



LAW SCHOOL NEWS



STRICTLY BLACKHALL

One of the biggest nights of the year for the Law School, Strictly Blackhall in aid of Barretstown and the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, presented by the Law Society and sponsored by William Fry took place in the Talbot Hotel on 4 November 2023.

In the run-up to the event, 22 current and previous PPC trainee solicitors spent 6 weeks training and learning routines choreographed by the GWA (Girls with Attitude) dance company. They all took to the stage on the night with their fabulous footwork in genres such as jazz and ballroom to impress the audience and judges, which included Dublin based performer and dancer, Emily Roddy along with Law Society's very own Ruth Tracey and Donna O'Reilly. It was a very close competition and Jessica Mackey (Matheson) and Aoife Hardy (A&L Goodbody) were crowned Strictly Blackhall champions after setting the night alight with their salsa routine.





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE DANCERS WHO TOOK PART. PICTURED ABOVE ARE:

- Alex McDermott Dunne and Alison Boland
- Tom May and Victoria Lauren Cash
- Jack Gannon and Grace Deeny
- Chandramani Sirothia and Bessy Zhu
- Sarah O'Flynn and Rachel Carey

LAW SCHOOL AMBASSADORS CONTINUE TO CREATE A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

Congratulations to our newest group of ambassadors joining the Law School Ambassador Programme. Ambassadors share their valuable expertise and experience to support, empower and encourage PPC trainees on their route to become a solicitor.



Brid Rooney,
Dechert LLP



Ciara Dinneny,
Michael Staines and Co.



Cliona O'Brien,
Comyn Kelleher Tobin



Conor Dixon,
KPMG Law LLP



Dara Kinnane ,
Flynn O'Driscoll



David Wacks,
Philip Lee LLP



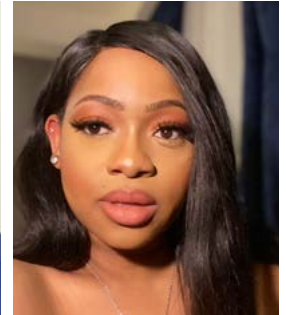
Dhruv Khurana
Eversheds Sutherland LLP



Donal Campbell,
A&L Goodbody LLP



Gabriela Balazs,
Eversheds-Sutherland



Gloria Nkencho,
Maples Group



Jennifer Ekomaru,
McCann FitzGerald LLP



Katie O'Malley,
Chief State Solicitors Office



Keith Mannion,
Elizabeth Howard & Company
Solicitors



Lorcan Kennedy,
Chief State Solicitor's Office



Lynda Crosbie
Whitney Moore LLP



Mark Dalton ,
Comyn Kelleher Tobin in Cork
City



Niamh Shanahan,
A&L Goodbody LLP



Rebecca Oliphant,
Fieldfisher LLP



Saidhbhe Corbett,
Chief State Solicitor's Office



Sam Kavanagh,
Daly Lynch Crowe & Morris
Solicitors LLP



Shannon Colmey,
Matheson



Shannon Owens,
A&L Goodbody



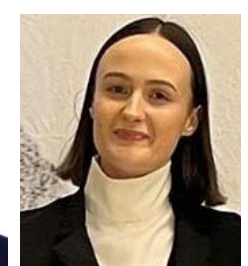
Srishti Kumar,
A&L Goodbody LLP



Stephanie Villanueva,
Frank Murphy Solicitors



Satvik Kapoor,
Eversheds Sutherland LLP



Jennifer Ryan,
Matheson

COMPETITIONS & MOOTS



Congratulations to Sarah O'Flynn (Clark Hill Law), Aoibhinn Gilmartin (Denis I Finn Solicitors) and Aisling Tully (A&L Goodbody LLP) on competing in the INADR International Academy of Dispute Resolution and placing 2nd in the Mediators Team awards and two individual Mediator awards, pictured with coach Dr Rachael Hession.



FBE MOOT

Congratulations to Bessy Zhu (A&L Goodbody), Jennifer Ryan (Matheson), Andrea Whelton (Arthur Cox) & Laura Brohan (Dillon Eustace) representing Ireland at the European Bars Federation (FBE) International Contracts Negotiation Competition in Lisbon. Coach Karolina Rozhnova.



FDI INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION MOOT

Congratulations to Zara Anne Murphy (A&L Goodbody), Jennifer Ryan (Matheson), Aoibhinn O'Connor (DAC Beachcroft) and Laoise McMahon (DLA Piper) with coach T P Kennedy (Director of Education) on reaching the international finals in the FDI International Arbitration Moot at Dr Ram Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.



MICHAEL PEART CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 Michael Peart Challenge Cup. Sarah Courtney (Arthur Cox), Niamh Ferry (Arthur Cox), Steven Scanlan (Ronan Daly Jermyn) and Andrea Whelton (Arthur Cox). This cross-border competition is a collaboration between the Law Society of Ireland and the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) at Queens University Belfast. The competition promotes the value of resolving disputes through mediation, and is designed to help trainees from both institutions to develop their mediation skills in tandem with receiving feedback from expert practitioners.



MANDELA MOOT

Congratulations to Law Society team of Andrea Whelton (Arthur Cox), Jennifer Ryan (Matheson), Aoibhinn O'Connor (Arthur Cox) and coach Alysha Hoare representing Ireland in the final rounds of the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.



ATTRACTA O'REGAN OVARIAN CANCER PHD SCHOLARSHIP

In Attracta's memory, her husband, Ultan Bannon and their family have partnered with Breakthrough Cancer Research to launch a research scholarship targeting the early detection of ovarian cancer. On the 12 December, LSPT will be running an event to raise funds for the Scholarship. The Assisted Decision Making Act 2015 – where are we now: an update takes place on 12 December from 12:30pm to 1pm, live through Zoom. Speakers include Aine Hynes S.C and Richard Hammond S.C. The attendance fee at €65 and 1 hour CPD available. More information can found on the Law Society's website.

ATTRACTA O'REGAN

It was with great sadness that we shared the news of the passing of our good friend and valued colleague Attracta O'Regan.

Attracta was a solicitor and Head of Law Society Professional Training (LSPT) and Law Society Skillnet, serving in the role for 18 years. In addition, she was a member of the EU Expert Group on European Judicial Training, and a Rule of Law Advisor to the CCBE (the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe).

Attracta was responsible for the direction and management of professional training to the Law Society of Ireland's 12,000 solicitor members through Law Society Professional Training, Law Society Skillnet, and Law Society Finuas Network.

She joined Blackhall Place in 2005, initially as

the course leader for the part-time PPC, which was offered at the time to cater for the surge in trainee numbers. She took on the role with efficiency and humanity and put together a strong team, many of whom continued to work with her until very recently.

For more than 15 years, Attracta headed up the continuing legal education team and made a major contribution to solicitor education in Ireland. Attracta was an innovator. In this vein, she devised new education formats to reach out to as many solicitors as possible – through the regional cluster events and an incredible variety of conferences, master classes and seminars.

Her strength in building relationships can be seen in the extent of partner organisations that LSPT worked with, both in Ireland and throughout the world – from the Institute

of Engineers all the way to the European Commission. A major achievement was the establishment of the Skillnet training network and securing funding for new forms of training and education. The Law Society Skillnet offering was held up nationally as a pattern for other organisations to follow.

Through Cycle4CrohnsColitis she carried out fundraising in order to establish a Fellowship for the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland to provide a doctor for the day-to-day patient support and care for survivors of Crohn's and ulcerative colitis.

Attracta leaves the Law School a great legacy but that's small consolation for her absence.

“Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.”



THE COMPLETE LAWYER

In a dynamic kick off to their law school journey, PPC 2023 trainees experienced a range of bespoke workshops as part of The Complete Lawyer course. This curated festival was designed to cultivate high-impact professionals by nurturing body and mind while providing trainees with the ideal opportunity to form new connections. As the sun poured down, all 466 trainees engaged with huge enthusiasm in a week of mindfulness, yoga, nutrition, and creative art. Friendly competition saw them take to the sports field for lively 'Move and Groove' HIIT sessions.

91 trainee solicitors on the PPC Hybrid came together to reflect on their experience of the Complete Lawyer course, focusing on harnessing power and potential for wellbeing and success in life, both personally & professionally.

MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS FOR CULTURAL CHANGE

In large groups located throughout the Law School campus, trainees contributed to rich conversations on what builds emotionally and psychologically adept lawyers, who are equipped to thrive in an evolving legal landscape. Trainees developed and shared strategies for strong internal scaffolding to

support them in their legal careers as part of The Complete Lawyer workshops. Creativity and energy continued to flow in their Leadership workshops where trainees crafted visual representation of how to access their own leadership styles - from within. Workshops were again held outdoors in beautiful sunshine as well as under the special festival marquee.

AN EVENING OF UPLIFTING CONVERSATION

Law School Ambassadors were onsite to support the Law Society Psychological Services evening launch event on 7 September. Over 200 solicitors and trainees connected with colleagues and friends, enjoying live Jazz and Prosecco in the Garden Marquee. Director General Mark Garrett



opened the evening with Patrick Boland, Sara Carnegie, Kate Colleary and Ronnie Neville leading a panel discussion on what builds effective lawyers, how leadership impacts teams, what cultural transformation looks like and what we are doing to create a healthy professional environment. This was followed by an uplifting conversation exploring the changing social context of professional life, as observed by entertaining activist and drag Queen Rory O'Neill (Panti Bliss) and insightful pharmacist turned author Anne O'Neill. A range of creative, entertaining and informative side events with members of the Psychological Services team took place including nutrition talks and interactive art workshops. The event finished up with dancing till late to Soulsister B.



PPC EVENTS



BLACKHALL GOLF SOCIETY

Blackhall Golf Society gives trainees an opportunity to meet new people while gaining new skills. Society has kick started their calendar of events with beginner golf lessons.



SPORTS DAY

Blessed with a sunny day, Sports Day took place on the green on 25 October. Bringing nostalgic games from primary school days back in full force, trainees participated in a range of singles events from egg and spoon to a good ol' welly toss. Team tournaments were held in the evening with teams competing in five a side and tag rugby.

PPC EVENTS



BLACKHALL HALLOWEEN

The annual Blackhall Halloween Party took place in the Church Café on 31 October. Over 350 trainees enjoyed sweet treats and tunes throughout the night with the PPC Connect Committee holding a competition for best costume, the winner being awarded with a voucher for the Church Café which was generously provided by the venue.

TABLE QUIZ

The PPC Connect Committee held a table quiz in support of Strictly Blackhall charities on 24 October in the Vanilla Café. 17 teams were tested on their knowledge, ranging from sports to pop culture, for a chance to win coveted tickets to the Blackhall Halloween party.



SUSTAINABILITY DAY

The Sustainability Society hosted Sustainability Day on 17 October, dedicated to promoting more sustainable practices in our everyday lives around our wardrobe and shopping habits. Trainees were invited to refresh their wardrobe by bringing pre-loved clothes for a clothes swap in Vanilla Café. Aedin Twamley from an Cumann Glas and a fifth generation tailor also held a talk focused on proper clothing care and upcycling which was followed by a screening of the documentary, 'Fashion Reimagined' in which the challenges of sustainable fashion in the current industry are explored. Trainee also collected clothes to donate to the Caring and Sharing Association shop on Capel Street.

LAWYERING SKILLS



DR GEOFFREY SHANNON

Congratulations to Dr Geoffrey Shannon SC who was sworn as a judge of the Circuit Court. Judge Shannon leaves the Law Society with lots of good wishes from all those who have worked with him. Our loss is the gain of the Courts.

Attending the Law Society Skillnet Interactive Workshop on Legal-Education Outreach are (pictured l to r) Sandra Mpanyira (Ballymun Community Law Centre), Bronagh Bolger (Walk.ie), Carolann Minnock (Arthur Cox), John Lunney (Law Society), Amy Martin (A&L Goodbody) and Dr. Sean Arthurs (International Legal Education Consultant).



PPC 2023

PPC course managers enjoying the sunshine and catching up with a coffee on launch day of PPC 2023.

STREET LAW

Congratulations to the trainees taking part in Street Law 2023 and who are currently teaching legal lessons in local DEIS schools.





DIPLOMA IN LAW

73 new students joined the 2023 Diploma in Law. There was excitement and laughter on campus as course manager Patricia Harvey kicked off the course with some fun ice-breaker activities.



ZIMBABWE VISIT

The Law School welcomed Edward Mapara, Executive Secretary at the Law Society of Zimbabwe to Blackhall Place for an in-depth visit.

Michalis Kirimlidis has taken a career break from the Law Society to pursue his sporting career in Fencing. He is currently leading in the race to represent Ireland in Fencing at the Paris Olympic games which will take place in July 2024. There are seven major international competitions that Michalis will have to take part in over the coming months so he will be busy. Hopefully we will see Michalis flying the Irish flag in Paris in 2024.



Strategy, Collaboration, Reflection (& fun) were the focus of the opening session of this year's Law Society's Lawyering Skills Team Programme, which provides twenty selected trainees with the opportunity to further develop their skills in Negotiation, Mediation and Client Counselling.



US VISIT

The Law School welcomed lawyers from over 20 states in the US to Blackhall Place to learn about professional legal education in Ireland.

STANHOPE STREET PUPILS JOIN THE LAW SCHOOL



Since 2019, the Law Society has been opening its doors, and classrooms, to the students of the local Dublin 7 Stanhope Street girls' primary school to teach them not about a law, but coding.

The 'Everyone Can Code' programme is a voluntary outreach initiative of the Law School, which is an Apple Distinguished School.

It aims to teach primary school students important skills such as problem solving, cyber

security and the basics of coding following the Apple Everyone Can Code curriculum. Learning to code helps young minds think in a logical and methodical way.

Future careers

The pupils can bring the skills learned through the Everyone Can Code project with them through the rest of their education and even into their future careers.

The coding programme may spark an interest in a child in app development as a career option. RTÉ News interviewed the children

recently about how they are enjoying the coding course and what they are learning.

The status of 'Apple Distinguished School' is awarded to outstanding schools and programmes worldwide who have incorporated Apple technology into their teaching model to become centres of innovation, leadership and educational excellence.

The Law Society became the first professional educator in Europe to receive the award in 2016 and was recently re-accredited until 2024.





ADVANCED ELECTIVES

The first iteration of the Law Society's advanced electives were delivered in May and June 2023. Trainees were offered a suite of 21 new Law School advanced electives from which to choose. 1. Investment Funds tutors Connor Owende (A&L Goodbody), with Morgan Dunner (McCann Fitzgerald). 2. Aviation Leasing and Finance tutors Niamh O'Meara (Milestone Aviation) and Laura Deignan (McCann Fitzgerald). 3. Commercial and Complex Property Transactions tutors Louise Wright, Michael Hastings, Suzanne Bainton, Mark Barr and Robert Upton with Dr Gabriel Brennan.



The Parchment ceremony held on Thursday 28 September 2023, marked a significant milestone for the Society as we celebrated the first class to qualify into the profession through the PPC Hybrid route. Congratulations to all the graduates.

PRIDE WEEK



Highlights from pride week at the Law Society including the Pride Coffee Morning organised by trainees and the Dublin Pride Run in the Park.



NAMING OF THE MOYA QUINLAN LECTURE THEATRE

In October guests, including members of Moya Quinlan's family, gathered for the unveiling of the Moya Quinlan Lecture Theatre within the Education Centre.

The naming of the theatre is part of a series of initiatives marking 2023 as the centenary of the first admission of women to the roll of solicitors in Ireland.

Moya Quinlan, who passed away in 2019 at the age of 99, qualified as a solicitor in 1946 and was elected to the Law Society Council in 1968, where she was consistently re-elected for the next 45 years.

She played a key role in the acquisition of the Law Society's premises at Blackhall Place and became the Society's first female president in 1980/81.

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1. Director of Education T P Kennedy, Chair of the Education Committee Richard Hammond SC, Law Society President Maura Derivan, with past-president Michael Quinlan and Chief State Solicitor Maria Browne. 2. Michelle Nolan, Anne Burke and Lynda Sheane. 3. Members of Moya's family

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

2023 marks the centenary of the admission of the first women to the Roll of Solicitors in Ireland. The Law Society has published a collection of biographies and photographs for the first women admitted. Pictured at the launch event are Law School Ambassadors Jade Barake and Alysha Hoare.



THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS OF QUALIFICATION: DON'T JUST SURVIVE, THRIVE WAS THE THEME OF THE YOUNGER MEMBERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023 WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER.

Pictured (L to R) Máille Brady Bates (Committee member), Barry McLoughlin (speaker), Sara Phelan SC, Chair of YMC Fiona McNulty, Dr Rachel Hession (Law Society), Tarisai May Chidawanyika (Committee member), Luke Staines (Committee member), Annalise Murphy (speaker), Vice-Chair of YMC Maeve Delargy, Michael Quinlan (Committee member) Frank McNamara (Committee Member)



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS IN EDUCATIONAL DESIGN AND DELIVERY? IF SO, JOIN US FOR THE 2024 CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Dr Gabriel Brennan invites you to join us for the 2024 Certificate in Professional Education which will run in a new blended learning format. The programme will cover theory and knowledge, educational technology, skills and practice and development of the professional self. It will run during April and May 2024. Places are limited so please email Gabriel at g.brennan@lawsociety.ie if you wish to express your interest.

100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN LAW

The Law Society's 2022/23 Annual Report celebrates 100 years of women in law with a picture of 3 generations on its cover. Throughout the past 12 months, the Law Society continued to offer services in a changing profession that support solicitors and future solicitors and work to promote access to justice and law reform. Learn more in this year's report including expanded Facts about the Profession, an infographic of committee and event statistics plus articles on ESG and AML. View the Law Society's website to download the Report.

ABOUT TO QUALIFY?

Congratulations to those of you who will soon be eligible to be admitted to the roll! As you take your next step in your career, wherever or whatever that may be, don't forget to sign up for Law Society membership. Membership is for everyone on the Roll and costs just €20 for the first year. As a member you can access services such as Career and Practice Support, the Library, Law Directory and Gazette. You can run and vote for Council and learn first about key CPD and member events. If a practising member, you can download a logo for your office. Learn more about becoming a member by visiting the Law Society's website or email memberservices@lawsociety.ie.

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Articles for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to: Rebecca Raftery, Editor, The Law School News, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7. E-mail: r.raftery@lawsociety.ie