



## **Solicitors in the Community - A Street Law Programme at the Law Society of Ireland**

Are you a solicitor and interested in facilitating a Street Law group in your community? As part of our 2017 Street Law orientation weekend for Professional Practice Course trainees we are inviting a limited number of solicitors to join us and gain awareness of what's involved and what skills are necessary to develop and run their own Street Law Programme. This initial training is aimed to provide you with guidance to develop a framework for your teaching and will act as a foundation for a 'Certificate in Public Legal Education' accredited by the LSI. The initial training weekend takes place from Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday 16 - 17 September 2017.

### **Background**

Street Law is a legal literacy programme that features flexible and adaptable learning methodology to help develop attitudes necessary to respond fairly to the law and legal issues in our complex and changing societies. It aims to develop a belief in the rule of law, and has a social justice ethic at its core.

[The Diploma Centre](#), at the Law Society of Ireland launched a [Street Law](#) programme in September 2013 in collaboration with [Georgetown Law](#), Washington DC, and the [Trinity College Dublin's 'Trinity Access Programmes'](#) (TAP).

The Street Law Clinic invites PPC trainees to sign up at the outset of their PPCI training in autumn and currently we have a number of [programmes in place](#). Participants learn to teach about law, the legal system, human rights and democracy. Many of those who benefit from *Street Law* programmes are those that are marginalised or particularly vulnerable in society. *Street Law* also provides practice in important life skills for all involved (critical thinking, problem solving, communication and participating in civil societies).

Although *Street Law* originated in the early 1970's and was initially based around law students, since then it has evolved, and spread around the world and certain programmes involve lawyers and judges:

- <http://www.canberracommunitylaw.org.au/street-law>
- [http://streetlaw.org/en/Audience/2/Lawyers\\_Law\\_Students\\_and\\_the\\_Legal\\_Community](http://streetlaw.org/en/Audience/2/Lawyers_Law_Students_and_the_Legal_Community)
- <http://streetlawcentre.org.au/>
- <http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/news/2015/streetlaw-becomes-streetleeds-as-new-collaborative-community-project-is-launched-in-leeds>
- <https://www.courts.wa.gov/education/?fa=education.iitc>

### **Certificate in Public Legal Education**

This certificate is a programme which 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.

Upon successful completion of the programme participants will be awarded a Certificate in Public Legal Education and will also be recognised as a Law Society of Ireland approved Street Law trainer.

The assessment of this award is competency based and dependent upon successful completion of all of the following elements;

1. Attendance at the initial training weekend;
2. Completion of a project proposal;
3. Facilitation of a pilot “Solicitor in the Community” programme (a minimum requirement of 6 x 1 hour lessons, 3 x 2 hours or a combination of sessions); and
4. Final presentation.

### **Initial orientation training weekend**

The initial training weekend takes place from Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday 16 - 17 September 2017. This interactive and fun weekend is facilitated by members of the Diploma Team and our colleagues from Georgetown University *Street Law* Clinic (the home of Street Law). It will equip you with the tools necessary to successfully introduce and support a Street Law programme community settings and school classrooms.

### **Topics addressed at orientation;**

1. The scope , design and implementation of Street Law programme;
2. How to design an effective lesson;
3. Examples of learner centred legal activities;
4. Facilitating group work;
5. Demonstration teaching.

### **Contact us**

To apply or for further information contact Dr Freda Grealy, Head of the Diploma Centre: [f.grealy@lawsociety.ie](mailto:f.grealy@lawsociety.ie) . If possible please provide a short description of your **Street Law** Programme idea in the body of the email.