



DIPLOMA CENTRE | A LEADER IN LEGAL EDUCATION

Prospectus 2025|2026



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Photography

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WELCOME



Dr Gabriel Brennan
Diploma Centre Senior Manager
g.brennan@lawsociety.ie

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Diploma Centre prospectus for 2025/2026. I am delighted to be greeting you as the new Diploma Centre Senior Manager. I look forward to engaging with you over the coming years to deliver our diverse range of award-winning courses, including certificates, diplomas, master's programmes and a Professional Doctorate in Law. I would like to pay tribute to my colleague Claire O'Mahony, who has so ably led the Diploma Centre for many years, and I look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role as Head of Lifelong Learning.

The past year has been a year of remarkable achievement for the Diploma Centre. Our popular Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Artificial Intelligence attracted over 6,000 participants. To date, the MOOC has reached almost 40,000 participants from 119 countries.

This autumn, we are launching a suite of 20 micro-credentials in diverse areas such as environmental law and climate change, commercial leasing, AI and data protection. Each bite-sized course offers 15 hours of content combining self-paced online study with interactive components. These courses can be stacked to achieve a certificate or diploma. Find out more on pages 8 and 9.

In spring 2025, two new diplomas were launched. The Diploma in Director Skills and Duties is designed for professionals who are interested in taking on a board or charitable trustee role. The Diploma in In-house Practice was updated and relaunched for solicitors currently working in-house or aspiring to do so, thus meeting the demands of the increasing in-house sector. And in autumn 2025, we are proud to launch the Diploma in Legal Skills for Legal Executives, which is specifically tailored to meet the needs of the profession in addressing a skills shortage in legal practice.

As always, we are indebted to our lecturers and tutors. They willingly impart a blend of academic expertise, coupled with unrivalled real-life practice experience for your benefit.

On behalf of the Law Society and the Diploma Centre team, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you every success in your future studies.

Solicitor, Diploma Centre Senior Manager





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HOW TO APPLY?



SOLICITORS

You are invited to apply for a course with your solicitor number and pay via the course webpage or, alternatively, by completing an application form and emailing it to diplomateam@lawsociety.ie. A member of the team will then be in touch to arrange payment.



OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Unless otherwise stated, all Diploma Centre courses are open to those who are suitably qualified. If you are a non-solicitor, then you will need to submit an application form and CV to diplomateam@lawsociety.ie. Application forms can be found in the download section of any of our course webpages.



FEES

Applications from non-solicitors are subject to a supplemental fee on top of the fee advertised on each course page:

- **Certificate courses** €200
- **Diploma courses** €350

**Supplements may vary*



DISCOUNTS

- A 10% discount is available for trainees
- When a firm is paying for three or more solicitors to attend the same diploma course, there is a 10% discount on the group invoice
- Where an applicant has paid for two Diploma Centre certificates or diploma courses, the applicant is entitled to a 10% discount on subsequent diploma courses



HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

Certificate and diploma sessions are delivered online and onsite, with lectures available to view on demand. Our LLMs and doctorate are delivered entirely online. As the delivery method for each course varies and some courses can be completed entirely online, we encourage you to visit our course webpages for detailed information on course delivery: www.lawsociety.ie/diplomacentre



WHAT OUR PAST STUDENTS SAY



“

I would recommend this course to anyone wishing to move into technology or intellectual property law, or to those who want to build on their existing experience and ensure they are up to date in these evolving areas. The course covers a broad and interesting range of topics, with a practical focus. It is delivered by specialist practitioners, and I valued their insights as well as the clear and comprehensive course materials. The predominantly online format provides some welcome flexibility, while the onsite workshops offered good opportunities for in-depth discussions with experts on the topics, as well as a chance to meet colleagues working in similar practice areas.

Aoife Nic Lochlainn
Senior Legal Counsel (Commercial, Intellectual Property & Corporate) at Ornua
Diploma in Technology and IP Law student



“

I completed the LLM Advanced Legal Practice in 2023. My supervisor taught me so much during our time together and was incredibly supportive, in particular in relation to the challenges that juggling full-time working and writing a dissertation can bring. My chosen topic, Reasonable Accommodation and the Disability Employment Gap, was very close to my heart, as I am vision impaired and wanted to understand the legal landscape surrounding reasonable accommodation in greater detail, and also come up with some practical solutions to the disability employment gap in Ireland. I thoroughly enjoyed the writing process and would recommend the LLM to anyone who is looking to advance their expertise in their chosen area of law.

Caoimhe Grogan
Solicitor, A&L Goodbody LLP
LLM Advanced Legal Practice student

NEW



LAW SOCIETY MICRO-CREDENTIALS

STARTING IN AUTUMN 2025

Micro-credentials are a growing educational initiative offered by academic institutions and other organisations worldwide. The Law Society of Ireland is proud to introduce its own tailored portfolio as part of its commitment to expanding access to legal education in Ireland. These short, accredited courses are designed to offer maximum accessibility and flexibility for busy working professionals. They are delivered online and allow for self-paced learning. They are assessed and result in the award of a digital micro-credential upon successful completion.



WHY CHOOSE A LAW SOCIETY MICRO-CREDENTIAL?

These new courses are designed to provide targeted, high-quality legal education and professional development, enabling learners to advance in specific areas of law and practice through expert-led lectures and practical, skills-based workshops.

ADVANTAGES

- Bite-sized, flexible learning
- Fulfil a substantial portion of your annual CPD requirement – 15 hours
- Attain a recognised accreditation
- Self-paced learning that fits around personal/professional commitments
- Stack micro-credentials to gain a greater award
- Expand knowledge and skills
- Discover a new area of interest
- Accelerate your career



NEW

STACKABLE

The advantage of these programmes is that they can be 'stacked', one-by-one, over time to lead to a greater award from the Law Society of Ireland. The completion of two micro-credentials results in the award of a certificate, and the completion of four micro-credentials leads to the award of a diploma.



LAW SOCIETY MICRO-CREDENTIALS STARTING IN AUTUMN 2025

	Artificial Intelligence (AI)		Foundations of Trauma-Informed Practice
	Banking and Finance		Investment Funds
	Child Law		Insolvency
	Commercial Leasing		Legal Practice Irish
	Construction Law		Alternative Dispute Resolution
	Corporate Transactions		Social Media and the Law
	Data Protection		Sports Law
	Employment Law		Advanced Trusts and Tax
	Environmental Law and Climate Change		

SKILLNET MICRO-CREDENTIALS

	Executive Coaching and Mentoring
	Communications Skills for Legal Leaders
	Bookkeeping and Accounts for a Legal Practice

Law Society
Skillnet

Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund and the European Union through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. *Fees for Law Society Skillnet micro-credentials vary, please see website for subsidised fees.

CPD HOURS	DELIVERY METHOD:	ASSESSMENT:	FEE:	WORKSHOP
15 hours available	15 hours, opening sessions online, pre-recorded e-releases and live online workshops	Check individual course webpages for details	€950 (solicitors) €1,050 (other professionals)	Each course features workshops to consolidate knowledge

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN LAW



The Professional Doctorate in Law is offered in partnership with the Northumbria University Law School and is specifically designed for qualified solicitors. It is a part-time programme structured to facilitate those in full-time employment. The programme is designed to provide a structured and supportive learning experience that will enhance a solicitor's theoretical understanding of their profession. It will assist in the development of practice, through critical insight and evaluation, building on academic and research skills acquired via formal subject delivery and the doctoral research subsequently conducted.

The research may be doctrinal, perhaps in a practice-based area such as criminal justice and evidence, or the law in action in areas such as human rights or data collection and privacy or legal education. Those who complete the doctorate will have made a significant and original contribution to the creation and interpretation of a body of knowledge and be at the forefront of practice development. The programme aims to enable candidates to:

- Acquire a range of research skills and to be able to apply these to the conceptualisation, design, and implementation of a project, adjusting design in the light of unforeseen problems,
- Be able to translate ideas into a form understandable by and meaningful to their profession,
- Produce a thesis portfolio of original quality in the professional area,
- Disseminate/publish that research and its outcomes to the professional audience.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The programme is open only to Irish-qualified lawyers and is designed for two kinds of candidate – first, those with professional experience and a master's degree within the last five years, or those with professional experience but without a master's degree.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



START DATE:

Monday
1 September 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Research-based with limited
online taught content
– 3.5 years' duration

FEE:

€8,500 per year;
€4,250 for the last half year

COURSE LEADER:

Rory O'Boyle,
Course Coordinator, Ireland
E: r.boyle@lawsociety.ie

LLM PROGRAMMES



OUR LLM PROGRAMMES ARE OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LEEDS LAW SCHOOL AT LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY.

LLM EMPLOYMENT LAW IN PRACTICE

The LLM Employment Law in Practice is specifically designed for those who have completed our Diploma in Employment Law. Uniquely, the LLM provides participants with the opportunity of using the diploma as a building block to achieve a further recognised academic qualification. The award of the LLM requires 180 credits – the Diploma in Employment Law provides 120 credits, and the research-based dissertation then provides the remaining 60 credits required.

The programme begins with an induction day, followed by a self-paced online module, while researching and writing a dissertation on an agreed employment law topic. Candidates undertake in-depth study of the topic under individual tutor supervision, with supervisors drawn from a panel of employment law experts, comprising both internal Law Society staff and senior external practitioners/ academics.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Those who have completed the Diploma in Employment Law are eligible to apply for the LLM Employment Law in Practice. Please note that places on this course are limited.

LLM ADVANCED LEGAL PRACTICE

This course is specifically designed for those who are qualified solicitors. The LLM provides participants with the opportunity of using their solicitor qualification as a building block to achieve a further recognised academic qualification. The award of LLM requires 180 credits – the solicitor qualification already provides 120 credits towards this and the research-based dissertation then provides the remaining 60 credits required.

This LLM programme focuses on legal research and coherent presentation of legal research in a written form. The dissertation is the sole assessed element of the course and the topic of study is of your choosing, but generally must relate to an area of Irish law.

- Methods and methodology,
- Literature review.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Applicants must either be:

- Qualified as a solicitor in this jurisdiction, or
- Enrolled on the PPC at the same time as enrolment on the LLM Advanced Legal Practice.

The dissertation module includes the following units of study:

- Finding the research idea,
- Developing the research idea,



START DATES:

Both LLMs start on Saturday 13 September 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Distance learning

ASSESSMENT:

Dissertation of 15,000 words

FEE:

€3,700

COURSE LEADER:

Judith Tedders, Solicitor
E: j.tedders@lawsociety.ie

CONFERRALS



1.



3.



2.



4.

1. *Diploma in Law conferees.*
2. *A number of conferees from the Diploma in Employment Law class with (front l-r) the Hon Mr Justice Liam Kennedy; Judge Éiteáin Cunningham; Justine Carty, Vice-Chair of the Education Committee; Claire O'Mahony, Head of Lifelong Learning; and Marie O'Brien, Partner, A&L Goodbody.*
3. *Brendan Cunningham, Chair of the Law Society Education Committee, addressing attendees.*
4. *Diploma in Corporate Law and Governance conferee Sam O'Higgins with Judge Catherine Hayden.*
5. *Diploma in Construction Law conferee Helen Moore with the Hon Mr Justice Michael Peart.*



5.

DIPLOMA COURSES





An intensive postgraduate diploma spread over eight modules, this course is designed for those who require an introduction to the discipline of law in a number of core areas. This course is unique, in that it integrates academic theory with the practice of law.

Students can choose between a one-year or two-year option of study to best suit their needs. Those students who select the two-year option generally elect to study two modules per semester. Our innovative blended-learning approach affords ultimate flexibility in terms of accessing our course, and this may appeal to those who are working or based outside Dublin while undertaking the diploma.

MODULES

SEMESTER 1 (SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER)

- Module 1:** Constitutional law,
- Module 2:** Criminal law,
- Module 3:** Contract law,
- Module 4:** Tort.

SEMESTER 2 (JANUARY – MAY)

- Module 5:** Company law,
- Module 6:** EU law,
- Module 7:** Property law,
- Module 8:** Equity or employment law.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is open to non-law graduates from any discipline from a recognised Irish, UK or international institution. Students who do not have a degree but who can demonstrate suitable work experience and provide references will be considered on an individual basis. It can act as a gateway course for those considering commencing the solicitor qualification.



START DATE:

Friday
5 September 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Wednesday evening
lectures 6pm to 8.30pm;
one block weekend
each month
(Friday and Saturday
9.30am to 4pm)

ASSESSMENT:

Modules are assessed
through a mix of written
assignments, online
tasks and a written
examination

FEE:

€2,400 per year
if taken over two
years; €4,800 if
taken over
one year

COURSE LEADER:

Patricia Harvey BL
E: p.harvey@lawsociety.ie



Framed by the *Workplace Relations Act 2015*, this diploma provides a comprehensive understanding of employment law, covering all aspects of the employer/employee relationship from recruitment through to termination. Relying on contributions from leading practitioners, stakeholders, and decision-makers in the area, we highlight how new developments are likely to affect your practice. For example, we will focus on recent practice and procedural developments arising out of the switch to remote working for many workers and the *Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022*.

MODULES

Module 1: Intro to employment law

- *Workplace Relations Act 2015*,
- Forums and redress,
- Recruitment and status of workers,
- Data protection in the workplace,
- The HR perspective.

Module 2: Workers and allowances

- Pay, benefits and pensions,
- Statutory leave,
- *Organisation of Working Time Act 1997*.

Module 3: Rights of the worker (part 1)

- Equality in the workplace,
- Age discrimination,
- Bullying and harassment,
- Health and safety,
- Mediation,
- Social media in the workplace.

Module 4: Remote working and rights of the worker (part 2)

- *Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023*,
- Right to disconnect,
- *Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021*.

Module 5: Resolutions

- Trade disputes,
- Industrial relations,
- Grievance and disciplinary procedures,
- Whistleblowing,
- Injunctions.

Module 6: Issues when leaving work

- *Transfer of Undertakings Regulations*,
- Severance packages,
- Redundancy.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors, barristers, and trainees who advise or wish to advise on employment law matters. It would also be of interest to other professionals working in the employment sector, such as HR professionals.

LLM EMPLOYMENT LAW IN PRACTICE

Participants may be interested in progressing to the LLM Employment Law in Practice upon successful completion of the diploma. See page 11 for more details.



START DATE:

Friday
19 September 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Blended learning: block release lectures and workshops session over six weekends (Friday and Saturday)

ASSESSMENT:

Three-hour closed-book written examination 90% and continuous assessment through online activities (10%)

FEE:

€2,700

COURSE LEADER:

Suzanne Crilly, Solicitor
E: s.crilly@lawsociety.ie



This course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of family law in this jurisdiction and will examine recent cutting-edge developments in core areas of family law and practice. The objective of this diploma is to provide practitioners with an essential overview of the many recent developments in family law, including the *Family Courts Act 2024*, and the implications for day-to-day client advice, practice, and procedure.

The course also focuses on topical family law issues, such as family breakdown, child custody, and the increasingly practical issue of enforcement of orders abroad.

MODULES

Module 1: Course overview/advising clients

- Advising clients and taking instructions in family law matters,
- An overview of practical issues and concerns,
- An overview of the *Family Courts Act 2024*.

Module 2: Nullity, mediation and separation agreements

- Prenuptial agreements and enforceability,
- Marriage laws: constitutional position of marriage; recognition of foreign marriages,
- Void and voidable marriages,
- Mediation in family law,
- Terms of a separation agreement.

Module 3: Judicial separation, divorce and recognition of foreign divorce decrees

- Grounds for judicial separation; ancillary relief on judicial separation,
- Grounds for divorce; case law and divorce practice and procedure,
- Recognition of a foreign divorce decree,
- Enforcement mechanisms abroad,
- Alternative dispute resolution in family law.

Module 4: Maintenance, ancillary orders, pensions on separation and divorce

- Maintenance provision: an overview of the current framework,
- Ancillary relief on judicial separation and divorce,
- Pensions on separation and divorce,
- Tax implications of marriage breakdown.

Module 5: Domestic violence and child law

- Remedies available for domestic violence,
- The *Adoption Act 2010*,
- Child abduction,
- The *Children and Family Relationships Act 2015*.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors, trainee solicitors, barristers, paralegals, and other suitably qualified professionals who wish to expand their knowledge of the family law arena with a view to moving into the area. It will also appeal to seasoned family law practitioners who wish to gain an additional academic qualification and enhance their career opportunities.



START DATE:

Tuesday
23 September 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Live online lectures on
Tuesdays 6 to 9pm, with
interactive workshops
on Saturdays

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word written
assignment due on
12 March 2026 (90%)
and continuous
assessment through
online activities (10%)

FEE:

€2,700

COURSE LEADER:

Deirdre Flynn, Solicitor
E: d.flynn@lawsociety.ie



This diploma offers students in-depth exposure to and practical insight into key practice areas of criminal law in Ireland, from both the prosecution and defence perspectives. A core component of the course is the goal of developing the advocacy skills of those attending, through interactive workshop sessions that mirror situations faced in the criminal justice process.

MODULES

- *Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014*,
- Advising clients in Garda custody.

Module 2: Evidence and criminal law updates

- Rules of evidence,
- The European Arrest Warrant,
- Criminal evidence and the ECHR,
- Data protection and criminal trials,
- *Dwyer v Commissioner of An Garda Síochána*,
- The role and function of the Children's Court.

Module 3: The District Court and advocacy skills

- Initial applications in the District Court,
- Running a District Court case,
- Bail applications, legal aid,
- Aspects of higher courts criminal advocacy.

Module 4: Victims and vulnerable witnesses

- *Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017*,
- Prosecutorial challenges,
- Sexual offences – *Criminal Law Act 2017*,
- *Domestic Violence Act 2018*.

Module 5: Judicial review

- Procedure in judicial review applications,
- Identifying a judicial review, advocacy skills.

Module 6: The role of An Garda Síochána in the criminal justice system

- Duty to seek out and preserve evidence,
- Initiating proceedings, rules of disclosure,
- Understanding the bail process,
- Liaising with An Garda Síochána.

Module 7: Road traffic offences

- Basic proofs in a drink-driving case,
- Recent case law developments,
- Advocacy skills.

Module 8: Sentencing law and practice

- Mitigating factors and aggravating factors,
- Relevant legislation and case law,
- Types of sentencing, sentencing hearing.

Module 9: Regulatory crime

- Regulatory crime – practice and procedure,
- *Criminal offences and the Companies Act 2014*,
- The Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Solicitors, barristers and trainee solicitors seeking to gain expertise in the area and other suitably qualified professionals wishing to expand their knowledge of criminal law.



START DATE:

Friday
3 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Live monthly block
release lectures and live
workshop sessions over
five weekends
(Friday and Saturday)

ASSESSMENT:

Continuous assessment
through online activities
(15%), advocacy skills
assessment (25%),
written assignment (60%)

FEE:

€2,700

COURSE LEADER:

Patricia Harvey BL
E: p.harvey@lawsociety.ie



This diploma provides participants with a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the law in relation to the provision of financial services from a national and international perspective. This dynamic area is constantly subject to regulatory and statutory changes at both a European and national level, and the modules will consider the current financial services market in Ireland and the regulatory framework in which it operates.

MODULES

Module 1: Financial services market

- Legislative provisions,
- The Central Bank and regulation,
- Investment firms,
- FinTech.

Module 2: Industry sectors

- Investment funds,
- Insurance,
- Pensions.

Module 3: Banking sectors

- Regulation of banking in Ireland,
- Codes of practice,
- Corporate banking,
- Individual Accountability Framework and SEARS.

Module 4: Loan financing

- Loan Market Association,
- Equity financing,
- Recovery and restructuring.

Module 5: Capital markets and corporate governance

- Bond markets,
- International swaps/ derivatives,
- Irish Stock Exchange.
- Corporate governance,
- Money-laundering,
- Insider dealing.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Solicitors, trainees, paralegals, and other suitably qualified professionals who wish to expand their knowledge of the financial services industry with a view to moving into or progressing in the area.



START DATE:

Tuesday
7 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures Tuesday
6pm to 9pm with interactive
workshops

ASSESSMENT:

Three-hour closed book
written examination (60%);
written assignment (40%)

FEE:

€2,700

COURSE LEADER:

Deirdre Flynn, Solicitor
E: d.flynn@lawsociety.ie



This advanced-level programme provides a wide-ranging analysis of issues relating to intellectual property rights and technology law. Leading experts consider IP infringements and defences, domain disputes, e-commerce and consumer regulations, software licensing, data security breaches, and the world of cybercrime.

Relevant torts such as defamation will be analysed, in addition to the rights and duties attaching to social media, blogging, and internet usage. Recent regulatory and legislative changes relating to online safety will be considered. The course also analyses the law relating to emerging and key technologies, such as FinTech, Blockchain, Law Tech and AI.

MODULES

Module 1: Intellectual property

- Trade marks,
- Patents,
- Copyright,
- Design law,
- Trade secrets,
- Contracts.

Module 2: Data protection

- GDPR – Regulation 2016/679,
- Data processing access requests,
- International data transfers,
- New technologies,
- Data breaches.

Module 3: Technology contracts

- Technology contract clauses,
- Software licensing agreements,
- E-commerce, online contracts, and consumer protection,
- Website terms and conditions,
- Outsourcing.

Module 4: Social media

- Defamation and blogging,
- Hosting, caching, conduits,
- Advertising standards online,
- Liability for online content,
- Social media and employment issues,
- Regulation of social media/Coimisiún na Meán.

Module 5: The law and technology

- AI, text and data mining, AI copyright infringement, machine learning,
- AI ownership, the *AI Act*
- Cybersecurity and cybercrime,
- Cookies, apps, the Cloud,
- Fintech and Blockchain,
- LawTech.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors, barristers, and trainees who wish to augment their knowledge in the area of IP and technology law to better advise their clients, as well as professionals with an interest in specialising in the topics covered on the course.



START DATE:

Wednesday
8 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures on Wednesdays
at 2pm (e-release)
with five interactive
workshops on
Wednesdays

ASSESSMENT:

Continuous assessment
through online activities
(10%), multiple-choice quiz
(10%), three-hour
closed-book written
examination (80%)

FEE:

€3,095

COURSE LEADER:

Jonathan Patel, Solicitor
E: j.patel@lawsociety.ie



This course takes a practical approach to the complex issues that arise from the multiparty nature of the construction process. Students will be introduced to the standard forms of construction contracts, with particular focus on the public works and RIAI contracts. There will be specialised introductory streams for lawyers and non-lawyers and specific modules on the tendering process, construction dispute resolution, allocation of risks, collateral warranties and bonds, and specialists and subcontractors.

An interactive workshop and lectures on adjudication and conciliation will take a look at the challenges arising from integrating the dispute resolution process with the legal system, giving students an insight into how these methods of resolving construction disputes affect and complement traditional court-based proceedings.

MODULES

Module 1: Intro to construction law

- Specialised streams for lawyers /non-lawyers,
- Standard form contracts.

Module 2: Construction procurement – the tendering process

- *Public Procurement Directive*,
- The tendering procedure,
- Remedies.

Module 3: Construction contracts

- Responsibility for design,
- Lump-sum and quantities contracts,
- Supply chain: subcontracting,
- Time and completion,
- Security and overall liability,
- Ordinary certification and payment.

Module 4: Construction dispute resolution

- Multiparty construction litigation,
- Conciliation and mediation,
- Adjudication and arbitration.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors or barristers working in the area, those who would be interested in practising in this area, and dispute-resolution solicitors and barristers looking to broaden their understanding of this area of law. It will also appeal to many construction professionals and other professionals working in the sector.



Participating in the diploma offered a unique opportunity to broaden my knowledge of my practice area as a solicitor in a mixed environment of construction professionals, including lawyers, consultants, contractors and other industry stakeholders. As a result of completing the course, I have been able to better advise my clients and have gained a greater perspective on certain issues from an industry as opposed to a purely legal standpoint.

Andrew Heffernan,
Associate, A&L Goodbody LLP



START DATE:

Saturday
11 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Live online lectures
Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm,
with a number of
interactive workshops on
Saturday

ASSESSMENT:

Continuous assessment
and three-hour closed-book
written examination

FEE:

€2,700

COURSE LEADER:

Geraldine Rafferty BL
E: g.rafferty@lawsociety.ie



This diploma will provide participants with case-management leadership skills and practical training on how to run a case in any forum. It will also prepare participants for adjudicatory and tribunal roles and will explore the skills needed to preside over various forums. Practical workshops on arriving at a determination and drafting judgments will be facilitated by means of case studies.

An interactive online module on mediation will take a look at the challenges arising from integrating the mediation process with the legal system, examine key mediation skills, and give students an insight into how the *Mediation Act 2017* affects traditional court-based proceedings.

MODULES

Module 1: The exercise of judicial skills and decision-making

- Ethical considerations; types of judicial roles/ quasi-judicial bodies,
- Independence and accountability,
- Rules of evidence from the decision-maker's perspective.

Module 2: Mediation, managing proceedings, and administering justice

- Mediation overview from a judicial perspective,
- The effect of the *Mediation Act 2017*,
- Understanding and managing the trial process,
- Consistency in sentencing.

Module 3: Written judgments and decision-making skills

- Drafting written judgments,
- Proceedings involving litigants-in-person,
- Assessing credibility; assessing expert evidence.

Module 4: The social context of law

- Cultural diversity in Ireland,
- Equality legislation and inclusion,
- Vulnerable clients or witnesses.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors, barristers, and other relevant professionals who wish to develop the skill set necessary for adjudicatory, tribunal, and board roles, or the skills necessary to preside over various forums.



The diploma was a very enjoyable experience and extremely rewarding – testing my knowledge and understanding, as well as providing new skills. Equally as important was making new friends and meeting like-minded colleagues. I enjoyed discovering different views during engaging classes and all in the presence of outstanding lecturers. The support of the Diploma Centre team cannot be understated. They were accessible and always there to help, making the learning journey a pleasant, rewarding experience for me.

**Cristina Stamatescu, Solicitor
Law Society of Ireland Council Member**



START DATE:

Saturday
18 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures on Wednesdays
and occasional
Saturdays with
interactive workshops

ASSESSMENT:

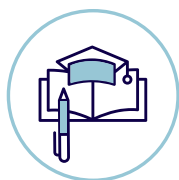
Written assignment
(70%) and continuous
assessment (30%) based
on participation and
completion of workshop
assignments

FEE:

€3,095

COURSE LEADER:

Suzanne Crilly, Solicitor
E: s.crilly@lawsociety.ie



Now in its tenth year, this advanced-level diploma equips participants with a comprehensive understanding of the complex legal topics that arise when advising on education law matters, including employment law, equality law, conflict resolution, corporate governance, child protection, data protection, and litigation. The course is designed to take place on days during school holidays as well as occasional evening and Saturday lectures.

MODULES

Module 1: Employment law in the school context – part 1

- The contract of employment,
- Grievance; disciplinary procedures,
- The Teaching Council, registration, and fitness to teach.

Module 2: Employment law in the school context – part 2

- Appointment procedures,
- Equality in the workplace,
- Managing bullying and harassment.

Module 3: Admissions policies and student conduct

- Admissions policies,
- Disciplinary procedures,
- Managing parental complaints.

Module 4: School governance

- Legislative framework,
- The role of boards of management,
- Financial management,
- The role of unions in the school context.

Module 5: Negligence/litigation management

- The duty of care,
- The standard of care,
- Sporting activities,
- Liability of the school authority.

Module 6: Special educational needs

- Legislative provisions,
- School policies and procedures,
- Equality law provisions.

Module 7: Compliance matters

- FOI and data protection,
- Child protection,
- Tusla reporting requirements,
- Health and safety.

Module 8: Higher, further, and adult education

- Governance structures at third level,
- Student conduct issues,
- International students.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors, barristers, and trainees who advise or wish to advise on education law matters. It will also appeal to key stakeholders, decision-makers, and teachers at all levels within the sector.



START DATE:

Friday
31 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Two Friday and Saturday sessions (coinciding with periods of school leave), together with some evening and Saturday lectures and workshops. This course can be completed online

ASSESSMENT:

Two 2,500-word written assignments

FEE:

€2,700

COURSE LEADER:

Geraldine Rafferty BL
E: g.rafferty@lawsociety.ie



This new diploma will equip legal executives, paralegals, secretaries and other legal staff with the practical legal skills, foundational knowledge and competencies essential to support solicitors in their work. The diploma's practical focus and industry relevance makes it attractive for staff and employers seeking skilled legal staff.

MODULES

Module 1: Introduction to the Irish legal system

- Sources of law,
- Irish courts and the court structure.

Module 2: Litigation

- Personal injury litigation/PIRB process,
- Criminal litigation and practice.

Module 3: Introduction to conveyancing

- Schedule of documents, title deeds,
- Landlord and tenant law.

Module 4: Wills and probate

- Making a will,
- The probate application.

Module 5: Company law

- Introduction to company structures,
- Documents for company formations/charges.

Module 6: Other areas of law

- Employment law and family law.

Module 7: Legal skills

- Data protection and cyber awareness,
- Anti-money-laundering.

Module 8: Running a legal office

- Time recording, billing,
- Social media and marketing, the role of the office manager.

Module 9: Supporting the solicitor

- Legal research/professional communication,
- Maintaining records and registers,
- Use of technology and databases,
- Solicitors' accounts and section 150 letters.

Module 10: Client care

- Taking instructions and attendances,
- Professional etiquette and boundaries,
- Confidentiality and conflict of interest.

Module 11: Applications, filings and returns

- Tailte Éireann applications,
- Companies Registration Office filings,
- Debt collection and new houses.

Module 12: Skills development workshop

- Case studies, role plays, simulated exercises,
- Peer-to-peer discussion forum.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Those who have completed the Certificate in Legal Skills for Legal Secretaries or Certificate in Conveyancing and Property Law for Legal Executives, or those who have two years' experience working as a legal executive or in a similar role.



START DATE:

Tuesday
4 November 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Introductory lecture onsite and online; thereafter online lectures on Tuesdays. Interactive Saturday workshops

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word written assignment (70%) and continuous assessment (30%)

FEE:

€2,500

COURSE LEADER:

Riona Leahy, Solicitor
E: r.leahy@lawsociety.ie

CERTIFICATE IN AVIATION LEASING AND FINANCE



This in-depth programme gives you the key knowledge and skills to advance in the aviation finance and leasing industry. There is a focus on commercial debt financing, aviation finance structures, and tax implications. In addition, industry-specific regulation, leasing options and aircraft acquisitions are examined.

MODULES

- Module 1:** Aviation industry
- Module 2:** Aircraft leasing
- Module 3:** Aviation financing
- Module 4:** Key technical issues
- Module 5:** Regulatory environment
- Module 6:** Taxation and aviation
- Module 7:** Insurance and aviation
- Module 8:** Career panel event

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

It is an excellent course for those who wish to deepen their knowledge of the leasing aspect of aviation or for those who want to enter the industry.

This certificate also acts as a preparatory course for those intending to join the Diploma in Aviation Finance and Leasing but who do not meet the entry requirements. Those who successfully complete the certificate and wish to progress to the diploma may avail of a discount.



START DATE:

Thursday
25 September 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures released on Thursdays
at 6pm, with online interactive
workshops

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word written
assignment (80%), short
multiple-choice quiz (10%),
and continuous assessment
through online activities
(10%)

FEE:

€1,750

COURSE LEADER:

Jonathan Patel, Solicitor
E: j.patel@lawsociety.ie



The advanced-level Diploma in Aviation Leasing and Finance delivers an in-depth analysis of the core legal and practical issues that parties typically encounter in aircraft leasing and finance transactions.



Module 1: Aviation industry

- Profile of aviation industry 2025; Ireland as an aviation hub,
- Analysis of main industry players,
- Overview of regulatory framework.

Module 2: Purchase and leasing aircraft

- Reasons for investing in aircraft,
- Aircraft operating lease agreements,

Module 3: Aviation finance

- Commercial debt financing for aviation,
- PDP financing,
- Export credit agencies structures,
- Typical security taken over aircraft.

Module 4: Regulatory environment

- Role of the Irish Aviation Authority,
- ICAO, IATA, EASA,
- *Cape Town Convention*,
- International Registry of Mobile Assets.

Module 5: Taxation and aviation

- Importance of Irish tax residence,
- Tax opinions, legal opinions, double taxation treaties.

Module 6: Insurance and aviation

- Airline aviation insurances,
- Lease insurance provisions,
- Lessor considerations; claims management.

Module 7: Applied leasing issues

- Redelivery of aircraft,
- Helicopters – leasing, registration,
- Engine leasing; maintenance reserves,
- Aircraft records management.

Module 8: Repossession and recovery

- Repossession in practice,
- Relevant default provisions; termination,
- Applications to court, enforcement.

Module 9: Fleet planning

- Fleet planning by airlines; strategies.

Module 10: Case law and future trends

- Irish and UK aviation case law update; future trends.

Module 11: Career panel event

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors, barristers, and trainees who advise aviation clients or who wish to join the aviation sector. It will also appeal to professionals working in the aviation industries who wish to expand their knowledge with a view to career advancement or moving laterally to another discipline within the industry.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

You must (a) be a lawyer, (b) have a minimum of two years' full-time experience in the aviation industry, (c) have successfully completed the Certificate in Aviation Leasing and Finance, or (d) have successfully completed the aviation leasing and finance advanced elective (trainees).



START DATE:

Thursday
29 January 2026

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures on Thursdays, 6pm to 9pm, with live online workshops on occasional Saturdays. Interactive Saturday workshops

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word assignment to be submitted online (due for submission in late June 2026)

FEE:

€3,265

COURSE LEADER:

Jonathan Patel, Solicitor
E: j.patel@lawsociety.ie

CERTIFICATE COURSES





“

The course offered a comprehensive overview of the skills and responsibilities essential to the role, covering various areas of law through practical, scenario-based lectures. I developed improved competencies in drafting legal documents, client communication, and understanding the administrative procedures involved in legal practice. This course significantly boosted my confidence, gave me a stronger sense of direction in my professional development, enhanced my capabilities, and enabled me to contribute more effectively in my role as a legal secretary and to the firm I work for.

Lin Chieh Wang

Legal Secretary, FX Rowan & Co Solicitors

Certificate in Legal Skills for Legal Secretaries student

CERTIFICATE IN IMMIGRATION LAW AND PRACTICE



This certificate offers an in-depth analysis of immigration law and its application in Ireland. The central legislation covered by the course includes the *Aliens Acts*, the *Immigration Acts*, the *Refugee Act 1996*, the *Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000*, the *Irish Nationality and Citizenship Acts*, the *International Protection Act 2015*, and the numerous statutory instruments covering immigration and citizenship and how they have been interpreted over the years by the courts and other bodies.

MODULES

Module 1: Legal/political context

- Theories of migration and history,
- Social justice issues,
- International legal framework,
- Legal framework in Ireland.

Module 2: Entering, residing, and remaining in the State

- Responsible State institutions,
- Entering: visa application process; preclearance application scheme,
- Residing: registering permission; applications to reside,
- Permission to remain: change of status application; leave to remain,
- Citizenship: by birth; by naturalisation.

Module 3: Asylum and forced migration

- 'Subsidiary protection',
- Credibility assessment in claims,
- Relocation and resettlement; direct provision entitlements,
- Treatment of unaccompanied minors,
- The *Dublin Regulation*.

Module 4: Corporate immigration

- Employment permits system,
- Immigrant investor schemes,
- Business visas.

Module 5: Courts and litigation

- Judicial review and injunctions,
- Procedure, relevant documents, time limits, practice directions,
- Deportation, repatriation,
- Trafficking, people smuggling, and immigration fraud,
- Garda National Immigration Bureau.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is primarily aimed at lawyers working in the area of immigration. It will also appeal to professionals working in non-governmental organisations and individuals who have an interest in Irish immigration law.



START DATE:

Thursday
23 October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures on Thursdays,
6pm to 8.30pm,
with workshops on
occasional Saturdays

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word written
assignment (80%)
and continuous
assessment (20%)

FEE:

€1,750

COURSE LEADER:

Patricia Harvey BL
E: p.harvey@lawsociety.ie

CERTIFICATE IN LEGAL SKILLS FOR LEGAL SECRETARIES



The course has been designed to give students a greater understanding of the key legal specialisations they are likely to encounter in legal firms. The focus of the certificate is to enhance the practical skills and knowledge of legal secretaries and others who wish to gain greater experience of the skills required to work in a legal office. The certificate will provide value for legal secretaries as well as their employers.

MODULES

Module 1: Introduction to the Irish legal system

- Sources of law,
- Irish courts and the court structure,
- The role of solicitors and barristers ,
- The role of the Law Society of Ireland.

Module 2: Litigation

- Personal Injuries Resolution Board (PIRB),
- Personal injury litigation – taking a case to court,
- Personal injury litigation – preparing for court,
- Preparing a brief,
- Dealing with court offices,
- Criminal litigation and practice.

Module 3: Conveyancing

- Introduction to conveyancing,
- Steps in a conveyancing transaction,
- Schedule of documents, title deeds,
- Landlord and tenant law.

Module 4: Wills and probate

- Making a will,
- The probate application.

Module 5: Company law

- Introduction to company structures,
- Documents for company formations/charges,
- Mergers and acquisitions.

Module 6: Other areas of law

- Employment law,
- Family law,
- Alternative dispute resolution.

Module 7: Legal skills

- Data protection at work,
- Cyber-awareness – common pitfalls and tips,
- Anti-money-laundering.

Module 8: Running a legal office

- The business of law and work in the office,
- The business of law and legal accounts.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The course is ideally suited to legal secretaries seeking to expand their legal skills and obtain a qualification, and others hoping to gain the practical skills and knowledge required to work in a legal office.



START DATE:

Tuesday
4 November 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Introductory lecture onsite and online; thereafter online lectures on Tuesdays; interactive Saturday workshops

ASSESSMENT:

2,000-word written assignment (60%) and continuous assessment (40%)

FEE:

€950

COURSE LEADER:

Riona Leahy, Solicitor
E: r.leahy@lawsociety.ie

CERTIFICATE IN CONVEYANCING



Designed with a practical focus, the course will review conveyancing best practice and consider the impact of recent practice updates and legislative changes. Students will be provided with precedents and learn through problem-based scenarios. Participants will receive a copy of the Law Society *Conveyancing* and *Landlord and Tenant Law* manuals on registration.

MODULES

PART A

Module 1: Key conveyancing fundamentals

- Pre-contract investigation of title,
- The contract for sale,
- Requisitions on title,
- Drafting.

Module 2: Development

- New houses and the combined contract for sale and building agreement,
- Schemes of development,
- *Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014*,
- *Multi-Unit Development Act 2011*; dealing with managed properties.

Module 3: Land Registry updates

- Conversion of possessory title; applications based on adverse possession,
- Applications for registration in cases of insolvency,
- Complex first registrations.

PART B

Module 1: Ethical issues

- Undertakings and conflicts,
- File management.

Module 2: Landlord and tenant

- Agreement for lease,
- Rent review,
- Key lease issues.

Module 3: Taxation issues for conveyancers

- Local Property Tax update,
- VAT, CGT and other tax issues for conveyancers.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is designed for solicitors and post-PPC trainees who are looking for a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to practical conveyancing issues. It will also appeal to newly qualified solicitors and trainees, as it will provide a strong grounding in conveyancing practice and the law regarding residential and commercial property – areas that remain the bedrock of many practices.



START DATE:

Wednesday
5 November 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures released online with
interactive workshops

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word written
assignment (80%) and
continuous assessment
through online
activities (20%)

FEE:

€1,750

COURSE LEADER:

Suzanne Crilly, Solicitor
E: s.crilly@lawsociety.ie

CERTIFICATE IN TRADE MARK LAW



This programme provides a practical approach to trade mark law that equips participants with the necessary skills to deal with issues that arise in practice.

The course focuses on the legal principles and practical procedures for registering a trade mark at the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (IPOI), the European Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), and the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), as well as how to deal with objections and oppositions.

MODULES

Module 1: Introduction to trade marks

- The concept of a trade mark,
- Benefits of registration,
- Types of trade marks.

Module 2: *Community Trade Mark Regulation*

- Regulation 2015/2424

Module 3: Registering trade marks

- Pre-filing considerations, searches and parameters,
- Classification of trade marks,
- Applications to IPO, EUIPO, WIPO.

Module 4: Trade mark registrability

- Refusals,
- Acquired distinctiveness,
- Official objections,
- Overcoming objections and refusals.

Module 5: Publication and oppositions

- Publication and its significance,
- Oppositions practice and procedure,
- Appeals and registration.

Module 6: Revocation and invalidity

- Trade mark use,
- Revocation,
- Acquiescence and coexistence,
- Invalidity practice and procedure,
- Appeals.

Module 7: Infringement of trade marks

- Types of infringement,
- Defences,
- Remedies.

Module 8: Registrable transactions

- Assignments, licences,
- Security interests,
- Agreements.

Module 9: Advanced trade marks

- Comparative advertising,
- Exhaustion of rights/parallel imports,
- Anti-counterfeiting,
- Online infringement/web-blocking orders,
- Domain name infringement, UDPR,

Module 10: Design law

- An introduction to design law in Ireland and the EU,
- Infringement and remedies.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Solicitors, barristers, and trainees who are working in the area of intellectual property or aspire to work in the area.

The programme may be of interest to those preparing for the Irish Trade Mark Agent Exam, which is offered by the IPOI.



START DATE:

Tuesday
11 November 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Lectures released on
Wednesdays, with interactive
online Saturday workshops

ASSESSMENT:

2,500-word written
assignment

FEES:

€1,750

COURSE LEADER:

Riona Leahy, Solicitor
E: r.leahy@lawsociety.ie

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION



The Law Society of Ireland actively supports public legal education (PLE) projects through a series of initiatives and engagement with solicitors, trainees, and the public. PLE aims to increase awareness of the law by teaching people about our legal system and how law has an impact on society, so they can better exercise their legal rights and responsibilities.

This certificate aims to develop the skills of solicitors to run an effective public legal education programme in their community, based on the pedagogical approach and learner-centred methodologies of Street Law.

The steps involved for interested solicitors are:

- 1) Begin to develop your idea around a PLE programme,
- 2) Apply for a place at our PLE orientation training taking place from 3 - 5 October,

- 3) Implement and evaluate your chosen programme and fulfil the course requirements.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This course is suitable for solicitors who are interested in running an effective public legal education programme in their community.

To register your interest or for further information, please contact John Lunney at j.lunney@lawsociety.ie.



START DATE:

October 2025

DELIVERY METHOD:

Attendance at orientation training

ASSESSMENT:

Completion of a number of elements, including:

- Attend orientation training weekend,
- Submit a project proposal,
- Implementation of a public legal education programme,
- Present evaluation report on your programme.

FEE:

This is a free course

COURSE LEADER:

John Lunney, Solicitor
E: j.lunney@lawsociety.ie

SPRING 2026 COURSES

Our spring programme commences from January 2026.

To register your interest for these courses and to be contacted once applications open, please email: diplomateam@lawsociety.ie

- LLM Advanced Legal Practice
- Certificate in Company Secretarial Law and Practice
- Certificate in Commercial Contracts
- Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship and Governance
- Certificate in Enforcement for Public Bodies
- Certificate in Pensions Law and Applied Trusteeship
- Diploma in Aviation Leasing and Finance
- Diploma in Environmental and Planning Law
- Diploma in In-House Practice
- Diploma in Director Skills and Duties
- Diploma in Healthcare Law
- Diploma in Regulation Law and Practice
- Diploma in Commercial Litigation
- Diploma in Corporate Law and Governance
- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Course timetables and content are subject to change, and date and time alterations may occur due to factors beyond our control. Students will be notified of any changes by the Diploma Centre as soon as the details have been confirmed.

For further information on the application process, discounts, attending our courses, examinations, and assessments, please visit www.lawsociety.ie/diplomacentre.

If there is a diploma, certificate, or other postgraduate course you would like to see introduced, or if you are interested in lecturing or tutoring on a diploma or certificate course, please contact **Dr Gabriel Brennan, Diploma Centre Senior Manager**, at g.brennan@lawsociety.ie.





TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Law Society of Ireland's Diploma Centre reserves the right to change the courses that may be offered, and course prices may be subject to change. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in these pages is accurate and up to date. We cannot guarantee that places will be available for any particular course. In the unlikely event that the Diploma Centre needs to cancel or reschedule a course, all fees are fully refundable. Course participant cancellations will only be accepted if submitted in writing no later than two weeks before the start of the course. Refunds may be subject to an administration charge. Fees will not be refunded once the course has started.

Course fees are non-transferable. Care has been given to confirm the accuracy of the information presented in this prospectus, on the Diploma Centre web pages, in personal communications, during course modules, and in all written materials. However, the Diploma Centre is not responsible for errors or omissions and makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the contents of the material delivered. The Diploma Centre cannot be held responsible for any consequences from the application of the information contained on the website or in the lectures, manuals, printed materials, and other communication and training provided.

CONTACT

Diploma Centre, Law Society of Ireland,
Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

t: 01 672 4802 | e: diplomateam@lawsociety.ie

w: www.lawsociety.ie/diplomacentre





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