CENTREfor JUSTICE and LAW REFORM

AT THE LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

SUMMER SCHOOL



Defending Democracy: Legal Responses to Emerging Threats 77

26 - 27 JUNE 2025

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 26 JUNE 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
12:20 - 13:20	Registration and light lunch	Blue Room
13.20 - 13.30	Introduction by Mark Garrett (Director General of the Law Society) Welcome address by Eamon Harrington (President of the Law Society)	Presidents' Hall
13:30 - 14:00	Keynote address by Professor Patrick Geoghegan (Professor in Modern History, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute) The fragile thread: lessons from history for defending democracy	Presidents' Hall
14:00 – 15:00	 Panel discussion: Electoral law and protecting democracy in the digital age Chaired by Shane Phelan (Legal Affairs Editor at Mediahuis Ireland) Panellists: Justice Marie Baker (Chairperson of An Coimisiún Toghcháin, Former Supreme Court Justice) Professor Jane Suiter (Director of DCU's Institute for Future Media, Democracy and Society) Alex White SC (Director General of the Institute of International and European Affairs) 	Presidents' Hall
15:00 – 15:30	Keynote address by Michael McGrath (EU Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection) Safeguarding democracy and the rule of Law in times of challenge	Presidents' Hall
15:30 – 16:00	Tea & coffee break	Blue Room
16:00 – 16:30	Keynote address by Robin Simcox (UK Commissioner for Countering Extremism) Counter extremism and free speech: a binary choice?	Presidents' Hall
16:30 – 17:00	Keynote address by Dr Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD (Minister for Health) Protecting Democratic Representation	Presidents' Hall
17:00 – 17:15	Reflection and summary of key topics discussed throughout the day Mark Garrett (Director General of the Law Society)	Presidents' Hall
18:00 – 19:00	Drinks reception	Blue Room
19:00 – 22:30	Dinner John Brennan (Former Director of the CIA and former Deputy National Security Advisor) in conversation with Conor Brophy (Managing Director of Teneo, Former journalist and broadcaster)	Presidents' Hall

DAY 2: 27 JUNE 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
08:30 - 09.00	Light breakfast	Blue Room
09:00 – 09:15	Opening address by Rossa Fanning SC (Attorney General of Ireland) Defending democracy: the role of the third branch	Presidents' Hall
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote address by Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC (International human rights lawyer, Commission Member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission) The long arm of the State: tackling transnational repression	Presidents' Hall
09:45 – 10:15	Keynote address by Professor Alexander Baturo (Associate Professor in Political Science at DCU School of Law and Government) What can data science reveal about dictatorships?	Presidents' Hall
10:15 – 11:00	Panel discussion: Countering the rise of extremism Chaired by Sinéad McSweeney (Board Member of An Garda Síochána; former VP, Global Public Policy and Philanthropy at Twitter) Panellists: John Brennan (Former Director of the CIA and former Deputy National Security Advisor) Niamh Hodnett (Online Safety Commissioner at Coimisiún na Meán) Mike Sheridan (Documentary film maker, freelance journalist)	Presidents' Hall
11:00 - 11:15	Tea & coffee break	Blue Room
11:15 - 12:15	Panel discussion: Public protests and civil disobedience in democratic societies Chaired by Claire Loftus (Member of the Board of Directors of An Garda Síochána, and of Cuan (DSGBV State Agency), and former Director of Public Prosecutions) Panellists: Nóirín O'Sullivan (Former Garda Commissioner) Eamon Gilmore (Former EU Special Representative for Human Rights and former Tánaiste) Joe O'Brien (Executive Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties) Professor Freya Baetens (Professor of Public International Law at the University of Oxford, Research Director of the Oxford Human Rights Hub)	Presidents' Hall
12:15 – 12:30	Reflection and summary of key topics Brian Hunt (Director of Policy at the Law Society of Ireland)	Presidents' Hall



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