



JUSTICE MEDIA AWARDS

The Society's Justice Media Awards (JMAs), since 1991, continue to recognise outstanding journalism that contributes to the public's understanding of law and justice, the legal system, or specific legal issues. This year's event takes place on 21 June and the categories have been reviewed and refreshed to ensure they continue to reflect the modern Irish media landscape.



Further information is available on www.jmawards.ie.



SOLICITORS OF THE FUTURE TY PROGRAMME

Our programme shows how the law can be relevant to the daily lives of participants and promotes awareness of the legal processes, constitutional principles, and values which underpin the rule of law in Ireland.

In February, 44 students took part in the programme, representing 21 different counties.



TRAVAW SEMINAR

In March, the Society held a hugely successful seminar on the Training of Lawyers on the Law regarding Violence Against Women (TRAVAW). The seminar examined how the Irish legal framework applies to women who have suffered gender violence, and practical perspectives on identifying domestic violence in client situations.

CALCUTTA RUN SET TO HIT €4M ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



The legal profession's annual fundraiser, The Calcutta Run, celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2018 with €3.7m raised over the past nineteen years.

On Saturday 26 May up to 1500 participants will undertake a 5km or 10km route via the Phoenix Park with a cycling route available in Cork.

All proceeds from the event will go towards the work of the Peter McVerry Trust and The Hope Foundation. Both organisations help to reduce homelessness in Ireland and India.



You are invited to participate on the day and can sign up here: www.calcuttarun.com

CONTACT US

The Law Society welcomes the opportunity to meet with public representatives and their staff to discuss options for law reform, and provide views on the operation and implementation of existing initiatives.

Our main contacts for Policy and Public Affairs initiatives are:

- KEN MURPHY, Director General, k.murphy@lawsociety.ie
- MARY KEANE, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, m.keane@lawsociety.ie
- CORMAC Ó CULÁIN, Public Affairs Manager, c.oculain@lawsociety.ie, (01) 672 4917

POLICY AND LAW REFORM AGENDA

A PUBLIC INTEREST AGENDA FOR IRELAND

April 2018 | Issue 2 | www.lawsociety.ie/policyandlawreform



GARDA REFORM SHOULD FOCUS ON COMMUNITY POLICING AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Law Society made 14 recommendations to the Commission on the Future of Policing urging reform across a number of areas including:

- Simplify the system of governance, oversight and accountability
- Simplify complaints and discipline investigation processes and enhance transparency
- Resource oversight bodies adequately

The Society believes community policing can be particularly effective in rural communities where a lack of adequate policing is perceived among local communities. A review of the Joint Policing Committees and their resourcing is urged.



Read our submission at www.lawsociety.ie/submissions

FEATURED ARTICLES



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LECTURE: IMPACT OF BREXIT ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Taking place on 15 May, the lecture will explore the potential impact of Brexit on human rights in Ireland and at a wider European level. It will offer an opportunity to explore the risks and uncertainty that Brexit may bring, as well as considering prospective future challenges and possibilities for innovation and changes in human rights.

The lecture will be chaired by Mary Rose Burke, CEO, Dublin Chamber of Commerce with Professor Fiona de Londras, University of Birmingham as keynote speaker. All welcome!



Register your interest at: lspt@lawsociety.ie

SUBMISSION TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF LAW REFORM

The Law Reform Commission's Programme of Law Reform is the principal basis on which the Commission carries out its statutory mandate to keep the law under review with a view to its reform. For the latest fifth programme, the Society focussed its submission on three areas of law:

- Probate, Administration and Trusts – the law is in need of reform to provide for variations of wills after a death and for statutory wills.
- Human rights – reform of the family law system is required, consistent

with the Society's policy paper *Family Law – The Future*.

- Reforms in the area of criminal justice relating to discipline mechanisms in prison, the defence of not guilty by reason of insanity, the need for legislation to protect the role of solicitors in Garda station detentions, examination of mandatory sentencing and other reform initiatives.



Read our submission at www.lawsociety.ie/submissions



RECENT POLICY FEATURES

A pick of recent articles from the *Law Society Gazette* (www.gazette.ie):

- **Mob Rule v Rule of Law** – Both are rarely compatible, and the damnation of individuals – even those found to be guilty – without the protections afforded to them by the constitutional order is a huge step in the wrong direction, argues Dara Robinson (Jan/Feb)
- **Brexit, human rights and the Good Friday Agreement** – Michael Farrell assesses the possible risks Brexit may have on human rights and equality provisions, north and south of the border. (Jan/Feb)
- **Genie out of the bottle on data, says Chief Justice** – Ireland may become a GDPR battleground, since so much personal data lives in corporations that operate out of this country. Mary Hallissey reports. (March)
- **Is the Family Home Protection Act fit for purpose?** – the Act gave married women a prior right of prohibition on the sale or mortgage of the family home. John Garaghy asks has it lived up to its objectives. (March)
- **Sword of Damocles** – Section 99 of the Criminal Justice Act 2006 put the suspended sentence on a statutory footing for the first time. Tom Conlon analyses the relevant legislation and case law, its development and problems. (March)

BY THE NUMBERS

10,122



Solicitors with Irish practicing certificates

€1.7bn



Estimated annual contribution of legal sector to Irish economy

20+



Submissions by the Law Society to Government in 2017

18,000+



Employed in the wider Irish legal sector

2,300



Law firms delivering legal services across Ireland

1,406



Admissions to the profession in 2016-17 – highest on record

REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE UNDERWAY

The need to deliver a more efficient and effective Irish legal system in the area of civil justice and improving access to justice in the State is a key priority for the Society and profession. The Society welcomes the review currently taking place and made a submission under a number of headings including:

- Court rules and procedures
- Suggested improvements in Discovery procedure and practice
- Increased resourcing and development on eServices
- Promotion of ADR/mediation in dispute resolution where practical
- Safeguarding the rights of vulnerable court users



Read our submission at www.lawsociety.ie/submissions

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

The county distribution and gender breakdown of practising solicitors in the State.

COUNTY	MALE	FEMALE	MALE AND FEMALE TOTAL
Carlow	22	24	46
Cavan	30	22	52
Clare	48	71	119
Cork	411	444	855
Donegal	61	68	129
Dublin	2831	3235	6066
Galway	160	191	351
Kerry	88	73	161
Kildare	86	93	179
Kilkenny	38	32	70
Laois	22	12	34
Leitrim	20	13	33
Limerick	155	153	308
Longford	19	23	42
Louth	83	64	147
Mayo	67	54	121
Meath	70	50	120
Monaghan	19	25	44
Offaly	32	30	62
Roscommon	25	23	48
Sligo	50	37	87
Tipperary	103	60	163
Waterford	56	49	105
Westmeath	50	45	95
Wexford	49	44	93
Wicklow	69	66	135
TOTAL	4664	5001	9665



INTERESTED IN SPORTS LAW? JOIN THE COURSE!



Each year the Society's Diploma Centre hosts a free course that is open to all, based on online video releases, forums and quizzes. This year's topic will be sports law; giving the inside track on the most topical areas across the sporting world. Our Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have attracted over 9000 participants from over 54 countries since they first launched in 2014.



Registration is now open and available at: www.lawsociety.ie/mooc

REVIEW OF THE CHILDCARE ACT



The Society recently contributed to a review of the Child Care Act 1991 to identify what is working well within the legislation and its impact on policy and practice, while identifying any gaps or new areas for development.

The Society provided wide-ranging commentary and recommendations based on the experience of practitioners in this important area of law. Recommendations were provided on areas such as child protection in emergencies and special care, issues surrounding jurisdiction and procedures.



Read our recommendations for reform at: www.lawsociety.ie/submissions

RECOMMENDATIONS IN MAHON REPORT NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED

The Society has submitted its observations on the Department of Justice and Equality's latest report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD).

The State must reform its efforts to reduce the amount of time that applicants spend in direct provision and to ensure full implementation of all recommendations in the Mahon Report.

The State is urged to widen the scope of family reunification and to consider the impact of the lack of a formal appeal on an applicant's right to access to justice.

The Society recommends making it an actionable breach of discipline for a member of An Garda Síochána to engage in racial profiling and to allow for such complaints to be investigated by GSOC.



Read our additional recommendations and full submission at: www.lawsociety.ie/submissions