



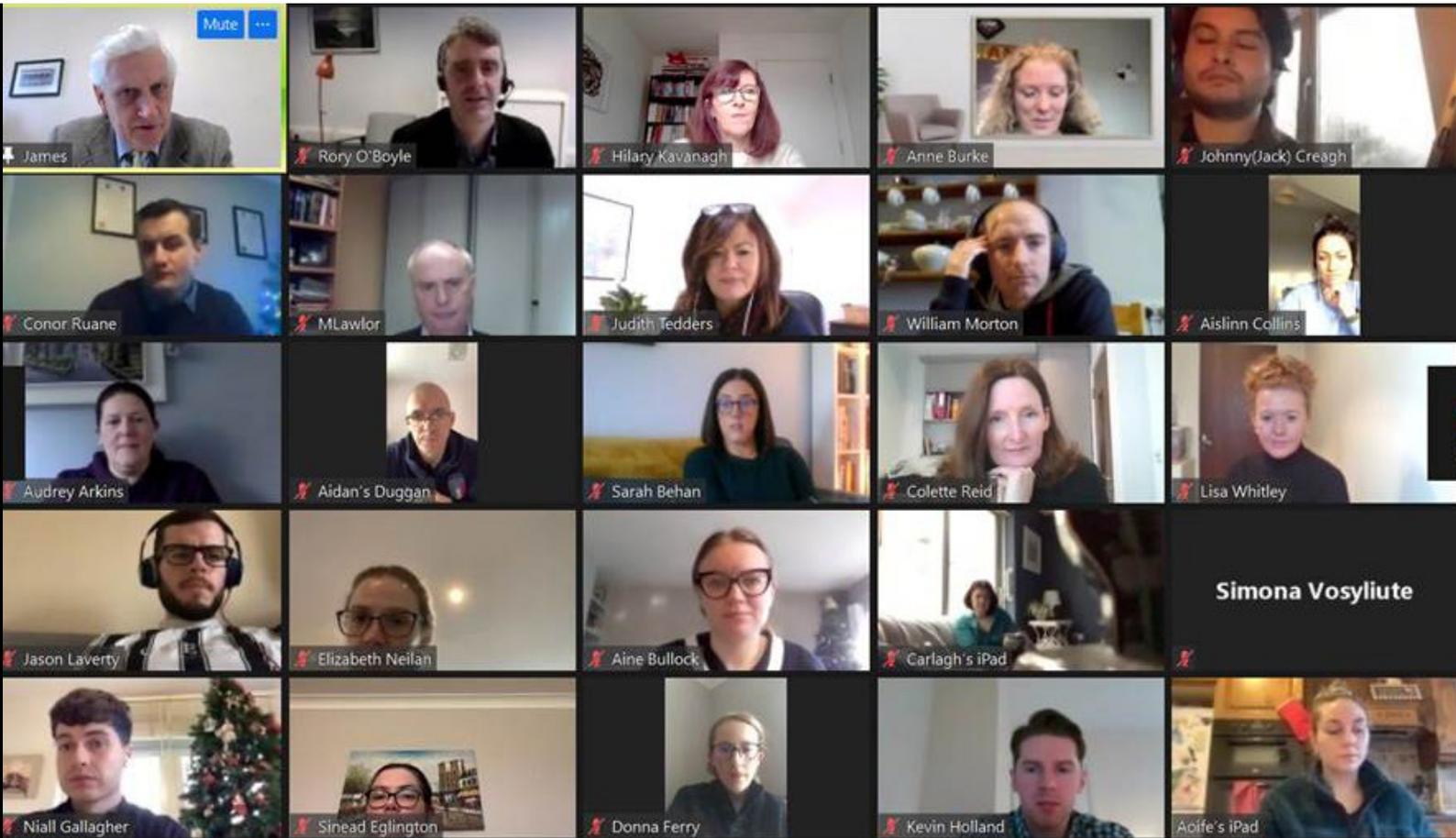
LAW SCHOOL NEWS

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A NEW WAVE OF TRAINEE SOLICITORS

55 new trainee solicitors have started their journey to qualification in the second iteration of our PPC Hybrid.

The trainees' induction weekend took place virtually and got off to a terrific start with Law Society President James Cahill warmly welcoming the trainees to the Law School.

"For the majority of you, you are not full time students and have many other responsibilities, you're absolutely brilliant that you've



James Cahill

decided to take on this extra challenge in life and I know it will pay off for all of you. Well done and welcome."

One of the most exciting aspects about the PPC Hybrid is the diversity of our trainee profile. Of the 55 new trainees, 73% are female and 45% are above the age of thirty. 33% of their traineeships are located outside of Dublin with 13% in an In-House setting.

PPC Hybrid Course Manager Rory O Boyle explained:

"There is a 20% increase in trainee numbers on this second offering of the Hybrid's PPC I which

perhaps is reflective of the fact that the flexible structure of the course is attractive to employers in these uncertain times"

"It's great to see the trainees embracing the Law School experience with many volunteering through various organisations and the Law School's Clubs and Society's. Congratulations to Johnny Creagh on his appointment as Student Representative and to India Dawson and Aine Bullock for their appointment to the PPC Social Committee."



Rory O Boyle

WELCOMING TY STUDENTS: SOLICITORS OF THE FUTURE

Transition year students from across Ireland joined our online campus in February to participate in the annual Solicitors of the Future programme hosted by the Diploma Centre.

Over the course of a week, TY students learned about the law and the route to becoming a solicitor in a fun and collaborative way. Students tuned in daily to explore legal topics including Human Rights, Employment Law and Criminal Law through workshops, interactive sessions and a mock court.

Tracing the path to law students heard from an impressive array of both solicitors



and barristers, including retired Judge Patrick McMahon. PPC I trainee solicitors and Law School Ambassadors also joined the programme to facilitate lively online sessions and share their insights on the

many routes to qualification.

The programme closed with a celebratory ceremony with students being awarded Solicitors of the Future Certificates.

DELIVERING EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS THROUGH ZOOM



An effective presentation has the power to influence, inspire and impress, but does it work online? This was the challenge faced on the 2020 PPC I as we adapted to the pandemic explains Course Manager Colette Reid.

Presentation Skills training, a popular module on PPC I, commenced with a socially distanced onsite workshop in line with Covid-19 guidelines but it was a short-lived reprieve and one week later skills training moved to Zoom.

Lockdown provided an opportunity to explore online modes of presentation. It also mirrored the experience of the profession as meetings, negotiations and hearings went remote.

Presenting through an online medium, such as Zoom, comes with its own challenges. How do we connect with our audience when so many of the physical cues we rely on in person are missing? It is important to put some thought in to your set up. You might have a great speech prepared but it will count for little if all the audience can see is your nostrils!

1. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

Finding a suitable spot can be challenging, particularly when working from home. It needs to be quiet and interruption free. Avoid busy backgrounds. Windows can create unwanted reflections. A plain wall is good and reasonably tight framing on screen will help.

Maintaining privacy is important. Check your image on screen. Are there personal items or photos visible?

Virtual backgrounds and filters can be useful but they do not always provide stable coverage and can go awry - we've all seen the "kitten lawyer"!

2. LIGHTING

Aim for soft, indirect light - a lamp placed behind your device can help diffuse the light

and show you at your best. Avoid very bright and changing light from windows. Strong lighting behind the presenter can create a silhouette effect.

3. KNOW YOUR ANGLES.

I have seen chopped heads, no heads and giant fingers as people fail to set up their device at a suitable height and distance. Face your device and aim to fill most of the screen with your head and shoulders with some space on top and at the sides.

Bear in mind the position of your camera. It should be at or slightly above eye level and ensure the device is stable. It is hard to be convincing when you are constantly adjusting your device.

4. THE RIGHT DEVICE

Familiarity with the device you are using is important. A phone is not ideal due to its limitations. Always log-in early. It is not unusual to be delayed by unexpected App updates. If you plan to screen-share a document, open it on your device in advance and close everything else.

Finally, do not forget your audience. They might be small rectangles on gallery view or invisible except through the list of "participants", but you need to connect with them. Look at the screen and camera and speak with energy and enthusiasm with varied pace and intonation.

TRAINEES STRIKE GOLD

LAW SOCIETY TEAM WINS STETSON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Ruth Cormican, Alysha Hoare & Mairead Hughes



The 25th Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition was held online from 25th-27th March 2021. We - Ruth Cormican, Alysha Hoare and Mairead Hughes - were the three members of the Law Society team, supported and guided throughout by our coach T P Kennedy. We decided to try out for the team due to our interest in international environmental law and to develop our advocacy skills.

Once selected for the team, we hit the ground running to prepare our written submissions, which were due in mid-November 2020. This involved a lot of late nights researching international treaties, wind farm construction practices and bat migratory patterns!

With our written memorial finalised and submitted, the next stage was to prepare for oral arguments. Over several months, we had regular training sessions via Zoom to practice delivering our arguments. Throughout this process, Law Society faculty and previous years' teams assisted us by reviewing our written submissions, listening to our oral arguments, and offering their advice and feedback. Finally, the first day of the competition arrived: held remotely for the second year running due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Ruth

Key to our success was the generosity of our guest judges, who volunteered to spend their evenings in the run-up to the competition helping us to prepare for oral arguments. For me, the biggest challenge was learning how to respond fully to judges' questions, while also managing my limited speaking time and keeping an overall structure. The fact that so many members of previous years' teams came back as guest judges meant that we encountered many different perspectives on the moot problem. They were able to hone in on the smallest weaknesses in our arguments, while also ensuring that we never lost sight of the "big picture". I spent days after several of our practice sessions doing further research and restructuring my arguments based on their feedback. All of this meant that, by the time we reached the competition, we knew



the moot problem inside-out and were ready for any question the judges could throw at us.

I particularly benefited from all the advice we received since I was the swing speaker on our team, speaking for both the applicant and the respondent in relation to the second issue in the problem. This meant that in our practice sessions I was always arguing against myself, and if it had not been for the input of our guest judges, I would certainly have lost sight of the alternative perspectives and arguments. After all the months of preparation, I was honoured to receive the award for Best Oralist in the Preliminary Rounds at the competition.

Mairead

The preliminary rounds began on the evening of the 25th of March, where all teams had to prepare and plead both sides of the case. We were assigned to plead for the respondent for three out of the four rounds, and faced stiff competition from Mexico, Brazil, India and Singapore. Logical and well-constructed presentations, ability to answer the judges' many questions, knowledge of the facts and the law and overall persuasiveness of argument were some of the criteria that had to be met by the teams.

Competing in the international finals of Stetson within the walls of our own homes was a novel experience, but it was easy to forget your familiar surroundings once the rounds commenced. The anticipation and intensity that generally comes with an oral round was not lost. However, one of the significant positives of an in-person round is that you never have to worry about your internet failing midway through your argument, a problem I encountered in the fourth round. However, the patience and understanding of the judges was a testament to the good spirited nature of the Stetson competition. After the fourth round concluded, we were thrilled to hear that we had progressed to the Quarter-Finals.

Alysha

The third and concluding day of the International Finals got off to a flying start. In what was referred to as the 'All-Ireland' Quarter-Final, the University of Notre Dame (USA), 'the Fighting Irish' faced the Law Society of Ireland. After a thrilling and tense match, the Law Society advanced to the Semi-Finals. Four teams remained, three of whom representing India. The Semi-Final



was another epic match, with rivalry and comradery in equal measure. Team Ireland progressed to the Championship Round. At this point in the day I was delighted, everything we had worked for since September had built up to this moment. I viewed it as an incredible opportunity to showcase all that we had learned. The judges in the Championship Round were leading experts in their fields - Dr. Wil Burns, Amy Fraenkel, Dr. Rodrigo Medellín, and David A. Wirth. I was the opening speaker in the Championship Round and in my speech, I highlighted the necessity of reconciling international law obligations in a manner which fosters cooperation among varying regimes. It was an incredible privilege to appear before such an esteemed panel. I was honoured to be awarded Best Oralist in the Championship Round.

Participating in the Stetson International Environmental Moot was a highlight of my PPC1 year. I have enjoyed working alongside a truly dedicated team and building a network of colleagues from across the world.

Conclusion

The Law Society team were named as winners of the 25th Stetson International Environmental Moot and awarded Best Memorial for written arguments. We could never have achieved this without the support and encouragement of our coach T P Kennedy, who acted as a steady anchor throughout the competition. Our achievement is a reflection of his tireless help and guidance in preparing for the competition. This dedication and hard work steered the Law Society team's success in the competition. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Geoffrey Shannon and Dr. Rachael Hession, who acted as guest judges at the beginning of our practice oral rounds.

Our road to success relied not only upon T P's dedication, but also the contributions of previous competitors, who made themselves available to act as guest judges' week in week out. The insight and experience they shared proved to be invaluable preparation for the competition and we are most grateful for their time and feedback.

Finally, we would like to thank the staff of the Law Society of Ireland for their encouragement and support, without which this achievement would not have been possible.

TRAINEES STRIKE GOLD (Continued)

Over the years our trainee solicitors have excelled in legal competitions around the world. The pandemic has not halted their enthusiasm for taking part. Best wishes to all teams and individuals competing online over the coming months. Congratulations to all our dedicated coaches.

ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION



Congratulations to Mairead Hughes (A&L Goodbody), Alysha Hoare (McCann FitzGerald), Ruth Cormican (MacGuill & Co), and coach TP Kennedy, who triumphed over several days and nights of virtual competition. Alysha Hoare and Ruth Cormican were named as best advocate in the final and preliminary rounds respectively, while the team also won best the written argument award.

DOUBLE WIN AT BROWN MOSTEN INTERNATIONAL CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION



Congratulations to Naoise Anderson (MacCarthy & Associates), Sarah Linehan (A&L Goodbody), Aisling Ward (Dechert), James Leahy (Ronan Daly Jermyn) and Dr Rachael Hession on a double win at the 2021 International Client Counselling Competition.

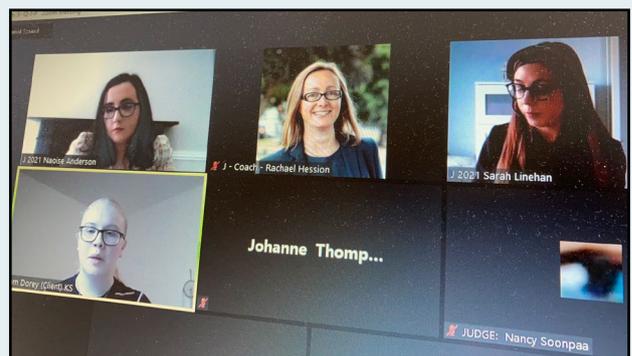
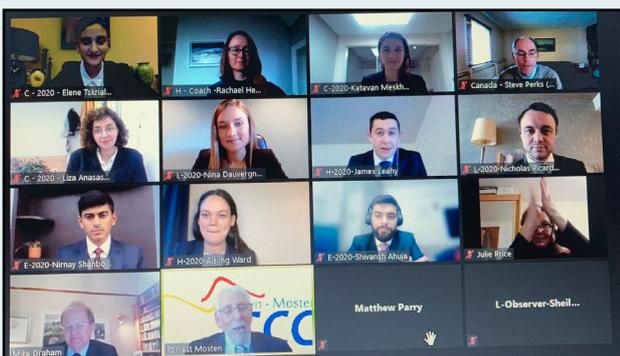
The Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition (ICCC) is an annual competition for the winners of national competitions across the world. It provides an exciting opportunity for law students to learn and practice interviewing and counselling skills. Over



the last ten years, law students from 33 countries have taken part. This year's ICCC was held online and hosted by Swansea University. Both the Law Society 2020 (the 2020 competition had been postponed due to Covid-19) and 2021 teams took part and won the competition.

Our 2020 team members are: Aisling Ward (Dechert) and James Leahy (Ronan Daly Jermyn).

Our 2021 team members are: Naoise Anderson (MacCarthy & Associates) and Sarah Linehan (A&L Goodbody). Coached by Dr Rachael Hession.



TRAINEES STRIKE GOLD (Continued)

MONROE E PRICE MEDIA LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION



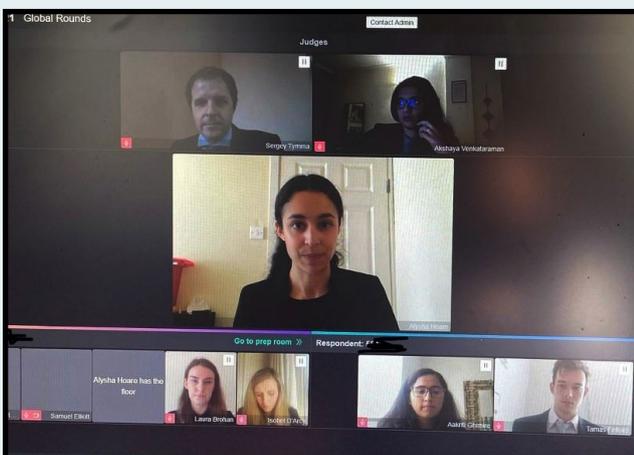
Congratulations and best of luck to Rebecca McKittrick (A&L Goodbody), Laura Dunne (Arthur Cox), Shay Buckley (Arthur Cox) and Conor Forde (William Fry) in the Monroe E Price Media Law Moot Court Competition. Not only have they placed in the International Global Rounds but they won the Northern Europe Regional Rounds. A first for the Law Society and in fact Ireland. The team are currently competing in the Preliminaries (for the advanced rounds).

TELDERS INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION



Congratulations to Daire O'Herlihy (Eversheds), Aedin McHugh (Arthur Cox), Mollie Barlow (Matheson) and Lauren Lynch (Arthur Cox) who are representing the Law Society in the Telders International Moot Court online competition this June. Coached by Claire O'Mahony.

PHILIP C. JESSUP INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION



Congratulations to the Law Society's 2021 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition team who competed in the first ever joint National UK and Irish Jessup Rounds.

The team, Alysha Hoare (McCann FitzGerald), Laura Brohan (Dillon Eustace), Isobel d'Arcy (Arthur Cox), Samuel Elliot ((Matheson) and Diarmuid O'Huallachain (McCann FitzGerald) won as Irish champions at the competition and ranked 6th overall, with Samuel Elliot and Isobel d'Arcy ranking in the Top 25.

The team are now representing Ireland in the International Rounds which commenced on 13 March and will run through until 17 April. This year is the largest ever Jessup competition, with over 600 teams participating worldwide. Coached by Deirdre Potenz (McCann FitzGerald).

TRAINEES STRIKE GOLD (Continued)

INADR INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION



Congratulations to Caitriona Fitzpatrick (Rolleston McElwee Solicitors), Ciara O'Dea-Forde (Partners at Law Solicitors) and Jamie Gillen (BHSM) on their success at the online tournament which featured 40 teams from Law Schools around the globe.

After 5 rounds they made the podium and placed 3rd overall at the INADR International Mediation competition. Coached by John Lunney.

IRISH TIMES DEBATE



Mikhaela O'Shaughnessy



Daire McMullin



Darragh Murray



Jack Heron



Lulu Trainor



Nina Jayne Carroll



Aoife Brady

Thirty-one trainee solicitors took on the challenge to compete in the Irish Times Debate representing the Solicitors Apprenticeship Debating Society of Ireland [SADS]. The Irish Times Debate is a prestigious national debating championship for third level students.

In light of coronavirus restrictions, all debates had to be adapted and are now being held via Zoom which is certainly new territory for all involved. The Irish Times organizers as well as our own trainee, Anna Nichols (Matheson) have worked tirelessly to ensure that debates are run smoothly and efficiently for everyone. They have also held various

virtual workshops to discuss style, rhetoric and humour with students and how to adapt those skills in their debates.

We are delighted to see a number of our trainees progressing into the national semi-finals later this month. Progressing as teams include Aoife Brady (A&L Goodbody) and Mikhaela O'Shaughnessy (Holmes O' Malley Sexton) as well as Nina Jayne Carroll (Matheson) and Jack Heron (Matheson). Progressing as individuals are Daire McMullin (Arthur Cox), Lulu Trainor (William Fry) and Darragh Murray (McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors).

LEX INFINITUM 2021



V.M. Salgaocar College of Law in Goa, India hosts the Lex Infinitem 2021: International Dispute Resolution Competition each year. Due to the current pandemic this year's event was held online through zoom.

Prior to the competition students are registered as either negotiators or mediators. The negotiating teams are pitted against one another while a mediator then seeks to facilitate mediation between the parties. Law Schools from India, Singapore, Russia, USA, UK, Brazil, Poland, Belgium and Nigeria were represented.

Following training in alternative dispute resolution, James Leahy (Ronan Daly Jermyn), Jamie Gillen (BHSM) and Aoife Keane (Property Registration Authority) went on to represent Ireland.

The competition was judged by accredited mediators and trained ADR experts from around the world which provided students a wonderful opportunity to benefit from the experience of such professionals. Coached by John Lunney.

FIRST ONLINE 'FIND YOUR TRAINING CONTRACT' SEMINAR



Ian Ryan

Over 300 students from across Ireland joined our first online 'Find Your Training Contract' Seminar which launched in March.



Órlaith Meaney



Dr Sonja Heppner



Aoife Brady



Gavin Murray

Traineeship Executive Ian Ryan welcomed students to the event which focused on the current market place and how to effectively source and secure a training contract. Throughout the day students participated in CV and Cover Letter workshops. Trainee solicitors

Aoife Brady (A&L Goodbody), Gavin Murray (Dillon Eustace), Órlaith Meaney (MKS) and Dr Sonja Heppner (William Fry) hosted interactive sessions sharing their experiences on how they secured their training contracts.

LEARN HOW TO NETWORK

By Keith O'Malley, Head of Career Support at Law Society of Ireland



Keith O'Malley

Whenever you come across an effective solicitor during your training period, observe how they work. Try to identify their related abilities. Consider how they approach tasks.

Almost certainly, you will find that the person is a skilled networker and that they use networking as a pivotal part of how they operate. Networking is a key skill to utilise in many jobs but it is especially critical in the solicitor profession.

Clients contact solicitors regarding problems. The solicitor contacts others investigating a solution. Solicitors regularly need to identify and engage experts. Solicitors are continually engaged in negotiating wide-ranging matters. Most solicitors use networking to progress activities like all the ones just outlined. There is a strong co-relation between networking effectiveness and capability among solicitors.

Trainee solicitors are well advised to learn how to network effectively and to start practising and honing this skill. If you don't know where to start, there is an excellent 15-minute video in which Herminia Ibarra outlines the basics of good networking and how to become more effective at it. A link to this video is available at the end of this article. Ibarra starts by explaining why you need

to set out to network in a deliberate and disciplined manner. A casual approach will result in you just linking up with people who are very similar to you. Ibarra explains the benefits of linking up with people who have different interests to you, different views and different personal connections. She refers to this as the 'strength in weak ties'.

There are three types of networks according to Ibarra – operational networks, personal networks and strategic networks. Strategic networks are what we use to be effective at work and Ibarra argues that we need to keep these broad, connected and dynamic.

Gender impacts on networking and Ibarra notes that women generally start off at a disadvantage, compared to men. She outlines typical networking challenges facing women and suggests ways to counter these. Ibarra concludes with general advice about how anyone can get skilled at networking.



The video can be viewed on YouTube at: [Building Effective Networks by Herminia Ibarra](#).

THE ONLINE CONNECTION

PPC SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This year's PPC I Social Committee have designed and hosted a suite of fun and creative online events which provided trainees the opportunity to connect with their peers and take some much-needed time away from the demands of an intensive training course. Popular events included a paint-along with icon artist Bob Ross, a cook-along with Ciara's Kitchen and a virtual cocktail making class.



PPC Connect Social Committee: Felim O'Maolmhana, Emma Cooper, Marianne McCafferty, Greg Flynn, Nina Carroll, Aoife Nolan, Edel Forde, Grace Ryan, Caroline Holland, Cathal Byrne and David McGinley.

VITALITY DASH



40 trainees came together virtually to complete this 100km in a month walking challenge within their 5km radius and raise funds for the Jack & Jill Children's Foundation. This beautiful photo was captured by trainee Ciara Murphy during the challenge.

NEWS FROM CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



BOOK CLUB

Coordinators: Niamh Gallagher, Caoimhe Grogan, Hannah Judge.

As PPC I moved online, so did the book worms. Book club allowed trainees to catch up with others, discuss some great book recommendations and to delve into the book of the month. Book Club kicked-off with 'The Dutch House by Ann Patchett' which was followed by 'Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie' in honour of Black History Month in October. In the New Year, and in the spirit of new beginnings, the club read 'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman'.



CODING CLUB

Coordinator: Sarah McCarthy.

The Law School's first trainee Coding Club was formed by Sarah McCarthy and has been run virtually through collaborative Zoom sessions with Neota Logic Inc.

Neota are leaders in the field of legal automation, working with the top law firms such as White & Case and Allen & Overy, and universities including Cornell Law School and Georgetown University.

Trainees were taught core programming skills using Neota's no-code software and worked to build automated legal applications to generate solutions previously requiring professional advice. This software provides a suite of tools to rapidly build digital solutions that automate any aspect of legal services, focusing on

programming skills rather than one specific coding language.



INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AFFAIRS SOCIETY

Coordinators: Ciara O'Leary & Phil Crowe.

The International Law and Affairs society hosted several virtual events aimed at bringing together trainees who share an interest in international law and current affairs. Trainees were treated to a suite of 'Blackhall Briefings' where guest experts shared insights on a range of issues, from the future of the Republican Party to Ireland's changing position in international politics. Highlights included hearing from Deputy Neale Richmond on Ireland's sometimes competing relationships with the EU and US, and from Irish Times journalist Naomi O'Leary on the changing balance of power in the EU in light of leadership changes at the member state level.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SOCIETY

Coordinator: Mareike Zackariat.

The PPC I cohort includes many International students, who are now living in Ireland and training to become solicitors. The International Students Society was set up to bring them together and facilitate discourse on life in Ireland, Irish culture and, of course, the Irish language, which we all had to battle with. Coordinator: Mareike Zackariat set up 'Culture

nights'. Here, trainees would meet over zoom, to introduce their different backgrounds, cook exciting dishes (apart but together) and, ultimately, eat the delicious results.



POUND FITNESS:

Coordinator: Jasmine Feehan.

Pound Fitness classes were provided by Jasmine who generously devoted her time and efforts every week. It provided a great escape for trainees who were adjusting to online classes and thrived as a result.



YOGA CLUB

Coordinator: Ellen Maguire

Yoga Club fostered a sense of community and for an hour twice weekly provided trainees with the opportunity to focus on something other than studies and Covid.

The yoga club ran with Hanna Botelho from HBK Yoga on Mondays and Thursday. Hanna focused mostly on Hatha yoga with an emphasis on breath work which was perfect for de-stressing in the evening, especially as trainees moved into exam focus.



ZUMBA CLASSES

Coordinator: Nina Jayne Carroll.

Trainees took part in weekly classes taught by Geoff Lynam and Dave Kelly. Zumba provided a much needed break for those who participated on the busy run up to the March exams.

THE ONLINE CONNECTION

STUDENT SELF-CARE SERIES FOR MIND, BODY AND SOUL.

Our Psychological Services team and Law School Ambassadors have collaborated on a new four-week Student Self-care Series which is designed to help trainees unlock the key components to life's happiness and success.

Each expert-led session, hosted by our Ambassadors explores a different theme and aims to teach trainees how to prioritise their own time and take part in some vital self-care.

Week 1 Sleep



Keelin Deasy and Gráinne Cuddihy

Week 2 Mindfulness



Seán Ó Tarpaigh and Therese Ryan

Week 3 Emotion



Trish Howard and Andrew Heffernan

Week 4 Loneliness



Liam Collins and Cian Moriarty

ALL SESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO WATCH ON MOODLE NOW.

A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

In celebration of World Day of Social Justice we have released a short video highlighting the Law Society's Access Scholarship Programme.

The Access Programme began in 2001. Since then 140 solicitors have qualified with support from the scheme. Currently 107 FE-1 candidates and 47 trainee solicitors are participating in the scheme.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to students on their route to becoming a solicitor and real-life support through mentoring and skill building resources.

If a trainee is awarded this scholarship they will benefit from funding towards the Society's Entrance Examinations (FE-1) including:

- Examination fees
- Travel expenses
- Childcare costs
- Loss of income support

Plus practical real-life support from the Society's resources including:

- Full access to Society's Library
- Interview coaching
- CV and Cover Letter workshops
- Mentoring sessions

All Professional Practice Course fees are covered and a maintenance grant is provided during the course.



To watch the video visit our Law Society of Ireland Youtube channel.

INSPIRE ME

A Letter to My Younger Self

Our new Law School outreach campaign shares letters penned by trainee solicitors to their younger selves. Read our first letter by Tarisai May Chidawanyika (Matheson).



Tarisai May Chidawanyika (Matheson)

Dear Tarisai my younger self, eight years ago today you started studying Law.

Yes, you were in unfamiliar territory; new walls, new faces, new challenges.

But that was an opportunity for you to realise your dreams.

You worked just as hard as everyone around you, if not harder, because of what this represents to you and your family.

I know you were suffering an identity crisis and trying to see where you fit in.

A lot of times you were confused and asked yourself unanswered questions - why am I here? who do I want to be? where will the future take me? what's my purpose?

That's okay because you don't need to have all the answers.

But my younger self, always remember that you are whole.

You abandoned and sacrificed a bit of yourself by trodding unknown waters.

But in the present, it has been worth every struggle.

You have founded a project, Diversity in Law, and assisted so many aspiring solicitors.

You know your purpose now and the future has never been brighter.

My biggest advice to you is take every day as a learning lesson.

Accept help from those who offer and return the favour.

Everyday, arise and be courageous.

Everyday, I say a little prayer for you.

Love Tari

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

These letters aim to raise awareness of educational opportunities and encourage greater access to the solicitor profession for trainees across diverse educational, professional and socio-economic backgrounds. You can read our collection of letters on the Law Society website.

SHRINK ME DELIVERS DYNAMIC SERIES OF TALKS



Ciaran O'Boyle



Sean Rainbird



Dr. Barbara Dawson



Oliver Sears



Jeanne Kelly



Sarah Carey

Shrink Me: Psychology of a Lawyer kicked off 2021 with an exciting line-up of speakers.

In response to Covid-19, **Ciaran O'Boyle**, Professor of Psychology at RCSI Dublin shared strategies for building resilience and a growth mind-set in the face of a crisis. Responding to trainee's questions, he explained a strengths-based approach to setbacks and life's challenges.

Sean Rainbird, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland and **Dr. Barbara Dawson**, Director of the Hugh Lane Gallery, joined forces in an uplifting conversation about how successfully two of our most treasured national cultural institutions remain creative in the face of the ongoing pandemic. Both shared with us their favourite pieces from their own - and each other's - collections. Roll

on the end of lockdown 3.0 when we can visit and see those pieces for ourselves.

For the series finale, art dealer **Oliver Sears** and solicitor **Jeanne Kelly** spoke to **Sarah Carey**, columnist and broadcaster about the enduring relevance of the Holocaust and why we must never forget. Son of a Holocaust survivor, Oliver Sears shared his mother Monica's experience of hiding and ultimately escaping Nazi-occupied Poland to rebuild her life in London. While Jeanne Kelly, LK Shields Solicitors, reflected on the rise of the far-right politically, the importance of the Rule of Law and the legacy of her own heroine the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jewish woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.

TRAINEES ARE ON OUR MINDS



Antoinette Moriarty leads the Psychological Services team at the Law School and tells us about their popular free service.

The Psychological Services team had another busy semester completing 1,115 Time Concentrated Therapy appointments with 182 PPC I students from 59 firms. Take-up of our online sessions was very high - just under half of all trainees (44%) availed of the service and 94% of those who evaluated the service offered a score of 8 or more out of 10!

This year our counsellors also participated in the CAMS (Collaborative Assessment Model for Suicide) best-practice model to support students dealing with suicide-related thoughts or behaviour.

We also launched a new venture - monthly Reflective Practice Groups for our Hybrid trainees. Few of us juggle as much as this brave cohort - who maintain their day jobs while completing their professional training - not to mention that many of them have caring responsibilities too! A 12 week RPG

was also available to the full-time trainees.

The RPG is a space where trainees can process their own experience of legal training and practice, allowing feedback and discussion with and from their peers. Groups are facilitated through a Group Analysis lens that complements the Shrink Me module, allowing themes that emerge in the module to be unpacked and talked about at a deeper level.

Feedback was super with Hybrid students attending the monthly RPG saying they find the groups 'really helpful' and a 'great means to connect' while trainees who have completed the 12 week RPG have described it as 'a safe space to talk' and indicated they have 'learned things about themselves in the group that will help them in their professional lives'.

YOUNGER MEMBERS COMMITTEE MEETS SCOTTISH YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION



On 25 February, Avril Flannery and Brendan Hayes, Chair and Vice Chair of the Younger Member's Committee (YMC) met with Ayla Iridag, President of the Scottish Young Lawyers' Association (SYLA).

Both the YMC and SYLA represent the interests of junior solicitors in Ireland and Scotland respectively, with the SYLA also giving a voice to law students and trainees. The SYLA host up to 30 events per year, including a range of CPD sessions, and also recently launched a legal series podcast. The SYLA is hosting the European Young Bar Association's (EYBA) virtual Spring Conference in April 2021, with Ms Iridag also a member of the EYBA's Executive Committee. Both the YMC and SYLA plan to collaborate on initiatives over the coming months.

The YMC, which was re-established in 2015, is currently reaching out to a number of representative bodies across the UK and Europe to foster relations and learn about what additional activities the YMC could undertake to the benefit of younger solicitors in Ireland.

Speaking on the links with the SYLA, Avril Flannery stated: "We are delighted to engage with the SYLA. Ayla Iridag and her team have done incredible work in developing a full calendar of events, despite all the challenges which Covid brought. Younger solicitors in Ireland and Scotland face a number of similar issues as they progress through their career. Both organisations can learn a lot from the other and collaboration between the YMC and SYLA can help assist with overcoming those issues."

In relation to the YMC's international connections, Ms Flannery continued: "We also recently spoke with the England and Wales' Junior Lawyers Division and are in the process of reaching out to the Young European Bar Association and NI Young Solicitors' Association. This is all part of the YMC's continued fostering of important links with our neighbouring representative bodies."

FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN THE SOCIETY'S HISTORY



Mary Keane

Our Deputy Director General and Director of Policy & Public Affairs, Mary Keane, has been appointed by the Council of the Society as Director General pending a permanent appointment. Congratulations to Mary, who becomes the first female Director General in the Society's history.

DIGNITY MATTERS: Coming together to address bullying, harassment and sexual harassment in the solicitors' profession.

Your Dignity Matters

In April this year, the Law Society will be inviting Law School trainees to participate in the Dignity Matters Survey. The Survey will ask about trainees' subjective experience of previous/current work environments in the solicitor profession, specifically as it relates to bullying, harassment and sexual harassment.

Independent research consultancy firm, Crowe, have been appointed to carry out this work. They would like to hear from all trainees, including those who have not been affected by these issues, to establish an accurate depiction of workplace culture.

The survey is anonymous and confidential, it will adhere to ethical research guidelines, and participants will not be bound, in any way, by their answers.

Your voice, together with many others, has the potential to transform workplace culture and ensure dignity, respect, and inclusivity. Why not be part of the change and have your say on these dignity matters.

Background

The above Law Society research is part of an evidence-based programme of

action to address bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment in the solicitors' profession, and to support a culture of dignity, respect, and inclusivity.

Recommendations will be determined by an independent research study, to include the Dignity Matters survey of the entire Roll of Solicitors, plus trainees, as well as findings from the IBA "Us Too?" Report. A change programme to implement the recommendations will follow upon approval by the Law Society Council.

Watch this space

The Law School will be in contact at the end of March about how to participate in this survey. Keep your eyes peeled for details.

Julie Breen is coordinating the roll out of the Dignity Matters survey. If you have feedback or questions on the above information, you can reach out to Julie. Get in touch with her at professionalwellbeing@lawsociety.ie.



Julie Breen

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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