



16 September 2025

Re: Invitation to participate in The Gráinne O'Neill Memorial Legal Essay Competition

Dear Principal/TY Coordinator

The Law Society of Ireland is delighted to invite Transition Year (TY) students in your school to participate in the Gráinne O'Neill Memorial Legal Essay Competition which is being launched in post-primary schools across Ireland this year.

The competition honours the life and legacy of the late Judge Gráinne O'Neill who died in 2018 following an illness, and whose memory continues to inspire, influence, and energise. Gráinne was the youngest judge in Ireland when appointed in 2014 to the District Court. In four short years, she left a rich legacy of strong, compassionate justice. The Gráinne O'Neill Memorial Legal Essay Competition now sets out to make a difference to young people in TY, to their thinking, learning and lives.

The Law Society is committed to improving access to legal education and the legal profession, and encouraging an interest and engagement with the law through initiatives such as this competition.

This is an exciting opportunity for TY students at your school to foster an interest in the law and to connect their experiences of learning in school with legal education. It is intended that the process will also develop students' reflectiveness and encourage innovation in their thinking and their overall creativity as young citizens and members of society.

The competition will take place over two rounds starting with a regional round, supported by local Solicitors' Bar Associations across the country and finishing with a national competition and presentation ceremony in May 2026.

For the overall winners, we have three cash prizes also and a special Memorial Trophy and medal. The trophy will remain with the prizewinning school for a period of one year.

Please confirm your school's participation and find attached a comprehensive pack with more information on the competition. We hope that students in Transition Year in your school will participate and we wish them all the best.

Yours sincerely

The Gráinne O'Neill Memorial Legal Essay Competition Team