



DIPLOMA IN LAW

SEPTEMBER 2017





*"I really liked the small class size,
interactive workshops and online
access to watch webcasts of
lectures."*

PAUL O' SHAUGHNESSY

The **Diploma in Law** from the Law Society of Ireland has been created for those seeking a greater knowledge of the law, professionals who would like to gain new skills and, in turn, add value to their current roles, and graduates keen to acquire new expertise and who are thinking of commencing the solicitor qualification.

Start date	Friday 8 September 2017
Duration	Can be taken over one or two years
Fee	€4,400
Delivery method	Blended learning (onsite and online)
Programme leader	John Lunney, solicitor
Email	diplomaw@lawsociety.ie
Website	www.lawsociety.ie/diplomaw

COURSE STRUCTURE

An intensive post graduate diploma spread over eight modules; this course is designed for those who require an introduction to the discipline of law in a number of core areas. This course is unique in that it integrates the academic theory with the practice of law.

Our module tutors are experienced practitioners and are well placed to provide instruction in the various substantive topics of law with the added benefit of being able to relate to the real life practice of law when required.

The Diploma in Law is based on the following module scheme and covers each of the core legal topics as listed below:

SEMESTER 1 (SEPTEMBER – JANUARY)

Module 1: Constitutional Law

Module 2: Criminal Law

Module 3: Contract law

Module 4: Tort

SEMESTER 2 (FEBRUARY – MAY)

Module 5: Company Law

Module 6: EU Law

Module 7: Property Law

Module 8: Equity or Employment Law

HOW TO APPLY

This course is open to non-law graduates from any discipline or suitable non-graduates with a demonstrable level of work experience in the area of law.

To [download an application form](#), view the entry requirements or register to attend our open day on Thursday 4 May 2017, please visit our website: lawsociety.ie/diplomaw or contact John Lunney on 01 8715722 or email diplomaw@lawsociety.ie

"A FIRST CLASS LEARNING EXPERIENCE."

AVRIL MCCRANN,
SPEAKS ABOUT THE DIPLOMA IN LAW

Please give us a brief overview of your background.
I am a social science graduate from University College Dublin.

Why did you decide to do the Diploma in Law?
I wanted to pursue a career in law. I saw the diploma as the perfect opportunity as it offered the core legal subjects.

How have you found the course?
I have found the course enjoyable and engaging. It has given me the knowledge to go on and sit my FE1 exams.

Would you recommend a Diploma Centre course to others?
I would highly recommend a course run by the Diploma Centre to others.



The Hon. Mr Justice Peter Kelly presenting Avril McCrann with her parchment.

MODULE DESCRIPTORS

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL SYSTEMS & THE STUDY OF LAW

This online module acts as a support to students beginning their studies in law. Available for the duration of the course it features online activities, self-assessed quizzes, suggested readings and video content. This online material is supported by a number of follow-up revision sessions and interactive workshops held throughout the course. The aim of the module is to equip students with the necessary skills they need to study law and to approach examinations and assignments with confidence. Topics covered include:

An introduction to the Irish Legal System • Sources of Irish Law • Civil & Criminal Procedure • Remedies • Reading judgments • The legislative process • Introduction to legal writing • How to answer exam questions • Legal research.

SEMESTER 1

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

The Irish Constitution (Bunreacht na hÉireann) is the cornerstone of the Irish legal system. On this module students are introduced to the study of constitutional law and theory and come to understand the Constitution as a living document. With a specific focus on current cases and topical issues students are asked to critically analyse, discuss and apply the principles of Irish Constitutional Law. Topics covered include;

Constitutional Interpretation • Judicial Review • Separation of Powers • The President • The Attorney General • The election and referenda provisions • Enumerated personal rights • Unenumerated personal rights • Socio-economic rights • The Family • The Courts and the administration of justice • The Executive • The Oireachtas • Constitutional justice • Consequences of a declaration of unconstitutionality • The impact of the European Convention of Human Rights Act 2003 on constitutional issues.

CRIMINAL LAW

Criminal law marks out certain conduct as being wrong and condemns or convicts those who engage in such activity. It is an area of public law in which the individual against whom the allegations of criminal activity are made, is prosecuted by the State in the name of the people and if convicted, will be subject to court-imposed sanctions which are prescribed by law and enforced.

Led by experienced criminal practitioners this module covers five broad headings of criminal law:

1. Principles of Criminal Law
2. Criminal Procedure
3. Offences against the Person
4. Offences against Property
5. Defences.

Students also have the opportunity to engage with the practice of criminal law through an interactive and engaging mock court skills session.

CONTRACT LAW

Many contractual relationships are entered into on a daily basis even where one has not considered it. For example a legally binding contract exists when buying a train ticket or newspaper.

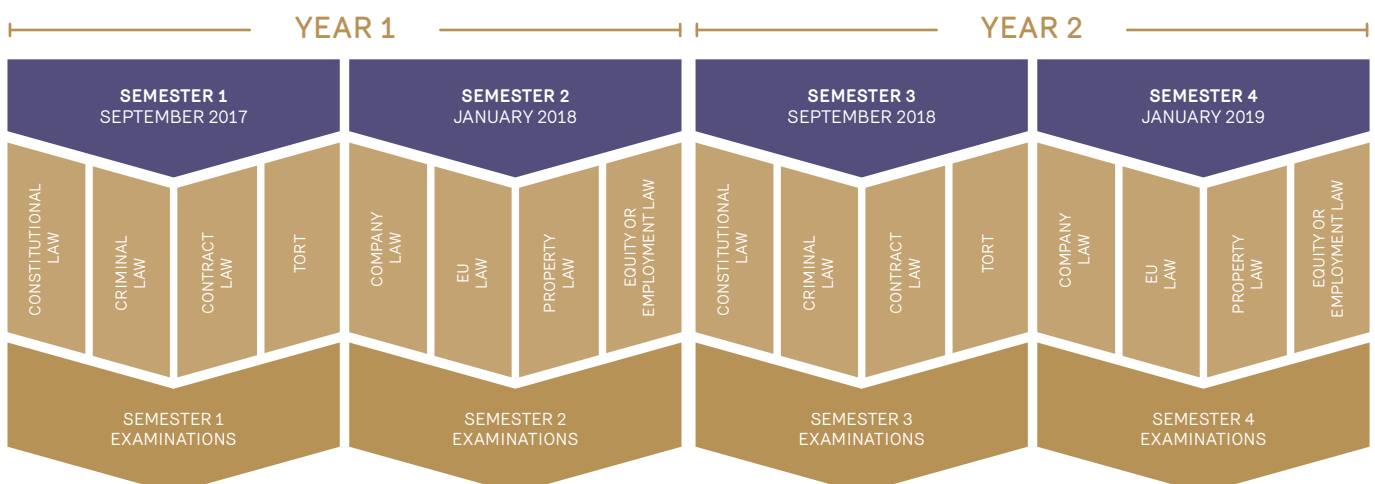
This module reviews the elements which make up a legally enforceable contract and considers available statutory protections. The breakdown of a contract is examined and students learn how a contract can be breached if one or more of the parties involved do not fulfill their part of the agreement.

Resolving broken contracts in the form of claiming damages and other potential remedies are also addressed. In addition students have the opportunity to practice the lawyering skills of contract negotiation and drafting contracts in the modules skills session.

PATH FOR TWO YEAR PROGRAM

Many participants opt to take the course over 2 years.

Participants choose two electives per semester and complete the course across two academic years.



TORT

Tort is a civil wrong which deals primarily with private disputes between individuals. A tort has also been described as a civil wrong which causes someone to suffer loss resulting in legal liability for the person who commits the tortious act.

The module covers three sections;

1. Analysis of the development of the key principles which have developed through case law. Topics include: The Nature and Function of the Law of Tort; Causation; Negligence.
2. The principal causes of action that come before the courts including: Occupiers' liability; Employers' liability; Vicarious Liability; Non-delegable duties; Trespass to the Person and Trespass to Land; Statutory Duties and Rights; Defamation; Nuisance (both public and private); The Rule in *Rylands v. Fletcher*.
3. Damages, Defences & Limitation of actions

SEMESTER 2

COMPANY LAW

The Companies Act 2014 was the largest piece of legislation ever introduced in the state. Essentially a consolidation of Irish companies' legislation, the Act also introduced a number of innovations.

In this module students will come to understand the principles and rules of Company Law in Ireland as now governed by the 2014 Act under the following headings:

• Types of Companies and Business Organisations • Formation and Registration • Incorporation and its Consequences • Lifting the Veil • Corporate Contracts • Authority of Corporate Agents and Capacity of Companies • Corporate Governance • Members' and Directors' Meetings • Duties of Directors and Others • Statutory Regulation of Transactions involving Directors and Companies • Accounts, Investigations and Inspectors • Debentures, Charges and their registration • Receivers • Examinerships and Schemes of Arrangement • Winding up.

EU LAW

The EU law module considers the constitutional foundations of the European Union and traces the development of EU law through the case-law of the community judicature. The opening section of the module covers the institutions of the European Union and their role, before addressing the fundamental principles of EU Law such as direct effect, indirect effect and supremacy. The module then examines the "four freedoms" which underpin the single market concept before concluding with an introduction to EU Competition law.

At all times there is a particular focus on topical issues in this area and the critical analysis of important decisions of the European Court of Justice. In addition a skills session specifically prepares students to engage with European treaties and legislation when answering problem questions.

PROPERTY

Beginning with an exploration of the historical background and evolution of Irish property law, this module looks at the various forms of interest available in real property (land and buildings as distinct from intellectual property or personal possessions).

The grounding doctrine of "the estate" is introduced and the various types of interests in land that can be held are considered in detail. Students learn how these interests may be transferred to other parties and the problems that may arise. A number of discrete and interesting topics are also covered including:

Landlord and tenant; Co-ownership; Mortgages; The Family Home; Succession Law; An Introduction to Trusts.

The module also features an innovative and interactive skills session critically analysing recent case law in the area.

Students can choose between Equity and Employment Law as their final elective.

EQUITY

Equity originally developed as a body of principles which evolved with the aim of mitigating the severity of the rules of common law. The word equity means fairness or justice and that is certainly where the use of the term derives from, however the term has developed a separate legal meaning in modern times and this module examines in detail the history, doctrines and remedies of the modern law of Equity and Trusts. Topics covered include:

Nature, History and Development of Equity; Maxims of Equity, Equitable Interests and the Doctrine of Notice; Specific Performance; Rectification and Rescission; Injunctions; Equitable Estoppel; Undue Influence; Nature and Classification of Trusts; Constitution of Trusts; Administration of Trusts; Secret and half-secret Trusts; Constructive Trusts; Resulting Trusts; Purpose and Charitable Trusts.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Employment Law governs the relationship between employer and employee and is based on a contract of employment. This module studies the contract of employment in detail from the drafting stage to termination and conflicts that may arise during this relationship. The statutory rights which workers are entitled to under relevant legislation are also considered in detail along with an in-depth analysis of the *Workplace Relations Act 2015* which was recently introduced with the aim of simplifying and streamlining the process of seeking redress in employment matters. There will be a problem-based focus to this module with practical scenarios and case studies used to enhance the learning experience.

ASSESSMENT

All modules are assessed by written exam, held at the end of each semester. Semester 1 examinations take place in January and Semester 2 examinations are held in June. Students are allowed to bring unmarked copies of permitted legislative sources into the exam in a number of modules. Continuous Assessment applies on the opening two modules of each semester where a written assignment accounts for 25% of the available marks.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

The Law Society of Ireland is the educational, representative and regulatory body of the solicitors' profession in Ireland. It exercises statutory functions under the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2008 in relation to the education, admission, enrolment, discipline and regulation of the solicitors' profession.

THE DIPLOMA CENTRE

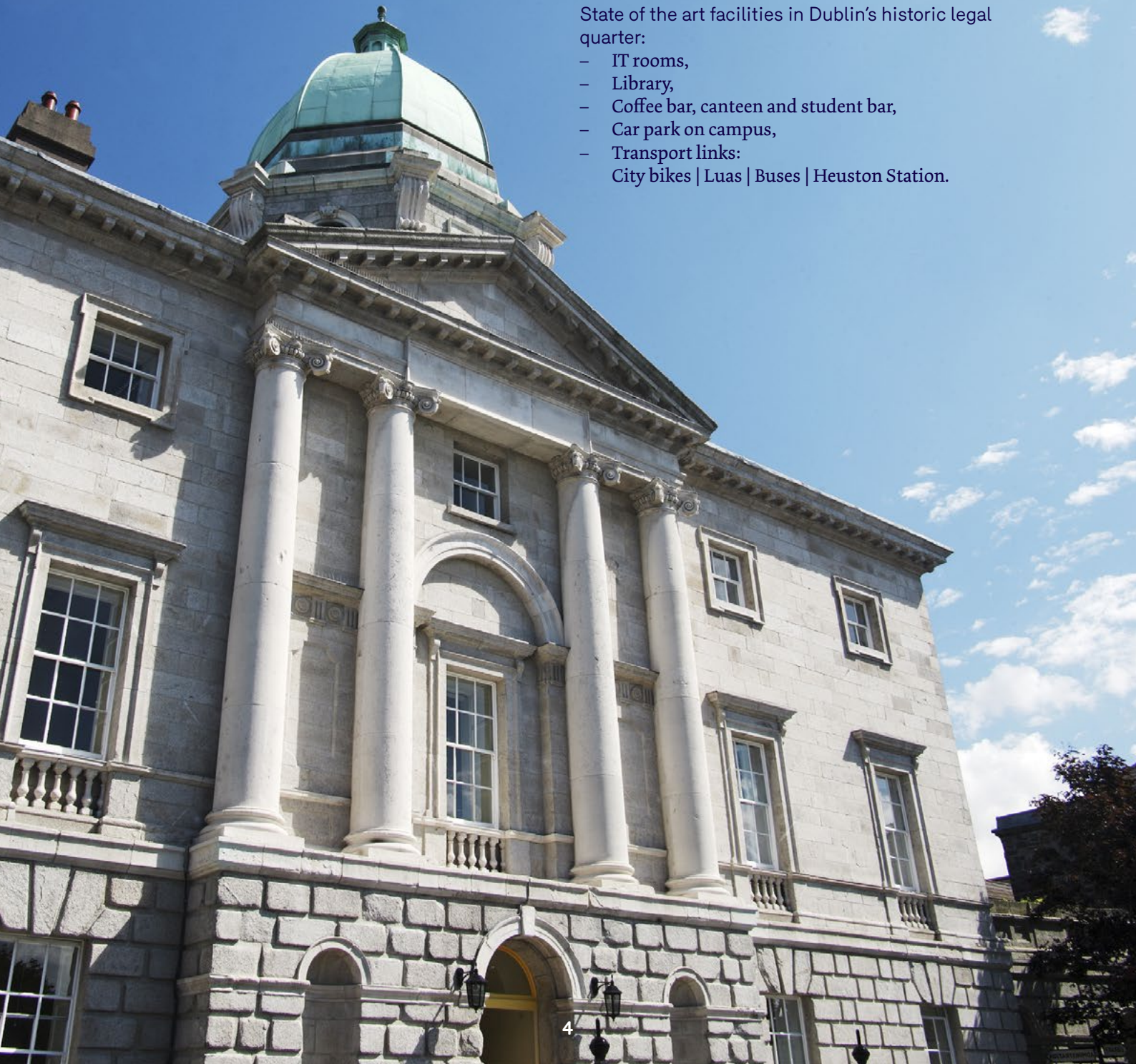
The Law Society Education Department is the leading provider of continuing training and education for solicitors in Ireland. The Diploma Centre provides postgraduate courses which are open to solicitors, trainees and barristers with a number of our courses welcoming suitably qualified professionals. We aim to provide a rewarding, high quality learning experience, offering value and a high level of friendly, efficient customer service.

Our learning approach: onsite, online or on the move

- Access all lectures from home or work via webcast,
- Download lectures via our app to watch later offline,
- Participate in workshops to consolidate learning with experienced tutors to guide you,
- Participate in Mooting,
- Access to Legal Seminars,
- Access to Law Society library, and
- A high calibre of lecturers and tutors.

State of the art facilities in Dublin's historic legal quarter:

- IT rooms,
- Library,
- Coffee bar, canteen and student bar,
- Car park on campus,
- Transport links:
City bikes | Luas | Buses | Heuston Station.





FACULTY

Lecturers consist of experienced practitioners with in-depth knowledge of the impact of recent case law and legislative developments.

COURSE TUTORS INCLUDE:

Dr Gabriel Brennan, Solicitor, Law Society of Ireland
Anna Broderick, Partner, Eversheds
Damien Coffey, Solicitor
Tom Conlon, Solicitor, DPP Ireland
Claire Cummins, BL

Victoria Cummins, BL
Ciara Fitzgerald BL
Claire Hogan, BL
Lynda Lenehan, Solicitor, Bambury & Co
Cormac Little, Partner, William Fry
Hon. Judge (retired) Patrick McMahon
Paula Mullooly, Solicitor, A&L Goodbody
Cormac O Culain, Public Affairs Executive,
Law Society of Ireland
Nora O'Mahony, Solicitor
Joe Thomas, Partner, O Reilly Thomas



DR GABRIEL BRENNAN,
Solicitor, Law Society of Ireland,
Lead Tutor, Diploma in Law
Dr. Gabriel Brennan has been involved
in the provision of legal education for
over seventeen years. Gabriel qualified
as a solicitor in 1996 and practiced

with Abercorn Solicitors before joining the Law Society's Law School as a Course Manager with responsibility for the design and delivery of numerous property and skills related courses. She has been a member of the Law Society Conveyancing Committee since 1997 and is a member of the Property Registration Authority eRegistration Project Board.

She is also a member of the Society's eConveyancing Task Force and acts as Senior Advisor to the eConveyancing Project. Gabriel has written and edited numerous course texts and published many articles. She is author of *Ground Rents: A Practitioner's Guide* published by Thomson Round Hall and *The Impact of eConveyancing on Title Registration*; *A Risk Assessment* published by Springer International.



ANNA BRODERICK,
Partner, Eversheds,
Guest lecturer, Diploma in Law
Anna is a partner in Eversheds employment team. She has been with the firm for 10 years, focusing on employment law and data protection including freedom of information. Anna has built up substantial experience of advisory and contentious HR and data protection issues.

She works with senior management and HR clients to advice on all aspects of employment law throughout the employment relationship. She also works with clients on equality, industrial relations and health and safety issues in both the public and private sector.

Anna provides tailored employment law training to clients both in Ireland and the UK and regularly lectures for the Law Society of Ireland.

"I THOUGHT THE DIPLOMA IN LAW WAS AN EXCELLENT COURSE; I FOUND THE COURSE CONTENT AND LECTURERS TO BE VERY INTERESTING AND DIVERSE."

MARY KEEVANS,
SPEAKS ABOUT THE DIPLOMA IN LAW

Please give us a brief overview of your background.
I work as a Chief Nurse Officer in the Irish Prison Service, where I manage the delivery of healthcare for persons deprived of their liberty.

Why did you decide to do the Diploma in Law?
I wanted a firm knowledge of the law to develop my professional competencies; especially regarding human and constitutional rights, medical ethics and clinical risk management.

How have you found the course?
I found the Diploma in Law enhanced my personal and professional development tremendously. It proved to be a wise choice of many alternatives.

Would you recommend a Diploma Centre course to others?
I would highly recommend a Law Society Diploma course to anyone interested in enhancing their personal and professional development.



Hon. Mr Justice Peter Kelly presenting Mary KeEVans with her parchment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Diploma Centre, Law Society of Ireland,
Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.
01 672 4802
www.lawsociety.ie/diplomalaw
diplomawal@lawsociety.ie

**SHORTLISTED FOR BEST NEW COURSE
AWARD – POSTGRADIRELAND
Postgraduate Course of the Year
Awards 2016**

Please note that the Law Society of Ireland's Diploma Centre reserves the right to change or modify the course that may be offered and course price may be subject to change.

