

DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Finance Law



MODULE 1: FINANCIAL SERVICES MARKET

SESSION 1	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 15 October 2024	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Onsite & online
<p>1 The Financial Services Market in Ireland: An Introduction to the Irish financial services industry including investment funds; insurance/ reinsurance; banking industry; treasury operations and securitisation and governance authorities; litigation. <i>Eoin O'Connor, Managing Partner, Hogan Lovells</i></p> <p>2 Legislative Provisions - An overview of principle EU Treaties and institutions; EU Law and financial services law; sources of Irish Law; Transposition of EU legislation; recent EU Directives; EU Financial Services Action Plan; The Lamfalussy Process. <i>Garret Byrne, BL</i></p> <p>3 The Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman Act 2017: The jurisdiction and powers of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman and method of dealing with complaints. <i>John Darby, Consultant, Flynn O'Driscoll Solicitors Online Release</i></p> <p>3 hrs. Gen. CPD*</p>		

SESSION 2	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 22 October 2024	6:00pm – 8:10pm	Online
<p>1 The Central Bank and Financial Regulation: The role of Central Bank; legislative framework; European legislation; cross-border supervision; regulation of financial entities; codes and guidance; litigation; Central Bank Reform Act 2010. <i>Patrick Ambrose, Head of Legal DLL Ireland</i></p> <p>2 Investment Firms I - The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II); application of MiFID II; authorisation process and exemptions; client classification. <i>Eoin O'Connor, Managing Partner, Hogan Lovells</i></p> <p>3 Investment Firms II - MiFID II litigation and recent case law and Central Bank sanctions examined. <i>Hannah Vero, Associate Solicitor in Financial Regulation, Hogan Lovells</i></p> <p>2 hrs. Gen. CPD</p>		

MODULE 2: INDUSTRY SECTORS

SESSION 3	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 05 November 2024	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Online
<p>1 Investment Funds (1): Irish Funds Industry – An overview of the historical development in the context of the IFSC to date; What is an investment fund – Chief characteristics; How does a fund work; Regulation and Taxation of Funds <i>Lorraine Rooney, General Counsel & Head of Product, Goodbody Fund Management Limited</i></p> <p>2 Investment Funds (2): Fund Legal Structures: Investment Companies; ICAVs; Unit Trusts; Common Contractual Funds; Investment Limited Partnerships and which structure to use? An overview of the Constitutive Documents (Memorandum & Articles, Instrument of Incorporation, Unit Trust Deed, CCF Instrument, Limited Partnership Agreement). <i>Jill Shaw, ESG and Sustainability Lead, A&L Goodbody</i></p> <p>3 Investment Funds (3): Fund Investment Strategies: Asset Classes- an introduction to Equities; Bonds; Index Tracking; Money Market; Fund of Funds; Master/feeder funds; Multi-Manager Funds; Hedge/Private Equity and Derivatives. <i>Mark Browne, Partner, Clerkin Lynch LLP</i></p> <p>3 hrs. Gen. CPD</p>		

DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Finance Law



SESSION 4	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 12 November 2024	6:00pm- 8:00pm	Online
<p>1 Investment Funds (4): UCITS Funds (including organisational issues, eligible assets, investment and borrowing restrictions, remuneration, delegation, depositary, UCITS passport) and AIFs (including organisational issues, asset types, remuneration, valuation, delegation, depositaries, inward and outward marketing of AIFs and key differentiation between UCITS and AIFs). <i>David Naughton, Partner, LK Shields Solicitors (Online Release)</i></p> <p>2 Investment Funds (5): Fund Promoter; Board of Directors of Investment Company or Manager; Management Company (UCITS Management Company/AIFM); Investment Manager Depositary/Custodian/Trustee; Sub-Custodian Network; Fund Administrator. An overview of the roles of Prime Broker; Paying/representative agents; Legal Adviser; Sponsoring Broker (for stock exchange listed companies), amongst other parties. <i>Liam Collins, Partner, Matheson</i></p> <p>3 Investment Funds (6): The Offering Document/Prospectus – Purpose and content of pre-contractual documentation. Key Managerial and Service Provider Documents including Management Agreement, Investment Management Agreement, Administration Agreement, Depositary Agreement and RMP, including a review of the main provisions of these Agreements. Central Bank Authorisation Process for Investment Funds and ongoing regulation. <i>Chris Bergin, Senior Associate, A&L Goodbody</i></p>		

3hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 5	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 19 November 2024	6:00pm – 8:30pm	Onsite
<p>1 Workshop 1: Financial Services Market; MiFID II; Investment Funds. <i>Niall Esler, Partner, Walkers & Eimear Keane, Partner, Walkers</i></p>		

1.5 hrs. Gen. CPD & 1 hr. M&PD*

SESSION 6	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 26 November 2024	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Online
<p>1 Reg-tech: An outline of how Regtech is used for effective compliance in financial institutions, and a look at the changing landscape in light of developments in machine learning, and natural language processing. <i>Christopher Martin, Of Counsel, A&L Goodbody</i></p> <p>2 FinTech; crypto-assets; financial regulation <i>Mark Browne, Partner, Clerkin Lynch LLP</i></p> <p>3 Payment Services: The regulation of payment services and electronic money <i>Eimear O'Brien, Partner, Hogan Lovells</i></p>		

4 hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 7	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 03 December 2024	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Online
<p>1 Insurance (1): An introduction to insurance contracts; prudential regulation; solvency; corporate governance; fitness and probity; conduct of business requirements such as the Consumer Protection Code. <i>Niall Campbell, Consultant, William Fry</i></p> <p>2 Introduction to Pensions Practice and Regulation in Ireland: Contexts for private sector pension provision, tax/revenue approval, application of trust law, Pensions Act and Regulations, IORP Directives, pensions products. <i>Brendan Roche, Solicitor, Head of Legal, The Pensions Authority</i></p> <p>3 Insurance (2): Insurance-related issues in corporate transactions. <i>(online release)</i> <i>Claire Scannell, Solicitor, Matheson</i></p>		

4 hrs. Gen. CPD

DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Finance Law



ASSIGNMENT RELEASE DATE: 03 DECEMBER 2024

MODULE 3: BANKING SECTORS

SESSION 8	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 10 December 2024	2pm	Online release
<p>1 Codes of Practice: Central Bank Regulations and Codes covering consumer protection, SME lending, lending to related parties. <i>William Johnston, Consultant, ByrneWallace</i></p> <p>2 Mortgage Arrears Code/Sale of Non-Performing Loans/Regulation of Transfer of Mortgages. <i>Nora Beausang, Solicitor</i></p> <p>3 Regulation of Banking in Ireland: The role of Central Bank; role of SSM; licensing of deposit takers; banking license; authorisation process; Banking Passport; Supervision; regulatory capital requirements; BRRD; ECB Regulation (<i>online release</i>) <i>Robert Cain, Partner, Arthur Cox</i></p> <p>4 Individual Accountability Framework and SEARS: An Overview of the Central Bank of Ireland (Individual Accountability Framework) Act 2023, the Senior Executive Accountability Regime (SEAR), Conduct Standards; enhancements to the Fitness & Probity (F&P) regime; Amendments to the Administrative Sanctions Procedure (ASP) <i>Mary Ferguson Policy Manager, Governance and Accounting Policy Central Bank of Ireland</i> <i>Mary Roche, Risk, Governance and Accounting Policy Division, Central Bank of Ireland</i></p>		

4 hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 9	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 07 January 2025	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Onsite
<p>1 Workshop 2: Regulation of Banking/Credit Unions/Insurance <i>Patrick Ambrose, Head of Legal DLL Ireland</i></p>		

1hr. Gen. CPD & 1 hr M&PD

MODULE 4: LOAN FINANCING

SESSION 10	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 14 January 2025	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Online
<p>1 Corporate Banking: Wholesale Banking; loan facilities; corporate loan agreements transfer of loan assets; syndicated loans <i>William Johnston, Consultant, ByrneWallace</i></p> <p>2 Banking Documentation: Floating Charges; provisions and implications; Chattel mortgages; real property mortgages; mortgage drafting; corporate debentures; guarantees. <i>Paul McMahon, Solicitor</i></p> <p>3 Sustainable finance: An introduction – Sustainable Finance v Green Finance v Climate Finance; key European regulations and initiatives; developments in Ireland <i>Jill Shaw, ESG and Sustainability Lead, A&L Goodbody</i></p>		

2 hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 11	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 21 January 2025	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Online
<p>1 Lending Transactions: The inter-creditor arrangements; contractual and structural subordination; enforceability of agreements; subordination agreement drafting; priority agreement; ranking of security; CA 2014. <i>Donal O'Donovan, Partner, ByrneWallace</i></p>		

DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Finance Law



2 Loan Market Association (LMA) and documentation: The role of the LMA; syndicated lending; investment grade loans; leveraged loans; LMA leveraged facility agreement; conditions precedent.

Martin O'Neill, Of Counsel, McCann FitzGerald LLP

3 Leveraged Acquisition Finance: The objectives of leveraging; leveraged buyout structures; sources of finance; senior debt in buyouts; mezzanine debt; High Yield Debt; Paid-in-Kind (PIK) Debt; security documentation. **Cathy Grant, Partner, Mason Hayes & Curran (Online Release)**

3 hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 12	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 28 January 2025	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Online

1 Equity Financing: An overview of equity financing for private companies; equity financing for PLCs; equity financing vs. debt financing; structure of private acquisitions; structure of public acquisitions; regulation and documentation

Tara Nestor, Senior Associate, Hogan Lovells

2 Listing and on-going obligations on Euronext Dublin: Euronext Dublin; role of the central bank; regulation of the securities market; EU legislative framework; Euronext Dublin admission process; Euronext Dublin rule books; Euronext Dublin listing rules.

Mark Kennedy, Regulation Manager, Euronext Dublin

3 Insider Dealing and Market Manipulation: The regulated markets; non-regulated markets; insider dealing; penalties and remedies; Market Abuse Directive; market manipulation; disclosure of information; DCC v Fyffes; DPP v Byrne; enforcement; Market Abuse Regulation

Garret Byrne, BL

3 hrs. Gen. CPD

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION DATE: 28 January 2025 – 40%

SESSION 13	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 04 February 2025	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Onsite

1 Workshop 3: Loan Financing

William Johnston, Consultant, ByrneWallace

1 hr. Gen. CPD & 1 hr. M&PD

MODULE 5: CAPITAL MARKETS & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

SESSION 14	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 18 February 2025	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Online

1 Structured Finance and Securitisation: An overview of structured finance; securitization; types of assets; types of securitization; tax considerations; insolvency law and banking law; prospectus law; recent trends.

Eimear Burbridge, Of Counsel, Walkers and Muireann Nic Dhonncha, Of Counsel, Walkers

2 Bond Market: An overview of bond market participants; bond market or banks; ways in which bonds are used; typical terms and conditions; rights of bond holders and what happens in a default scenario.

Patrick Ambrose, Head of Legal DLL Ireland [Online Release](#)

3 Derivatives and International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) documentation: The nature of a derivative, common types of derivatives and reasons to transact them; derivatives markets; common legal issues affecting derivatives; documentation of derivatives (focusing on privately negotiated derivatives and ISDA documentation); ISDA's Irish law governed documentation; derivatives regulation (focusing on EMIR).

Hugh Beattie, Partner, McCann FitzGerald [Online Release](#)

3 hrs. Gen. CPD

DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Finance Law



SESSION 15	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 25 February 2025	4:00pm	Online Release
<p>1 Corporate Governance: An introduction to corporate governance themes; role of directors; codes of conduct; central bank requirements, such as fitness and probity; standards; administrative sanctions; ODCE; case law examples. <i>John Darby, Senior Legal Advisor, PM Group</i></p> <p>2 Power and Authority of Directors: The basis of corporate power; directors' powers; transactions involving directors; lending transactions documentation; directors' duties; Companies Act 2014. <i>John Darby, Senior Legal Advisor, PM Group</i></p> <p>3 Execution of Agreements/Virtual execution/Delivery/Legal Opinions <i>William Johnston, Consultant, ByrneWallace</i></p>		

3 hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 16	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 04 March 2025	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Online
<p>1 Recovery and Restructuring: An overview of workout agreements; workout vs. insolvency; workout process; standstill agreements; restructuring agreements; alternatives to restructuring. <i>John Donald, Partner, Arthur Cox</i></p> <p>2 Money Laundering: framework and rules; risk-based approach; customer due diligence; internal policies and procedures; training requirements; reporting obligations; whistleblowing; offences and penalties. <i>Paula Reid, Partner, A&L Goodbody Online Release</i></p> <p>3 Credit Union Regulation: A sector review; registry of Credit Unions; regulation of Credit Unions; restructuring; fitness and probity. <i>Colm Henry, Senior Policy Specialist RCU Policy Team, Central Bank of Ireland</i></p>		

3 hrs. Gen. CPD

SESSION 17	TIME	DELIVERY
Tuesday 11 March 2025	6:00pm – 8:30pm	Onsite
<p>1 Workshop 4: Exam Prep workshop <i>Lorraine Rooney, General Counsel & Head of Product, Goodbody Fund Management Limited</i></p>		

1.5 hr. Gen. CPD & 1 hr. M&PD

EXAM DATE: April 2025 – 60%

Please note that topics & dates may be subject to change. Draft timetable as of March 2024.

* Gen = General, M&PD = Management and Professional Development, Reg = Regulatory and eLearning = eLearning CPD credits. **CPD Note:** The number of hours of CPD that you may claim in relation to your diploma/certificate course will depend on the way in which you access each of the individual sessions. For further information please visit the course homepage on our website: www.lawsociety.ie/diplomacentre