



Law Society of Ireland

News Release

TO: NEWS EDITORS & PICTURE EDITORS

JUSTICE MEDIA AWARDS, THURSDAY 12th JUNE 2014 – WINNERS AND CITATIONS

The Law Society of Ireland has today (Thursday, 12th June, 2014) announced the winners of its annual Justice Media Awards 2014.

The annual Justice Media Awards are 22 years old this year. They focus on published works or broadcasts that have helped to inform and educate Irish citizens on the role of law in society. The aim is to give national recognition to published works or broadcasts that:

- 1) Promote the highest standards in legal journalism;
- 2) Foster greater public understanding of the law, the legal system or any specific legal issue;
- 3) Inform and educate citizens as to the roles in society of the law, the courts, law enforcement agencies and the legal profession;
- 4) Disclose practices or procedures needing reform so as to encourage the development and modernisation of Irish laws, courts and law enforcement agencies; and/or
- 5) Assist the legal profession, the judiciary, and all others involved in the administration of justice in attaining the highest professional standards.

The Law Society wholeheartedly congratulates all of today's winners of 'Justice Media Awards' and 'Merit Certificates'.

The winners are as follows:

JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – 'DAILY NEWSPAPERS':

The standard in the 'Daily Newspapers' category was very high this year, leading to some difficult headaches for the adjudication team:

The winner of the Justice Media Award in the ‘Daily Newspapers’ category is Ruadhán MacCormaic of *The Irish Times* for his highly engaging series: *‘Inside Ireland’s Supreme Court’*.

What the judges said:

“The daily series ‘Inside Ireland’s Supreme Court’ played a significant public-interest role by laying open to inspection one of Ireland’s most powerful institutions – the Supreme Court. Despite the court’s obvious power and influence, it remains largely obscure from the public’s view, thus giving it an air of mystery.

“Ruadhán MacCormaic pulled back the veil on the Supreme Court, subjecting some of its most notorious decisions (including the ‘X’ case and the *Sinnott* judgment) to critical scrutiny. He presented interesting pen-pictures of its judges who, for the most part, remain largely anonymous to the general public.

“This series drew on more than 30 in-depth interviews, extensive research and the compilation of a statistical database that revealed patterns in the court’s decisions over a ten-year period. This statistical analysis revealed, for example, that of 332 Supreme Court judgements between 2008 and 2013, a total of 87% were arrived at unanimously. For judgements of five-to-seven judge courts, the proportion of unanimous decisions fell to 73%.

“This series has done a great service in revealing the inner workings of the Supreme Court and richly deserves a Justice Media Award. It examined how the court arrives at its decisions and introduced the general public to the most important judges of the land.”

TWO ‘MERIT’ AWARDS were presented in the ‘DAILY NEWSPAPERS’ category to:

(1) Noel Baker of the *Irish Examiner* for his article: *‘Home away from home’*.

What the judges said:

“The ‘Home away from home’ series took an in-depth look at the system of out-of-state placements in secure care facilities for Irish children, and the impact on their lives and those of their families.

“Journalist Noel Baker visited Kibble in Scotland and the Ballydowd secure care facility in Dublin. He interviewed the then Minister for Children, the Chief Executive of the Child and Family Agency, and the young people who had direct experience of being placed in such facilities.

“This series fully deserves a Merit Certificate for revealing details of a previously unpublished draft report on problems within the care system, how the country’s only intensive therapeutic foster service was discontinued, and how the Scottish authorities had, over two years, rejected half of Irish applications for placements there due to lack of space.”

A SECOND MERIT AWARD WENT TO:

(2) Joe Humphreys of *The Irish Times* for his article: ‘*The Prison Trap*’.

What the judges said:

“The engaging ‘Prison Trap’ series investigated how people with mental illness are dealt with by the courts and in prison. It discovered that Irish programmes that are aimed at diverting people with mental illness from the criminal justice system are grossly under-resourced compared with similar programmes in Australia.”

“The series examined the extended lock-ups of vulnerable inmates in prison as well as the protections that are in place for vulnerable and suicidal prisoners. Joe Humphreys revealed that a 2012 study at St Patrick’s Institution found that 23% of offenders aged from 16 to 20 were at risk of developing serious mental illness.”

“This series influenced the Irish Prison Service to committing to reducing prolonged isolation of vulnerable inmates from the rest of the prison population – and to accelerating change in this area. It highlighted gaps in community and housing supports and won a commitment from the Prison Service to bring unstructured releases of vulnerable prisoners to an end. These excellent articles fully deserve the presentation of a Merit Award.”

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – ‘SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS’

The winners of the Justice Media Award in the ‘Sunday Newspapers’ category are: Siobhan Brett, Ian Kehoe and Philip Connolly of ‘*The Sunday Business Post*’ for their feature: ‘*The Anglo trial*’.

What the judges said:

“The criminal trial of three former executives of Anglo Irish Bank was one of the biggest trials in the history of the State. *The Sunday Business Post* is to be congratulated for allowing this team of journalists to provide extensive and unparalleled coverage of this important case. They chronicled the daily court hearings and provided a superb analysis of the testimony, thus providing the readers with a proper understanding of the events at the heart of the trial.”

The judges particularly enjoyed the following reference, drawn from one article:

‘In his former life – before the empire crashed, before he was bankrupt, before he was jailed for contempt – [Sean] Quinn prided himself on avoiding court. As Quinn stressed in the witness box last week, his company “never got into a legal case” over any of its major deals. Anglo, he said, was the “only one that we ever got into trouble with”.’

‘For the past three years, Quinn and his family have battled the banks in courtrooms all over the world. At one point in 2012, there were 24 court actions in 12 jurisdictions involving elements of both sides.’ *[End of article quote]*

“The coverage provided by this highly skilled team included a mixture of fact, court reporting, narrative and colour. This series gave readers all the detail they needed. It was laced with superb detail, informed the layperson about the significant legal aspects of the case – and did so in a highly engaging fashion.”

TWO ‘MERIT’ CERTIFICATES were awarded in the ‘SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS’ category to:

(1) Siobhan Maguire and Mark Tighe of *The Sunday Times* for their article: ‘*No public right of way*’.

What the judges said:

“Last November, the Supreme Court overturned a ruling that gave access over the Lissadel estate in Co Sligo to walkers and ramblers. This highly commended article by Siobhan Maguire and Mark Tighe discussed in admirable detail the decision that ended a long-running legal row which opened up myriad questions over the legalities concerning rights of way and ownership issues in Ireland. It dealt with the Supreme Court’s criticism of the earlier High Court ruling on the matter and discussed the differences in Irish and English law in relation to rights of way. It also addressed certain difficulties regarding rights of way that have arisen as a result of the *Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009*. As a result, this article is to be commended for assisting the public’s understanding of the law.”

A SECOND MERIT AWARD WENT TO:

(2) Niall Brady of *The Sunday Times* for his article: ‘*Fight for your consumer rights*’.

What the judges said:

“This article took to task a number of glaring gaps in customer protection legislation that could cost the consumer dearly. Niall Brady and *The Sunday Times* are to be commended for their campaign to win a fairer deal for homeowners in relation to unregulated so-called ‘vulture funds’, which see banks selling off mortgage books without involving homeowners in those decisions.

“Due to this newspaper’s efforts to highlight such a bad deal for consumers, the Government has promised legislation that will force investors in vulture funds to respect consumer rights when they buy mortgages from banks that are being wound up, or which have decided to leave the country. Niall Brady

is being recognised for raising this, and other significant issues, relating to consumer law, which might otherwise have evaded his readers.”

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – ‘REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS’

The winner of the Justice Media Award in the ‘Regional Newspapers’ category is Tony Galvin of the *Tuam Herald* for his thought-provoking article titled: ‘*Opening a window on family law*’.

What the judges said:

“This was an outstanding opinion piece on the new practice of allowing journalists to report on family law proceedings in Irish family law courts. The adjudicators particularly enjoyed the following passage:

‘Murder and mayhem, a seedy swindle, a well-argued drunk-driving case; better still, a bitterly fought land dispute – all grist to my news mill. The disintegration of a family, however, is beyond the Pale, and I’ll hang up my notebook before I intrude on that.’ *[End of article quote]*

“Journalist Tony Galvin’s aim was to draw attention to, as he states it: ‘the reality that most [family law] cases are tragedies, devoid of titillating drama, and that standard reporting is too blunt an instrument to apply to such a delicate process. If the true intention is to inform,’ he says, ‘there are more practical, as well as humane methods available.’

“Galvin presented his strongly-held opinions in an excellently written article that prods and pokes the reader to seriously question why journalists should be allowed inside the courtroom to report on *in camera* family law cases. His pen ‘slices and dices’ with the skill of Zorro, eventually forcing the State up against the wall to accuse it of abdicating its responsibilities ‘by farming out transparency on family law to hacks like myself, while washing its hands of yet another awkward issue’.”

TWO ‘MERIT’ CERTIFICATES were awarded in this category to:

(1) Thomas Mooney of the *Wexford Echo* for his article ‘*A long day’s journey into Ireland*’.

What the judges said:

“Thomas Mooney ably tackles the very questionable system of ‘direct provision’ in Ireland – the means by which the State accommodates people seeking asylum. He confronts the widespread concern relating to the ‘appalling abuse of rights and liberty’ of asylum seekers (as one of his sources puts it) – and the mental-health effects on those who are cooped up in a form of detention originally conceived to last no longer than six months’ duration, but, in reality, for years. The *Wexford Echo* is to be congratulated for committing journalistic resources (with the assistance of the Mary Rafferty

Journalism Fund) and a significant amount of space to shedding light on this significant human rights issue for immigrants to Ireland.”

A SECOND MERIT AWARD WENT TO:

(2) Maria Rolston of the *Evening Echo* (Cork) for her article ‘*Domestic violence – an increasing legal issue*’

What the judges said:

“Maria Rolston’s article on the stark increase in applications for domestic violence protection orders, safety orders and barring orders in Cork came as a wake-up call for the Government, social services and the legal system.

“This cover page and inside article raised reader awareness of this under-reported issue. It described the forthright concerns of the Cork-based President of the District Court, Judge Rosemary Horgan, which she raised at the Cork launch of the Law Reform Commission’s *Report on Aspects of Domestic Violence* in December 2013. Maria Rolston richly deserves her Merit award for explaining so ably the legislative changes surrounding the issue and for highlighting the concerns of support service staff.”

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – ‘COURT REPORTING – PRINT MEDIA’

The winner of the Justice Media Award in the ‘Court Reporting – Print Media’ category is Helen Bruce of the *Irish Daily Mail* for her article “*An ‘absolutely’ illegal’ scheme at Anglo Irish*”.

What the judges said:

“The Anglo Irish Bank trial was one of the biggest and most anticipated criminal trials to be held in Ireland in years. Even the empanelment of jurors was on a grand scale, with 1,500 summonses sent, and an amendment made to the *Juries Act 1976* to allow for 15 jurors to be selected in a bid to ensure that at least a dozen would survive to reach a verdict in a trial that was expected to run for up to four months.

“Journalist Helen Bruce focused much of her attention on the opening speech by Paul O’Higgins SC – an event eagerly anticipated by the media, since the reporting restrictions pre-trial had been necessarily strict.

“In true tabloid style, she lays out the facts of the case in an easy-to-understand fashion. She admirably explains many of the more complex issues – such as the complex financial instruments known as ‘Contracts for Difference’, the charges faced by the three former Anglo Irish Bank directors, and the significance of section 60 of the *Companies Act 1963* in this trial. This was tabloid journalism at its best.”

TWO ‘MERIT’ CERTIFICATES were awarded in the ‘COURT REPORTING – PRINT MEDIA’ category to:

(1) Justine McCarthy and Mark Tighe of *The Sunday Times* for their article: ‘*Kitchen sink drama*’.

What the judges said:

“This article reported on a High Court case that arose from a 14-year-old Revenue claim for €57.8 million in capital gains tax from Denis O’Brien – primarily due to the sale of his Esat Telecom shares.

“The report lays out in great detail what was said in court and also analysed what Mr O’Brien said about the tax bill in 2000. The article points out that O’Brien’s battle with Revenue depended on whether his Raglan Road mansion qualified as his home.

“This was an excellent piece of journalism by Justine McCarthy and Mark Tighe. Despite the significance of this case, *The Sunday Times* was one of the few media organisations that provided an in-depth analysis of the case and is to be congratulated for serving the public interest in bringing it into the public forum.”

A SECOND MERIT AWARD WENT TO:

(2) Fiona Gartland of *The Irish Times* for her article: ‘*Protection orders given as family courts open to media*’.

What the judges said:

“The then Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter, commenced the *Court and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013* on 12 January this year. The commencement was somewhat unexpected, so the presence of a reporter from *The Irish Times* in a family law court required negotiation and discussion with the legal representatives and the judges involved.”

“This ‘red-letter day’ for the family courts, as Judge Carmel Stewart put it, had crept up on practitioners but was ‘a very positive development’.

“Details of the family law issues involved were aired publicly for the first time, shedding light on how such cases are dealt with by the courts. Fiona Gartland, one of the first journalists to report on family law matters under the new act, carefully reported on the cases before the court on Monday 14 January, paying a close eye to the strict legislation and the need to protect the identities of those involved. Fiona’s report was journalistic history in the making.”

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – ‘COURT REPORTING FOR BROADCAST MEDIA’

The winner of the Justice Media Award in the 'Court Reporting – Broadcast Media' category is Caitriona Perry of RTÉ News for her television news report: *'Tragedy Down Under'*.

What the judges said:

"This report was filed by the only Irish journalist to travel to Australia to report on the sentencing hearing of Jill Meagher's killer, Adrian Bayley.

"Caitriona Perry skilfully combined the heartbreaking human aspects of the story with an excellent and clear analysis of the legal issues involved.

"The case, which was so deeply disturbing to her Irish audience, required a delicate balance to be struck. Caitriona successfully filtered the distressing facts to present an appropriate, compelling report without dulling the impact of the crimes and the case.

"Using pictures, graphics and quotes from the courtroom, she surmounted the challenge presented by the unfamiliarity of the Australian sentencing system and the terminology used – but the profound personal tragedy behind the legal proceedings was never lost. With these reports, Caitriona Perry has displayed a real talent for clear, balanced and compelling reporting in what must have been difficult and distressing circumstances."

TWO 'MERIT' CERTIFICATES were awarded in the 'COURT REPORTING FOR BROADCAST MEDIA' category. The first went to:

(1) Fergal Keane of Drivetime – RTE Radio 1 for his radio report: *'Local Justice'*.

What the judges said:

"The District Courts system is one which we all know well, but it rarely features in the national media. This series of reports by Fergal Keane shone a spotlight on the day-to-day workings of the District Courts in Tipperary Town, Clifden, and Kilmallock.

"Featuring anecdotes from people milling through the buildings and details of some of the cases heard, the reports painted a colourful and informative picture of the cornerstone of local justice."

A SECOND MERIT CERTIFICATE IN THIS CATEGORY went to:

(2) John Cooke of Clare FM News and for Drivetime – RTE Radio 1 for his radio report: *'Ralph Lauren's niece and the court in a pub!'*

What the judges said:

"This case was an example of the quirky side of the Irish court system, featuring a high-profile defendant, a forced landing at Shannon Airport – and a

court sitting in the function room of the *Brian Boru on the Hill* bar, in Killaloe, Co Clare.

“Beyond the hype lay a serious breach of air transport laws. John Cooke delivered the facts of the case and set the unusual scene for listeners in Clare – and nationally. Covering the case from start to finish, he succinctly summarised the detail in his radio reports with strong legal content and brought to life the lighter aspects of the case.”

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A JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD WAS PRESENTED IN THE ‘NATIONAL RADIO’ CATEGORY TO:

Marc Coleman (presenter) and John O’Donovan (producer) of *The Marc Coleman Show on Newstalk 106 – 108FM* for their ‘Justice for all – legal special’.

“This legal special included an absorbing interview with former Supreme Court judge, Mr Justice Joseph Finnegan, and dealt with a diversity of legal issues that encompassed the judiciary and whether or not its members reflect the diversity within society; the risk of politicising judicial selection; the role of religion in the Constitution; whether the family law courts are fit for purpose; whether access to the legal system is too expensive; and whether a conscience clause should be introduced into the Constitution that would also aim to protect whistle-blowers.

“A panel discussion followed, featuring the former Supreme Court judge, various legal experts and the respected editor of a regional newspaper.

“Marc Coleman (presenter) and John O’Donovan (producer) are to be congratulated for conceiving this lively programme, which aired many significant questions about Ireland’s legal system and encouraged members of the public to get involved through texts and social media. It gave an in-depth insight to the law, in terms that the ordinary person on the street could easily understand.”

ONE ‘Merit’ Certificate was awarded in the ‘National Radio’ category to:

(1) Valerie Cox of *Today With Sean O’Rourke, RTE Radio 1* for her radio report: ‘Family Courts’.

What the judges said:

“A major change came about in Irish family law earlier this year with the lifting of the ban on journalists attending and reporting on family law cases. In a detailed and well-presented report from Dolphin House family law court in Dublin, Valerie Cox marked this development with aplomb.

“Carefully navigating the strict rules surrounding family and child-law reporting, Valerie provided a rare and valuable insight into the workings of the

system. While she talked about the personalities, the approaches of the judges involved, and the vast array of cases and legal questions that come before them, her report never lost sight of the human element and recognised the very real issues facing the families and children who rely on the services provided by these courts.”

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – ‘LOCAL RADIO’

The winner of the Justice Media Award in the ‘Local Radio’ category is Clem Ryan, Shane Beatty & Susan Webster of KFM for their engaging radio programmes that focused on: *‘Wills’, ‘Reluctant landlords’, and ‘Marital breakdown’*.

What the judges said:

“The team on the *Kildare Today* show has come up with an excellent formula for their weekly legal discussion slot with solicitor Susan Webster. Addressing topics that are in the spotlight as a result of national headlines, or everyday legal issues that are of direct and ongoing importance to their listeners, KFM is providing valuable information on the law to the people of Kildare.

“The topics submitted for this year’s Justice Media Awards – marital breakdown, wills and landlord-tenant law – are very real and relevant to its listeners. These topics were addressed in an engaging, clear and informative way. Overall, these reports are an excellent example of the importance of the contributions that journalists make to the public’s understanding of the law, the legal system and specific legal issues.”

TWO ‘MERIT’ CERTIFICATES were awarded in this category. The first went to:

(1) Trudy Waters of Tipp FM for her report: *‘Tipperary pensioner loses right-of-way case against Minister’*.

What the judges said:

“A case involving a prominent politician was always going to be high-profile – and when you combine that with the complex and emotive topic of a disputed right-of-way, then reporting from the courtroom was always going to be a challenge.

“In that context, the judges were impressed with Trudy Waters’ report of the outcome in a case taken by a Tipperary woman against her neighbour, the Minister for State Alan Kelly. Giving background information, as well as a clear and concise outline of the points of law that led to the ruling, Trudy set the scene for the listeners to Tipp FM’s lunchtime bulletin and rounded off the station’s coverage of the case with a particularly strong conclusion.”

A SECOND MERIT CERTIFICATE IN THIS CATEGORY WENT TO:

(2) Niall Delaney of Ocean FM for his report: *'Inquest into the inquest'*.

What the judges said:

"In a compelling report, Ocean FM tackled the difficult topic of inquests in the wake of deaths by suicide, in a sensitive and humane way, highlighting the legal issues that grieving families say need to be addressed.

"By giving a voice to the bereaved who have had to face the daunting inquest process, Niall Delaney and the *North West Today* team have shone a spotlight on a corner of the Irish legal system that hasn't seen reform in over 50 years."

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – 'TELEVISION NEWS'

The winner of the Justice Media Award in the 'Television News' category is Brian Daly of *The 5.30 – TV3* for his reports on *'The inquest of baby Mark Molloy'*.

What the judges said:

"The inquest into the death of baby Mark Molloy dominated the headlines for the three days of its duration late last year – and for some time afterwards. Every parents' worst nightmare had come true for Roisin and Mark Molloy – the death of a baby that they were convinced could have been prevented.

"Brian Daly reported from the inquest from beginning to end, presenting the facts clearly and concisely, resulting in a laudable law report that struck the crucial balance between accuracy in the reporting of the facts and compassion in portraying the distressing human side to the proceedings."

TWO 'MERIT' CERTIFICATES were awarded in this category. The first went to:

(1) Sandra Hurley of the *Six One News – RTE 1*, for her report: *'Surrogacy: a legal limbo'*.

What the judges said:

"The issue of parentage in surrogacy cases in Ireland can be described as a grey area at best – complex and unfamiliar to a large majority of the public.

"In a strong analysis piece, Sandra Hurley distilled the main points of a landmark High Court decision last year that brought the topic to the fore of the national discourse. Sandra outlined the main points of law involved in a clear and engaging way. She highlighted the lack of certainty for families and those children directly affected by the legal limbo of surrogacy. This package certainly helped the collective understanding of the issue."

A SECOND MERIT CERTIFICATE IN THIS CATEGORY WENT TO:

(2) Brian O'Donovan of *The 5.30* – TV3 for his reports on *'The Anglo trial'*.

What the judges said:

“All eyes were on the trial of three former Anglo Irish bank executives earlier this year. With a strong focus on the legal issues and the questions that arose throughout the proceedings, Brian O'Donovan produced a series of balanced, well-reasoned and fluid reports.

“He dissected the issues involved and went into wonderful detail on the more compelling and complex points. His explanation of legislative changes that allow for larger juries in longer trials was particularly valuable, and made for a better-informed public on this important topic.”

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JUSTICE MEDIA AWARD – 'TELEVISION FEATURES AND DOCUMENTARIES'

The winners of the Justice Media Award in the 'Television Features & Documentaries' category are Rita O'Reilly (reporter) & Tara Peterman (producer) of *Prime Time* – RTE 1 for their fly-on-the-wall documentary called: *'Freemen - a matter of trust'*.

What the judges said:

“This fine example of undercover journalism saw Rita O'Reilly and Tara Peterman exposing a scheme promising struggling borrowers a way to avoid home repossession by suing their banks, handing over money to a trust, stopping repayments, and waiting for what the promoters called a 'big test case' in the courts.

“In a well-presented, comprehensive and truly engaging report, they challenged those behind the scheme on the use of the language and tactics of the 'Freemen on the Land' movement. They shone a spotlight on the so-called 'pub legal advice' being dispensed, and questioned the motives of those involved in leading desperate mortgage holders into deeper debt.”

TWO MERIT CERTIFICATES were awarded in the 'TELEVISION FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES' category. The first goes to:

(1) Ciara Doherty (reporter) and Patrick Kinsella (producer) of *Midweek* – TV3, for their engaging programme: *'Mallak – one year on'*.

What the judges said:

“This report by Ciara Doherty, produced by Patrick Kinsella, focused on the surprising lack of impact of what had been considered a ground-breaking Supreme Court judgment in the case of *Mallak v Minister for Justice*.

“Mr Justice Fennelly's judgement reversed the decision of the High Court and quashed a refusal by the Minister for Justice to grant a certificate of

naturalisation to Mr Mallak – but more than a year later, Ghandi Mallak was still stateless.

“The report provided excellent legal context for the ruling and featured a strong contribution from Mr Mallak, who related his story with an unexpected air of calmness and civility. It struck the right balance between informing the public of the important legal issues, and the engaging human interest aspects of this enthralling story.”

THE SECOND MERIT CERTIFICATE IN THIS CATEGORY went to:

(2) Rita O’Reilly (reporter) and Kevin Burns (producer) of *Prime Time – RTE 1* for their programme: ‘*Backdrop to Garda whistleblowers: paying the penalty*’; and ‘*Exposed*’.

What the judges said:

“Reporter Rita O’Reilly and producer Kevin Burns are receiving a Merit award for two *Prime Time* reports that laid open some of the more serious legal issues that came to light during the past 12 months.

“The Garda whistleblowers saga has proved to be one of the most important news stories of recent times, the ramifications of which are still unfolding.

“‘*Backdrop to Garda whistleblowers: paying the penalty*’ focused on the widespread abuse of the penalty-points system, as revealed by Garda whistleblowers. It discovered that over 400,000 penalty points had not been assigned to Irish drivers – despite penalty-point notices having been issued, summonses for court appearances served, and convictions handed down.

“The impact of this captivating report led to the Minister for Transport personally deciding to chair a joint Criminal Justice Working Group to focus on the abuses of the Fixed Charge Processing System in order to close the loopholes.

“*Prime Time*’s ‘*Exposed*’ report focussed on whistleblowers from the charity and health sectors, as well as members of the Garda Síochána. It revealed that there is no safe harbour for those who blow the whistle on questionable practices in both the State and NGO sectors.

“It included analysis and valid criticism of the *Protected Disclosures Bill* and criticised the proposed replacement of the Garda Confidential Recipient being based on Ministerial regulation, rather than founded in primary legislation.”

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‘OVERALL WINNER’

The presentation of the ‘Overall Winner’ award each year is at the discretion of the judges. Despite the high quality that was evident in all categories this year, the judges have decided that no single article or

broadcast report stood out from among the others. As a result, it has decided NOT to present the 'Overall Winner' trophy this year.