Cuddihy, Katie Lawlor, Niamh Fields, Ailish Mulcahy, Anna Buckley, Roisin Kennedy, Gabrielle Downey,

Alexandra Daly, Holly O'Brien, Sarah Kate Coady, Sandra Lomba Nogueira, Aoife Crudge and Aoibhe Joy over the course of two days in November took part in four trials and displayed their skills in both prosecuting and defending.

Earlier this year, the team competed in the Public Access to Law mock trial in the Criminal Courts of Justice, placing in the top four in the country and qualifying to compete in the Empire Mock Trial World Championships in Chicago. Congratulations to all involved.

COMPETITIONS



Congratulations to the Law Society Team on winning Bréaghúirt Uí Dhálaigh 2024

Pictured L-R: Tommy Mac Diarmada (McDarby) of Regan McEntee & Partners LLP, Judge Sinéad Ní Chúlacháin of the Circuit Court, Gráinne Ní Fhrighil of DLA Piper Ireland LLP, Ms Justice Nuala Butler of the Court of Appeal, Katie Nic Craith of Orbitus Law LLP, Mr Justice Conor Dignam of the High Court and Réamonn Ó Ciaráin, Chief Executive of Gael Linn.



Congratulations to Ivan Rakhmanin pictured with the President of the Law Society, Barry MacCarthy at the Parchment ceremony on Wednesday 6 November 2024.

Ivan was presented with four awards for his performance in the FE-1, including the Overend Prize (Highest overall marks in the FE-1), Constitutional Law Prize, European Union Law Prize and Property Law Prize.



Congratulations to the Law Society Team Ruby Porter (Maples), Jennifer Maguire (A&L Goodbody) and Bori Gyenge (McCann Fitzgerald) on winning the ADR ODR International Negotiation Competition 2024 in Dubai. The team are coached by Dr Rachael Hession and John Lunney.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - SKILLNET

Attracta O'Regan was awarded a posthumous award at the recent Skillnet Awards. T P Kennedy (Director of Education) accepted this award which recognises Attracta's incredible legacy of inspiring others to champion lifelong learning and for the many excellent learning initiatives she spearheaded across the legal sector through Law Society Skillnet and wider Skillnet Ireland community.

SCHOOL TASKING TASKMASTER

This year the Law Society hosted the School Tasking Taskmaster Regional Final, the first of this initiative to be run outside of the UK.

School Tasking which originates at the University of Warwick, is an exciting outreach project that enables young people to learn about interesting aspects of the law through fun and interactive tasks set in the style of the Taskmasters TV show.

The Regional Final saw teams from five local schools, Saint Mary's, Dublin 1, Saint Gabriel's, Dublin 7, Saint Paul's, Dublin 7, Stanhope Street Primary School, Dublin 7 and Loreto Senior Primary School, Dublin 12 come together to take part.

The enthusiastic students from 4th class, were ready to put their skills to the test in a series of engaging challenges, all designed with a basis of learning the law. Facilitating the day were ten PPC trainees, whose dedication and

expertise played a pivotal role in guiding the students through the Taskmasters Education program. Over the course of four weeks, these trainees worked tirelessly in the schools, building rapport with the students, and igniting their passion for the law.

Held with much excitement and anticipation, the regional final showcased the dedication, teamwork, and imagination of participating teams. The tasks set for the final were fun and interactive, each with a foundation in a legal case. Teams embarked on the task of creating a movie based on the case of *Dudley v Stephen's*, delved into the intriguing debate of whether chocolate bar shapes should be trademarked, and tackled a law-based number puzzle involving a snail in a bottle and freeing Little Alex Horne!

Amidst the competitive spirit, one team emerged victorious – the team from Saint Gabriel's school. They went on to the School Tasking Final which took place today in Warwick University. Team Ireland, pupils from Saint Gabriel's and PPC trainees Alison Fahey (A&L Goodbody) and Loughlin Russell (Matheson) took on 32 other schools and did exceptionally well placing third.

Congratulations to the team and to all Participating trainees; Alison Fahey (A&L Goodbody), Loughlin Russell (Matheson), Elizaveta Dundon (William Fry), Emma McGuire (Byrne Wallace), Jordan Egan (Matheson), Maeve Claffey (Arthur Cox), Grace O'Mahoney (Hayes Solicitors), Aoife O'Donnell (DLA Piper), Hazel McAuliffe (McCann FitzGerald), Susan Sarah Satheesh (Matheson)



ATTRACTA O'REGAN LECTURE THEATRE

On the 6 of November a ceremony was held in the Law School to mark the dedication of the Attracta O'Regan Lecture Theatre.

Law Society President Barry MacCarthy formally unveiled the dedication plaque at an event attended by family, friends, and former colleagues of the late Attracta O'Regan.

Attracta, who died last year, was a solicitor and Head of Law Society Professional Training

(LSPT) and Law Society Skillnet, serving in the role for 18 years.

At the event her husband Ultan Bannon announced that a research scholarship targeting the early detection of ovarian cancer, which was set up in her memory, had now raised €120,000.

The scholarship has been awarded to Marika Kanjuga, who will carry out the research in the Trinity St James's Cancer Institute in the laboratory of Dr Sharon O'Toole.

TP Kennedy (Law Society Director of Education) spoke at the event, saying, that the lecture theatre being dedicated to Attracta was particularly appropriate, as it was her favourite teaching space in the Law Society.

He added that this was the first time that the Law Society had dedicated a space in honour of an employee, rather than a volunteer.

She is the second woman to be honoured in this way, after late past-president Moya Quinlan.

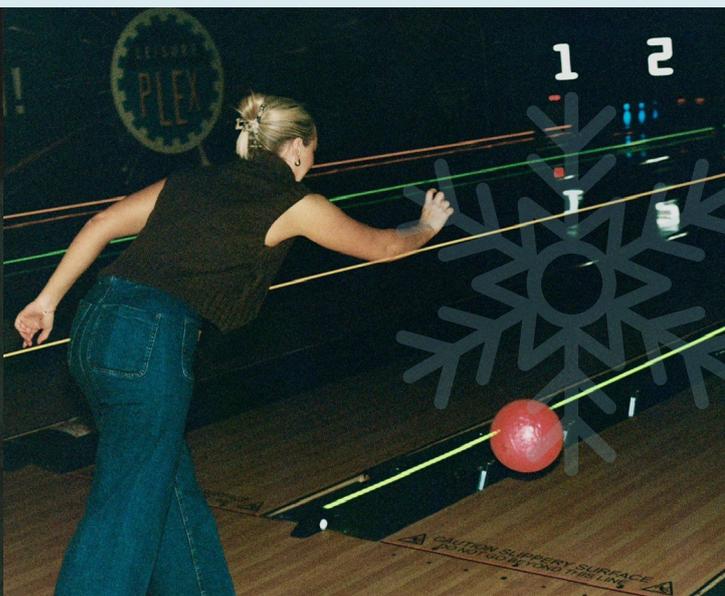


Ultan Bannon and Noreen O'Regan; Law Society President Barry MacCarthy formally unveiled the dedication plaque at an event ; Richard Hammond S.C. Joint Chair Skillnet Steering Committee, Deirdre Fox, Joint Chair Skillnet Steering Committee, Tracey Donnery, Executive Director, Policy & Communications Skillnet Ireland and TP Kennedy, Director of Education, Member of Skillnet Steering Committee.

OUT & ABOUT



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Trainees braving the waves (and hail) at Rossnowlagh and enjoying nature and conquering Lough Bray, Black Linn Loop, and Howth hikes.

The men's GAA team has been off to a flying start winning their first two matches .

Trainees enjoying life in the fast lane at Tallaght Bowl and showing their creative side this Halloween.

Trainees at an artist led sketching session in the Hugh Lane Gallery where they swapped out their iPads for sketch books and got a taste of different impressionist paintings by various artists.



THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

The first week of September always brings a buzz of excitement to the Law Society. Trainee solicitors arrive on campus for the launch of the PPC, Associate Faculty members take part in networking and learning events, the solicitor profession join us for in the Well Within the Law Festival and new students embark on the Diploma in Law.







DIPLOMA IN LAW

Diploma in Law students pictured at an introductory session on the services and resources available from the Law Society's Library and Information Service.

TRAINEES CONNECT WITH SAO PAULO

This year trainees Natalie Vernon (Haye) and Daniel Kehoe (Dillon Eustace) with John Lunney (Law Society Course Manager) facilitated Mediation training for a group of students at Mackenzie Presbyterian University (MPU) in Sao Paolo Brazil

The group of Brazilian students are taking an ADR course through English and the Law Society facilitated a number of trainings and a mock Mediation via Zoom to help build their skills.



TRAINEES VISIT PARIS

Members of the Diploma Centre team were delighted to accompany five trainee solicitors to Paris to attend a pilot workshop for the EU-funded LITEL Project. The aim of the project is to promote EU law and strengthen links between legal educators across the EU.

During the 2-day visit, the Law Society trainees, alongside 15 trainees from the project partner institutions in Paris, Prague and Barcelona, participated in a pilot workshop on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The trainees worked closely together on practical case studies in the workshop, which were drafted by experts on the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights from the four training institutions.

The feedback and critical evaluation received from all of the trainees was an invaluable contribution to the work of the project.

Congratulations and thank you to the trainees and solicitors who attended - Dr. Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan (Department of Justice), Lynda Crosbie (Whitney Moore Solicitors), Adrian Gillick (Baxter Mimmagh Solicitors), Shane Farrelly (Rostra Solicitors), Cristina Stamatescu (CSHR Solicitors), Lauren Lehane (Carl O Mahony Solicitors), Geraldine Rafferty (Law Society of Ireland) and Orla Lydon (Legal Aid Board).

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION



Our Public Legal Education team have facilitated a number of workshops aimed at helping practitioners design and implement legal education programs / workshops in the community.

Recognising the potential opportunity of Legal Education Outreach for law firms and members of the legal profession to help make the law more accessible, understandable and relevant to the public we have facilitated through Law Society Professional Training / Skillnet

workshops designed to assist solicitors who are looking to upskill in this area. In addition, Dr Sean Arthurs and John Lunney were delighted to accept an invitation from Eithne Lynch (Head of Pro Bono, A&L Goodbody) to facilitate a workshop titled 'Public Legal Education; Teaching Modalities and Lesson Planning for Legal Outreach' for solicitors in A&L Goodbody. Course Manager John Lunney was also invited by the Law Society of Scotland to lead Street Law training for a group of law students.



The Library and Information Service invite trainees to visit the library and discover the many services on offer. As future lawyers, the library is a great resource that can assist you on your journey through Blackhall and into your future careers.

We offer library tours or one to one training on using the library catalogue, WestlawE or Lexis. The library's Subject Guides support solicitors and trainees by highlighting subject specific resources and information on different areas of law.

Subject Guides are an excellent starting point for users wishing to improve their knowledge of a legal subject or those seeking to access recommended resources in their particular areas of practice. Members and students can access relevant precedents, practice notes, books, ebooks, journal articles, case law and legislation via the Subject Guides.

The library's eBook collection is available for members and students to access via the VLE eBook platform. You can also access book loans, unreported judgments and much more through the online library catalogue.

**Opening Hours are Monday - Thursday, 9.00am - 5.00pm.
Call by and say hello - we look forward to meeting you.**

LAW SOCIETY PAYMENTS UPDATE

The first phase under a new collaboration between the Law Society and NoFriction to deliver upgraded payment services was successfully launched in October, making card payments to the Law Society quicker and more reliable across the board. Phase two to be implemented later this year involves changes to electronic (EFT) payments. The Law Society will be transitioning from Bank of Ireland to NoFriction, involving the issuance of a new VBAN (Virtual Bank Account Number) to every person or organisation making EFT payments. These changes will bring numerous benefits, including enhanced financial flexibility, improved services, and additional payment options such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Pay by Bank (currently supported by AIB, Bank of Ireland, PTSB & Revolut). Look out for further details on all Law Society channels, including how to access your VBAN and who to contact if you have queries.



LIFE AFTER LAW: LESSONS LEARNT TO HELP A LEGAL CAREER

The Younger Members Committee held its Annual Conference, "Life after Law: Lessons learnt to help a legal career", in the Green Hall on Thursday 3 October. The sold out conference, sponsored by Robert Walters Recruitment, focused on key learnings and insights from experienced practitioners to nurture a successful legal career. Expert speakers, including TD Sinead Gibney, Chris Murnane, Johnson Hanna; Patricia Gannon, Platform9; Briona Brogan, Robert Walters Recruitment; and Judge James O'Donoghue addressed the conference and discussed the importance of law and lawyers, alternative legal careers, personal branding and networking insights.

The Younger Members Committee was established to identify, explore and promote issues affecting members of our profession across the country who are in their first seven years of legal practice (including those working in private practice, in-house, in public sector and charitable organisations).

Pictured at the conference are Genevieve Lynch, Fiona McNulty, Michelle Cross and Siobhán Masterson

Articles for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to:
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Dr. Sorcha McCormack Lecturer in Law
Leeds Beckett University

LLM ADVANCED LEGAL PRACTICE WELCOMES TRAINEES

The Diploma Centre's LLM Advanced Legal Practice continues to grow in popularity with the profession and the Law Society has been delighted to welcome 6 trainees to our Master's programme this year. Wishing those currently undertaking the course the best of luck as they complete their studies!

Run in partnership with the Law School at Leeds Beckett University, the programme is specifically designed for solicitors and trainees. It provides you with the opportunity to use your solicitor qualification as a building block to achieve a recognised academic qualification.

The details

Solicitor training accounts for 120 Master's level credits and the research-based dissertation makes up the remaining 60 credits required.

What are you waiting for?

Find out more here www.lawsociety.ie/LLMs or get in touch with a member of the team for more information by emailing:

diplomateam@lawsociety.ie

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