



Law Society of Ireland

News Release

22nd October 2012

**Law Society Professional Training in collaboration with the
Law Society Family Law Committee**

Cherishing All Children Equally – The Constitutional Referendum on the Rights of the Child

Venue: Presidents' Hall, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

Date: Wednesday, 24th October 2012

Time: 10.00am – 1.45pm

Aim & Objective

The aim of this seminar is to provide an objective and informed analysis of the forthcoming Referendum on the Rights of the Child and its potential impact for all legal and child care professionals in the future. The seminar will address all four provisions and provide a forum for questions and answers and open debate. This seminar is an essential event for all practitioners who deal in any way with cases involving Children.

Opening address

Mr James McCourt, Senior Vice-President, Law Society

10.00am-10.10am – **Summary of Proposals**

Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Solicitor

10.10am-10.40am - **Keynote speaker**

Looking to the Future – the Constitutional Referendum on the Rights of the Child

Minister Frances Fitzgerald, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

10.40am-10.50am - Questions & answers session

10.50am-11.20am - **State Intervention Provision**
Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, Former Supreme Court Judge

11.20am-11.35am - **Tea & coffee break**

11.35am-12.05pm - **Best Interests and the Voice of the Child Provision**
Muriel Walls, Solicitor

12.05pm-12.35pm - **Adoption Provision**
Sinead Kearney, Solicitor

12.35pm-1.05pm - **Natural and Inalienable Rights Provision**
Gerry Durcan SC

1.05pm-1.15pm - **Questions & answers session**

1.15pm-1.30pm – **The Future**
Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Solicitor

1.30pm-1.45pm – **Closing Address**
Carol Anne Coolican, Solicitor