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LAW SOCIETY

July 2026

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> OBJECTIVE: DETERMINE INNOCENCE OR GUILT_
> PROCESSING...

JUDGE DREAD?

The implications of AI advocates and judges



€4 JULY 2026

PLUS: Flat-fee reform puts practices in jeopardy • AI for smaller firms
• Emerald Isle to Square Mile - meet Vincent Keaveny



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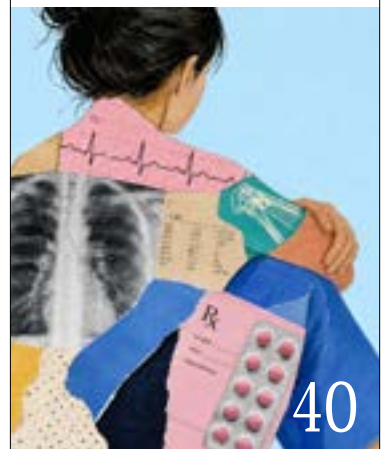
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MUDDY WATERS

As Ireland assumes the Presidency of the Council of the EU – a role at the heart of promoting democratic values, the rule of law, and fundamental rights across the bloc – the timing of the proposed changes to criminal legal aid is striking. At the very time the State steps onto this stage, these measures risk sending a contradictory signal about Ireland's commitment to the principles it is expected to uphold.

The proposed changes raise serious concerns about access to justice and the protection of fundamental rights within the criminal justice system – where equality before the law and the right to a fair trial are essential. In a modern democracy, no person charged with an offence should be left without access to a solicitor. Yet, in the current uncertainty created by the Department of Justice's flawed criminal legal-aid proposals, this is now a real risk, particularly in rural areas.

The situation has escalated to a point none of us wanted to reach. The Law Society has engaged repeatedly, constructively, and in good faith through detailed submissions and extensive engagement with Government, justice spokespersons, and members of the Oireachtas. Despite this, the department has pressed ahead with a model of criminal legal aid that 83% of solicitors in our survey deemed neither fair nor workable.

Angry lawyers

A document issued by the Department on 8 June to the Law Society further muddied the waters. It not only failed to address issues previously raised but introduced new operational, financial, and procedural issues for solicitors engaged in criminal defence work.

Unsurprisingly, many criminal lawyers are angry. This was evident at information meetings for practitioners hosted by



the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee on 9 and 19 June, where I heard colleagues from across the country voicing their concerns. These concerns were further deepened by the department declining to attend either meeting to clarify how the new model would operate in practice.

The Law Society was quick to respond to and refute claims in the media taken from an unpublished Department of Justice report on criminal legal aid, which makes multiple critical assertions about solicitors without supporting evidence. We categorically reject the serious and unfounded suggestion that higher adjournment rates in legal-aid cases are driven by financial motivation on the part of solicitors. In reality, adjournments are most often necessitated by statutory requirements and delays on the State side.

Access to justice must be protected

Deep respect

Due to our deep respect for the proper functioning of the criminal-justice system, criminal-law practitioners are now protesting these flawed proposals, acting out of frustration at the lack of meaningful engagement on their concerns.

If solicitors leave the scheme, as some have already indicated they will, access to representation will shrink rapidly. This has already happened in family law. The immediate consequence will be fewer solicitors available, greater delays, and an increased risk that individuals will face the courts without representation. Access to justice is now under serious threat.

The Law Society is continuing to engage with the department and press for significant changes to the proposed reforms. In the meantime, I urge members to seek meetings with your local TD or senator and explain the negative impact that the department's proposals will have on access to legal representation and the right to a fair trial. Access to justice must be protected, especially for the most vulnerable in society.

ROSEMARIE J LOFTUS
PRESIDENT





the
BIG
picture

Jumpin' Jack Flash

A heat wave grips Paris as a young man jumps from a bridge to cool off in the Canal Saint-Martin on 20 June. An intense heatwave is gripping western and central Europe, pushing temperatures far above seasonal norms for mid-June and breaking new temperature records. As of 23 June, 40 people had drowned in heatwave-attributed deaths in France, according to the French prime minister.

people

■ WHO ■ WHAT ■ WHERE ■ WHEN ■

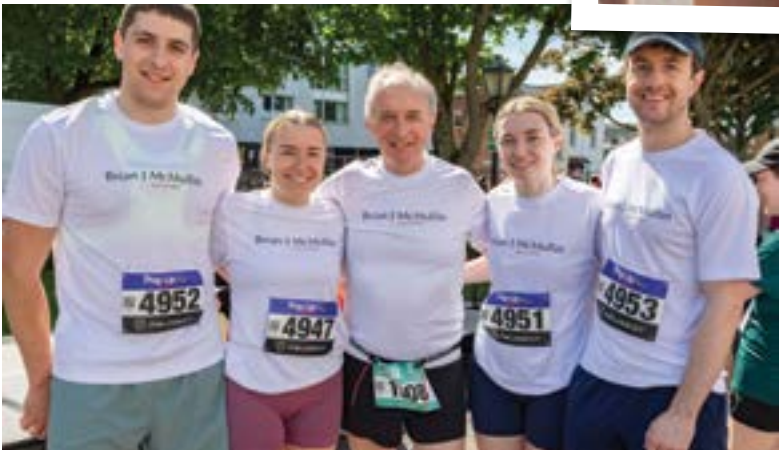
Calcutta Run has €6M in sight

Over 2,000 legal professionals, family, and friends gathered at Blackhall Place on 23 May for the Calcutta Run, the legal sector's flagship charity event. Participants walked or ran routes of 6km or 10km, and are set to raise over €325,000 for charity partners Dublin Simon Community and the Hope Foundation. This will bring the total raised since 1999 to over €6 million. Calcutta Run events included Dublin, Cork, and Galway, the Law Debuture Golf Classic, and Rogers Recruitment Tag Rugby, while our furry friends got involved in the 'Paws for a Cause' initiative.



All pics: Cian Redmond







All pics: Sean Lydon

Tribal turnout for Calcutta Run

What a day! We were absolutely delighted with the turnout for the second annual Calcutta Run/Walk Galway at the University of Galway on 24 May, writes GSBG President Martina Moran. With over 115 participants, organisers, and helpers, it was a fantastic representation of the legal community.

The 5km route was enjoyed by runners, walkers, and families, and the barbecue at the College Bar afterwards was a great way to round off the morning. Congratulations to our winners:

- *First Man Home* – Jim O’Boyle (MacSweeney Solicitors)

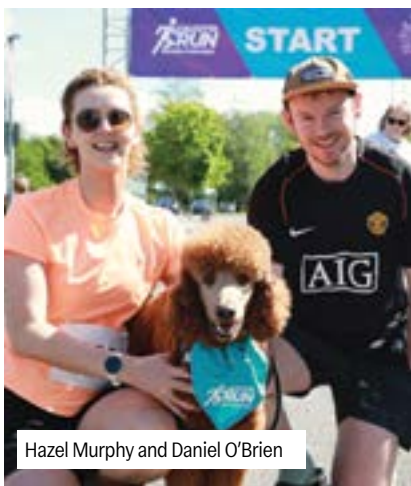
- *First Woman Home* – Karen Dowd (RDJ)
- *First Child Home* – Hendrix Ryan

Congratulations to all who took part and, of course, to all those who helped with organising the event, including registration and marshalling on the day.

A big thank you to our sponsors: Rowan Engineers, Transcribe, MJ Flood, Keogh Accountancy Group, Outsource, Aserve, and Bank of Ireland – and to everyone who came out and made the day such a memorable occasion. We can’t wait to do it all again in 2027! Donations, please, through idonate.ie/donate/cause/calcuttarun.



Demi Walsh and Mary McNamara



Hazel Murphy and Daniel O'Brien



Anna McLoughlin, Aaron McMahon, Kayla McMahon, and Siobhan McMahon, with golden retrievers Bella and Charlie



Martina Moran was delighted with the response



The winners at the LEAP Irish Law Awards 2026

Cream of the crop!

The 2025 LEAP Irish Law Awards took place on 12 June at the Clayton Hotel, Dublin, honouring over 650 legal professionals across 34 categories. Judge Gerard Griffin received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Other winners included Keith Walsh SC (Lawyer of the Year), Niall Sweeney McGann LLP (Law Firm of the Year), Fox (Sole Practitioner of the Year), Michael Hennessy Solicitors (Criminal Law Firm of the Year), and Niamh Walsh, Gore & Grimes Solicitors LLP (Family Law Firm/Lawyer of the Year). For the full list of winners, visit ashvillemediapr.prowly.com.



Judge Gerard Griffin, his wife Catherine, and daughter Lisa celebrate Gerard's Lifetime Achievement Award



Michael Hennessy (Michael Hennessy Solicitors, Dublin) who won the Criminal Law Firm/Lawyer of the Year award, is congratulated by Sarah Jane O'Callaghan



Paul Dornan accepts the Community Law Firm of the Year award on behalf of Mercy Law Resource Centre



Ernst & Young General Counsel Office in Dublin won the In-House (Non-Civil Service/Public Sector) Legal Team of the Year



Gillian Lynch of William Fry won the Engine Room Excellence Award



Joan Doran (Joan Doran Solicitors, Dublin) received the Mental Health and Capacity Law Firm/Team/Lawyer of the Year award



Mary Hughes (Michael Staines and Co, Solicitors) was named Legal Executive of the Year



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Certificate in Immigration Law and Practice	29 October 2026	€1,750
Diploma in Education Law	30 October 2026	€2,700
Certificate in Legal Skills for Legal Secretaries	3 November 2026	€950
Diploma in Legal Skills for Legal Executives	3 November 2026	€2,500

All lectures are webcast and available to view on playback, allowing participants to catch up on coursework at a time suitable to their own needs. Diploma Centre reserves the right to change the courses that may be offered and course prices may be subject to change.



Winners from the *Irish Examiner* – Cormac O’Keeffe, Liz Dunphy, and Alison O’Reilly

Winning smiles at the JMAs

An RTÉ Radio 1 podcast investigating a couple wrongly jailed for a crime against their own child that never occurred has scooped the top prize at the Law Society’s Justice Media Awards 2026. ‘First Conviction’ claimed both the overall award and the Broadcast Journalism (Podcast) category, while *RTÉ Investigates* doubled up with the TV/video prize for its report on the same case.

Judging panel chair Michael Kealey praised its exposure of “shocking failures” in the legal system and its championing of society’s most vulnerable. Actress Ruth Negga, speaking at the ceremony, lauded the team’s “sustained and patient” storytelling.

The awards attracted a record 674 entries across 16 categories – a 35% upturn over 2025. Coercive control, AI, and the DJ Carey case were among the hot-button topics dominating submissions. (See full story on [page 50.](#))



Mary Carolan of *The Irish Times*



Tara Peterman and Miriam O’Callaghan (*RTÉ Prime Time*) received Merit awards in the Broadcast Journalism (TV/Video) category



Hannah Murphy, Deborah Naylor, and Nicole Gernon (Virgin Media)



Justice Media Award judges Sarah McNulty and Niamh Wade



Actress Ruth Negga speaking about the winning podcast 'First Conviction'



Mark Tighe (*Sunday Independent*) and Olivia Peden (*Belfast Telegraph*)



Ella Sloane (*The Irish Times*) took the Newcomer of the Year award



Oisín Gaffney and Eoin O'Hare (both *Business Post*) received Merit awards in the Newcomer of the Year category



Siobhán Masterson (Law Society) received an honorary JMA for her role in organising the awards in recent years. We wish Siobhán well in her new role!

■ Judge Griffin honoured at ILAs ■ General Condition 20 reminder ■ TUD student takes Human Rights Essay Prize

news

■ YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE ON ALL THINGS LEGAL ■



Pic: Rollingnews.ie

Minister for Children Norma Foley

GAL reforms raise rights fears

Guardians *ad litem* (GALs) – who give voice to vulnerable children in court – are warning that recent reforms could undermine the constitutional rights of the children they are appointed to protect.

The landmark overhaul of GAL services, introduced on 23 June, transfers responsibility for child advocates from an independent

model to a Government-regulated framework, bringing GAL services under the remit of the Department of Children, Disability and Equality for the first time. The reforms introduce standardised authorisation, appointment, and regulatory mechanisms through a new national framework.

The change has drawn significant criticism, however, from those →



Judge Gerard Griffin receives the Lifetime Achievement award

TOP TALENT HONOURED AT IRISH LAW AWARDS

More than 650 legal professionals gathered in Dublin on 12 June for the LEAP Irish Law Awards, where Judge Gerard Griffin was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award in recognition of a career spanning nearly five decades.

The gala ceremony recognised outstanding contributions across 34 categories – from sole practitioners to in-house teams, barristers, law schools and students.

Presenting Judge Griffin with his award, Richard Hammond SC described him as “an exemplar of how solicitors can be excellent members of the judiciary”. Admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 1978, Judge Griffin served as president of the Law Society from 2003/2004 before spending 16 years on the Circuit Court bench, retiring in 2023.

Law Society Council member Keith Walsh SC claimed the coveted Lawyer of the Year title, while Sweeney McGann LLP took the Law Firm of the Year prize, with Niall Fox Solicitors named Overall Sole Practitioner of the Year. Graham Kenny was named ADR Firm/Lawyer of the Year. Áine Hynes SC won Law Book of the Year for her *Irish Capacity Law and Assisted Decision-Making*. The Special Merit Award went to Gareth Noble of KOD Lyons, recognised for his advocacy on behalf of vulnerable young people and strategic litigation for children.

The full list of winners can be found at ashvillemediapr.org.

operating the service. Current GALs have raised concerns that the voice of the child will be diluted.

Distinctive role

GALs are experienced independent social workers appointed by the courts to represent the voice of the child in welfare proceedings, report on a child’s wellbeing, and make recommendations in their best interests. They have long occupied a distinctive and independent role in some of the most fraught child-protection cases before the Irish courts. That independence, practitioners warn, is now under threat.

Under the new regime, GALs will fall within the remit of the same minister who oversees the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) – the body that typically brings child-protection applications to court. Current GALs argue that this creates a structural conflict of interest, particularly in cases where a GAL seeks to advocate for additional resources or services for a child in care, potentially placing them at odds with the agency.

Independence fears

While the new legislation explicitly states that GALs “shall be independent in the performance

of his or her functions”, critics question whether that guarantee is meaningful when accountability ultimately falls to the same ministerial office.

The reforms also curtail automatic entitlement to legal representation. Previously, GALs were entitled to legal advice and representation as of right, with the costs met by Tusla. Under the new rules, legal representation must be requested from the minister, who retains the discretion to refuse. Practitioners have raised the troubling prospect of a courtroom in which both parents have separate legal teams, while no lawyer represents the child’s voice.

Many practising GALs contend that provisions of the *Child Care (Amendment) Act 2022* (commenced in June) conflict with article 42A of the Constitution, which enshrines the rights of children. Legal challenges, potentially before the High Court, appear inevitable.

A 12-month transitional period allows existing GALs to continue with cases already underway. How the reforms bed in, and whether they will strengthen or diminish the child’s voice in court, may not become clear for some time to come.

The future’s bright!

Almost three-quarters of lawyers at the recent ‘Future-ready lawyer’ event in Cork said that one of the largest potential benefits of using AI in legal work would be its ability to enable lawyers to focus on strategic work.



On 27 May, in-house and public-sector practitioners gathered to explore this topic at the Kingsley Hotel. They heard about managing key stakeholders, the safe adoption of new technologies, and what lies ahead for the legal profession.

The event was presented by Law Society Skillnet in collaboration with the In-house and Public Sector Committee and the Southern Law Association. Welcome addresses were given by SLA president Jonathan Lynam and committee chair Róisín Magee.

The session closed with a lively panel discussion. The panel emphasised data governance in AI implementation and agreed that a practical AI acceptable-use policy could help mitigate some of the risks, while empowering in-house and public-sector lawyers to adapt to the new technologies.

AI training sees high demand



Solicitors have been coming out in force this year to avail of artificial intelligence (AI) training offered by Law Society Professional Training and the Diploma Centre.

So far, 20 courses have been offered, with more being added to meet demand. In all, 490 participants have availed of AI training, via live webinars, the AI Legal Practice Summit, and a suite of practical regional AI workshops.

Brendan Cunningham (chair of the Education Committee) notes: “It’s heartening to see such strong engagement with AI across the legal profession, with firms making significant investments in technology and innovation. The Law Society’s Education Department is playing a leading role in supporting the profession’s understanding and adoption of AI through high-quality, flexible training. This equips practitioners to use the technology responsibly and ethically, with content consistently updated to keep pace with AI developments.”

Real-time AI

Practical AI workshops have been proving particularly popular, supported by Law Society Skillnet. These took place in ten locations nationwide, with certain sessions for in-house solicitors and legal-support professionals. AI expert Donna O’Leary led these workshops, with participants using AI in real time to

Speakers at the AI Legal Practice Summit, including Law Society President Rosemarie Loftus

complete legal tasks. Separately, solicitors also availed of a suite of live webinars on literacy and prompting.

A packed AI in Legal Practice Summit, held at Blackhall Place on 26 March, was chaired by Dr Barry Scannell (William Fry). It brought together AI experts and practitioners to explore real-world challenges, including choosing AI tools, the impact of AI on practices, clients, billing, and the efficiencies that can be achieved by using AI in the office.

In addition, the Education Department is focused on two high-level projects: a research project on the adoption of AI by Irish solicitors, and working with bars and the European Commission to design AI legal training at EU level.

AI training is also embedded in the Law Society’s PPC course, with all trainee solicitors receiving compulsory training in a new AI module, together with insights provided by the Future of Legal Practice Summit.

To find out more and to register for future AI training sessions, including the MOOC on social media and AI, AI micro-credentials, webinars, and workshops, see www.lawsociety.ie/courses or email: professionaltraining@lawsociety.ie to be added to the AI mailinglist.



TUD STUDENT TAKES HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY PRIZE

TUD law student Aoife Hegarty has won the Law Society’s Human Rights and Equality Committee Essay Prize 2026. The 21-year-old said that her essay focused on how vulnerable people might experience difficulties in accessing the rule of law.

This year’s essay competition saw an enhanced uptake, with the introduction of a paid internship as part of the prize. Aoife spent a month as one of 26 young people chosen for the internship at A&L Goodbody, under the mentorship of committee member Eithne Lynch.

As a Gaeilgeoir, Aoife may eventually pursue a job as a lawyer-linguist, working on the translation of documents for EU bodies. “I’m really excited to spend some time in a corporate law firm,” she said. “I’m keen to see the work that they do.”

ENDANGERED LAWYERS



Masoud Ahmadian, Nazanin Salari, Mahmoud Taravatrouy

Nazanin Salari, Mahmoud Taravatrouy and Masoud Ahmadian, Iran

Shiraz is an ancient city in the mid-west of Iran, famous as a centre of art and literature, and for its wine. Nazanin Salari, Mahmoud Taravatrouy, and Masoud Ahmadian work in the city and are prominent advocates for women's and children's rights there.

On 8 June, reports were published of the sentencing of the three lawyers for "assembly and collusion to commit crimes against national security" (two years) and "propaganda against the state" (one year), supplemented by other penalties, including a two-year ban on travel and revocation of their passports. They were acquitted of "cooperation with a hostile state". Concurrent legal proceedings are ongoing on charges of "encouraging corruption and prostitution" and "appearing in public without the mandatory hijab".

Nazanin Salari was mentioned by name in a letter of 24 February, jointly written by UN Special Rapporteurs Margaret Satterthwaite and Mai Sato, which referred to the many reports of systematic denial to protesters of legal representation and "the arbitrary arrest and detention of lawyers for the legitimate exercise of their professional duties".

The letter states, among other things: "Further reports explain that

lawyers in Iran who have sought to represent protesters or document violations of due process have been subjected to harassment, intimidation, arrest, or threat of arrest, as well as prosecution, in connection with their professional activities, underscoring concerns that the legal profession is operating under sustained threat.

"On 6 January 2026, Ms Nazanin Salari, a human-rights lawyer, was summoned and appeared before the Branch 1 of the Shiraz Revolutionary Court charged with 'collaborating with hostile states', gathering and 'collusion against national security', and 'propagating against the State'."

She was also charged with "encouraging people to engage in corruption and prostitution" and "being present in public places without a religious veil" before Branch 112 of the Criminal Court. She was initially charged for these offences in November 2023. On 1 January 2026, Ms Salari, who was a member of the Disciplinary Court of the Fars Bar Association, resigned from her position, along with a group of lawyers, due to the bar association's failure to support the legal rights of protesters.

After she publicly raised concerns about the illegality of the measures against protesters, a new case was opened against her on the charge of "spreading falsehoods".

Alma Clissmann was a longtime member of the Law Society's Human Rights and Equality Committee.

General Condition 20 and non-personal completion



The Conveyancing Committee reminds practitioners that General Condition 20 of the Law Society's *General Conditions of Sale 2023 (Revised) Edition* governs the provisions that apply where completion of a conveyancing transaction is to take place otherwise than at the office of the vendor's solicitor.

Subject to the vendor's solicitor's compliance with the terms and conditions specified in General Condition 20, completion takes place, and the vendor's solicitor's entitlement to release the purchase moneys arises, prior to receipt by the purchaser's solicitor of the completion documents. General Condition 20(c)(i) provides that the mode of dispatch of the completion documents is at the sole risk of the purchaser's solicitor.

It has come to the attention of the Conveyancing Committee that purchasers' solicitors are, in some cases, remitting the balance of the purchase price to the vendor's solicitor prior to completion on terms such as: "*The funds are to be held on trust pending receipt of completion documents.*"

Such a condition cannot be imposed unilaterally and, unless agreed by the vendor, is inconsistent with the allocation of risk contemplated by General Condition 20. It purports to make the vendor's solicitor's entitlement to release the purchase moneys conditional on the purchaser's solicitor's receipt of the completion documents, notwithstanding the express terms of General Condition 20.

The vendor is not obliged to accept such a material alteration to the contractual completion arrangements unless an amendment to General Condition 20 has been expressly agreed in writing, whether by special condition in the Contract for Sale or otherwise.

Practitioners are reminded that the *General Conditions of Sale* should not be altered or deleted, except by express agreement between the parties.



Pic: Shutterstock

Move to reduce paper in family High Court cases

The High Court family-law list now has a new Sharefile document-sharing system. A [guidance note](#) on the system, which started on 1 June, has been published on courts.ie. The guidance applies to cases issued pursuant to orders 70, 70A, 70B and 71 of the *Rules of the Superior Courts 1986* (as amended).

Family-law practitioner Keith Walsh SC says: “This new Sharefile system is a real step forward on the road to removing much of the paper from family-law cases in the High Court and has the potential to both speed up family-law cases and make it easier to present documentation to the court.”

Cases in the Family High Court generally involve assets of over €3 million and include matters such as judicial separation, divorce, cohabitation, and adoption.

“It is hoped that if this system works in the High Court, the Courts Service may then roll it out to the Circuit Family Courts, which are already undergoing digital transformation with the new Courts Portal for family law,” Walsh added.

More information is available at www.courts.ie/guides/courts-portal.

Judges of Ireland special offer

Four Courts Press is offering a special 25% discount off the retail price of *The Judges of Ireland, 1866-1921*, written by Daire Hogan, for all members of the Law Society of Ireland (offer ends 31 July 2026).

For full details and to purchase the book, visit www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2026/the-judges-of-ireland-1866-1921. Alternatively, call Four Courts Press on 01 453 4668 to place your order.

IRLI IN AFRICA



Lindiwe Sibande

Legal literacy as access to justice

Ignorance of the law is famously not a defence. Yet in contexts where inequality is deeply entrenched, laws are often written in inaccessible language, and legal services remain geographically out of reach. In such circumstances, legal literacy can seem more like a distant ideal than a practical condition for exercising rights.

To help bridge the gap between those who can readily access legal support and those who cannot, Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI), through its partnership with the Legal Aid Bureau (LAB) in Malawi, facilitates legal-literacy workshops aimed at strengthening access to justice for under-served communities. Delivered in areas where obtaining legal advice can require travelling long distances, these workshops focus on fundamental rights, court processes, and available legal remedies.

One group, however, is often overlooked – people in prison. A recent evaluative study conducted by IRLI in selected prisons in southern Malawi found that approximately 85% of prisoners either did not have legal representation or were unsure whether they did. More than 60% reported that they did not understand the charges against them, while around 85% said that they had never received legal information from a lawyer.

In response, IRLI, working through the LAB, is supporting legal-literacy clinics in prisons. For many detainees, this is the first time they have received structured legal information or advice. Concepts such as bail, appeals, and rights during detention are often being explained for the first time when individuals are already in custody.

In these circumstances, the presumption of innocence, though firmly embedded in law, can become fragile in practice. Many individuals remain in custody for extended periods while navigating a system they do not fully understand. For some accused of minor offences, detention can exceed the likely sentence had their cases been resolved more quickly.

Other rights also often go unrecognised. Detainees may be unaware of the possibility of bail pending appeal, their right to challenge convictions or sentences, or their ability to question procedural delays and prolonged detention.

Legal literacy in prisons, therefore, sits at the intersection of rights, inequality, and access to justice. It is not only about understanding the law, but about enabling individuals to recognise unfairness, identify delays, and engage with mechanisms of accountability. At its core, it is a reminder that the ability to understand the law remains one of the most overlooked dimensions of access to justice. ☒

Lindiwe Sibande is IRLI southern regional legal coordinator in Malawi.

DECODING THE CODE

The newly upgraded *Consumer Protection Code 2025* represents a customer-focused approach to financial services. Olive Fox slips on some cheap sunglasses

First implemented in 2007, the Central Bank's main consumer-protection regulation got a significant upgrade earlier in the spring. This is just the latest update to the *Consumer Protection Code* (CPC), following previous updates in 2012, 2015, and 2022.

The latest version, which came into effect on 24 March, goes further than previous iterations to reinforce and strengthen protections for Irish financial services consumers. For financial-services businesses across Ireland, the CPC sets out a series of clear, rules-based responsibilities.

The rules reinforce consumer protection across the whole financial-services customer life-cycle, covering everything from onboarding, post-sale processes, rebates, managing arrears, addressing errors, and handling complaints.

So, what does this mean for Irish consumers and for Ireland's financial services sector?

Mind your language

For Irish consumers, the CPC brings in a range of measures that aim to ensure that fair outcomes are prioritised by financial-services providers.

One of the central requirements outlined by the CPC is that communications sent by providers must be understood by the 'average consumer'

A key aspect of the regulation concerns itself with communications. One of the central requirements outlined by the CPC is that communications sent by financial-services providers must be understood by the 'average consumer'. All too often, financial-services businesses can find themselves lapsing into jargon and language that, to a non-specialised audience, is far from clear.

The updated CPC aims to put a stop to this and thus bring clarity and transparency to customer communications. For compliance teams, this means reviewing existing communications and documents to ensure that the language used doesn't require any specialist knowledge of financial services or products.

Recognising the changing ways in which consumers increasingly interact with their financial-services providers, the same principle applies to digital communications and digital interfaces like websites and social-media output – these must also be clear and easy to understand.

Where consumers are in vulnerable circumstances,

the CPC goes even further. Here businesses are required to provide extra support and clearer communications. The aim of this is to avoid customer harm and ensure fair customer outcomes. Additionally, the code places a stronger focus on financial-services providers acting with honesty, fairness, and professionalism in customers' best interests during all interactions.

Embedded rules

For financial-services businesses, preparation for the code has meant enterprise-wide programmes to embed the enhanced requirements of the code and the updated 'standards of business'. All of this has been delivered with a focus on assuring and being able to provide evidence for fair customer outcomes across the 'full customer life-cycle'.

Compliance requires firms to embed the rules of the code across the entirety of their organisation. So, at a senior and board level, mechanisms and reporting standards need to be built to ensure that senior managers and leaders have oversight of how the code is being delivered.

This means strengthened monitoring, management information, and assurance frameworks that provide evidence of ongoing compliance. This will ensure that organisations are focused, from the very top, on fair customer outcomes – and that any implementation issues can be identified and acted upon quickly.

For operations teams, complying with the code means updating policies and procedures, and conducting risk controls, to reflect more prescriptive, rules-based obligations. For communications



Pic: Shutterstock AI

The code places a stronger focus on financial-service providers acting with honesty, fairness, and professionalism in customers' best interests during all interactions

teams, it means enhancing customer communications to improve standards of clarity, disclosure and accessibility.

Enhanced role

There is also an enhanced role for customer-service teams within financial-services organisations. It's vital that methods for identifying and supporting customers in vulnerable circumstances are enhanced across all customer interactions. This means detailed 'customer-journey' mapping to identify and manage conduct and consumer-protection risks.

The management of

Compliance with the code requires financial-services firms to embed the rules of the code across the entirety of their organisation

arrears and approaches to customer contact also need to be reviewed to ensure appropriate and proportionate engagement. Complaints and the handling of errors likewise need to be robust to ensure fair outcomes, including in remediation and escalation processes.

Fair outcomes

The updated version of the CPC aims to put fair customer outcomes at the heart of Irish financial services. While each of the measures outlined can be understood on its own, compliance with

the code means implementing a holistic framework that spans governance, controls, customer processes, and culture to ensure compliance and consistent delivery of fair customer outcomes from the first interaction to the last.

This will mean a better understanding of what fair customer outcomes look like across the board. It will entail organisation-wide training and guidance to embed a customer-focused culture and ensure that staff understand their obligations.

Good financial services thrive on positive customer experiences, and the code will ensure Ireland's financial services industry remains globally competitive. More than this, however, it'll make finances clearer, safer, and more sustainable for millions of consumers.

Olive Fox is risk and compliance officer at Close Brothers Motor Finance.

COUNCIL'S CALL

Keith Walsh SC and Hilary O'Connor are both on the Law Society Council, though not running for election this year. They talk to the *Gazette* about the challenges and rewards of a stint on Council

Dublin-based family lawyer Keith Walsh SC was familiar with the Law Society from his traineeship, when he campaigned for a minimum wage for 'apprentices' as they were then known. "I was writing for the [apprentices' page in the] *Gazette*, and that background meant I was familiar with the Law Society," he says. "I was relatively young, in my 30s, and I was very enthusiastic," he recalls.

He successfully ran for Council in 2008, hoping to represent smaller firms and sole practitioners. Council concerns back then focused on practice management and the broader trajectory of the legal profession during the economic crisis.

"It's particularly good to go on Council for people who are working for themselves," Walsh notes. "It's hugely beneficial, because you're dealing with other people, but you realise that their issues are the same."

He has met a huge number of practitioners who have given of their time voluntarily.

Going on Council was a transformative change for me. It's made my career as a solicitor ten times more interesting. I view it as a 'give and take': it's an opportunity, but also a duty



Image: Nuala Redmond

"I sat on the Regulation of Practice and Complaints Committees. It wasn't something I asked to do, it was something to which I was assigned," he says. This required a transition from advocacy to an adjudicative function, applying the



Keith Walsh SC

Solicitors Acts and the professional code of conduct.

Operational errors

Overseeing these cases gave insight into common operational errors and helped him later in assisting colleagues facing professional difficulties. "That was incredibly helpful in terms of seeing the mistakes that people can make and trying to be fair to colleagues."

Additional legislative and policy work included contributions to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority legislation and involvement with the Dublin Solicitors' Bar Association.



“Going on Council was a transformative change for me. It’s made my career as a solicitor ten times more interesting. I view it as a ‘give and take’: it’s an opportunity, but also a duty.”

Blown away

Solicitor and mediator Hilary O’Connor originally practised in Swords, Co Dublin, before a family relocation back to Westport, Co Mayo.

The experience of transferring her practice led her to seeking Council office in order to support smoother succession pathways. “I was doing it in my 40s, but to scale that up to one’s 60s, it can be a very vulnerable time,” says O’Connor.

“I wasn’t a mover or shaker, but I had a following on Instagram. I really care about the results and the client experience, and so I ran for election.” She admits to a complete lack of strategic planning in her election bid as a provincial delegate from the west.

I now understand what the Law Society is doing, and what a massive machine it is, and I am really impressed with the calibre of people involved

Hilary was “blown away” when she was elected and has found the whole experience of being on Council “amazing”. “I now understand what the Law Society is doing, and what a massive machine it is, and I am really impressed with the calibre of people involved.

“What appeals to me most is Solicitor Services. It’s the envy of a lot of professions – how much we are talking about psychological health.

“I’m on the ADR and the Regulation of Practice Committees, as well as the Practice Support and Communications Committee. I have found that a very rewarding committee to be on. I think I bring compassion and a different perspective, in that I have run my own practice and I have been in a smaller practice. I think it’s really important to have that mix.”

Hilary acknowledges that Council service takes time – and much reading: “But the rewards are massive



Hilary O’Connor

in different ways – so much personal growth in the engagement with colleagues, and listening to some of the presentations from the executive,” she says. “Hand on heart, it has been a complete eye-opener to go on Council,” she concludes.

Each year, solicitors holding current Law Society membership can put themselves forward for election to the Council of the Law Society. Nominations will open on 24 August. For more information, see lawsociety.ie/elections.

Mary Hallissey is a journalist at the Law Society Gazette.

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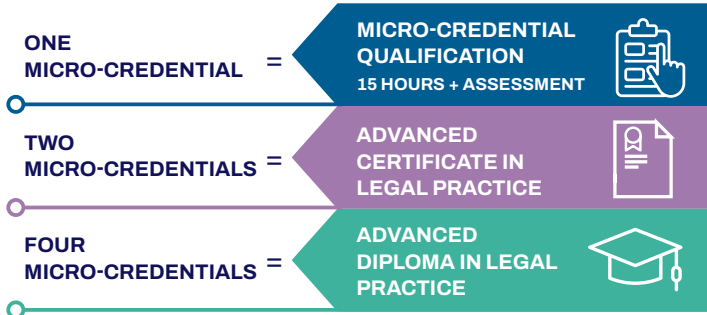


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Judge Dread?

The era of judicial AI could be closer than we think. But the implications of AI advocates and judges require forensic investigation. Dr Oisín Suttle judges the ‘persuadability’ of the AI judges

Tales of judges criticising hapless lawyers and lay-litigants for AI-drafted submissions with hallucinated sources are now a regular feature of legal news coverage. One database identifies 1,598 such cases at time of writing. The legal AI industry has produced billion-dollar start-ups, while the leading AI labs make developing AI tools for lawyers a priority as they pivot towards profit. Leading law firms issue press releases to announce the adoption of the latest AI tools.

AI is also finding a place on the other side of the bench. Artificial intelligence tools, and specifically ‘large language models’ (LLMs), are being piloted or deployed across multiple jurisdictions to support judicial and administrative decision-making and private-dispute resolution.

Within months of ChatGPT’s launch, individual judges were experimenting with LLMs to support their reasoning. In Germany, IBM is working with regional courts on systems ranging from case management to judgment drafting. The British Government has announced plans to develop AI assistants to support “research and case analysis” in Crown Courts.



> PROMPT: VERDICT_
> OBJECTIVE: DETERMINE INNOCENCE OR GUILT_
> PROCESSING...

Research from Northwestern University suggests that 60% of US judges are using AI tools to support their judicial work. Earlier this year, the American Arbitration Association (AAA – described as “the world’s largest provider of alternative dispute resolution”) launched an AI arbitration service. While that system still includes a human in the decision-making process, her/his role is secondary. In the words of the AAA’s chief technology officer: “The whole concept of an AI arbitrator is to let the AI lead ... There is a human in the loop, but their role is to review and validate the AI’s output.” Meanwhile, in Quebec, the courts have just annulled an arbitration award that appeared to be substantially AI drafted.

The Irish Judicial Council’s *Guidelines for Judges on the Responsible Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence* caution against reliance on AI tools for legal analysis. We might expect the *EU AI Act*’s classification of justice-system AI as ‘high risk’ to also impose some restraint on the roll-out of judicial AI tools in Europe. Nonetheless, it appears that the era of judicial AI has arrived. In consequence, scientific research on AI for legal decision-making has moved from a relatively obscure academic pursuit to a critical field of safety research.

Accurate prediction

Many existing studies on judicial AI have focused on accuracy: can LLMs answer hard legal questions correctly or predict the outcomes of cases? For example, one recent US study (Posner and Saran) examined how one LLM, *GPT-4o*, applied precedent, and whether its decisions were affected by legally irrelevant factors, including sympathy for the defendant. The authors conclude that *GPT-4o* is a competent judge that applies precedent correctly, and that it is less influenced by sympathy for the defendant than real judges. Another study (Blair–Stanek and Van Durme) focused on the consistency of LLMs faced with hard legal questions, finding that the same models, given the same facts and the same law, would often reach different conclusions. And of course, much research on judicial AI overlaps with broader questions about the reliability of LLMs in legal settings, which underpins the multi-billion-euro legal AI industry.

However, legal AI research has not, until now, considered the issue of *persuadability*: how easy is it to persuade an LLM towards a particular answer to a legal question? This is an important issue for LLMs supporting decision-makers in many legal (including judicial) and administrative settings. *Audi alteram partem* is a fundamental principle of natural justice – a decision-maker should hear both sides of a dispute before making their decision. Furthermore, it is not enough that the decision-maker should hear from both parties: they



Legal AI research has not, until now, considered the issue of persuadability: how easy is it to persuade an LLM towards a particular answer to a legal question?

must be open to being persuaded by what they hear.

At the same time, a judge should not be too easily persuaded. In the words of legal philosopher Amalia Amaya, a judge should demonstrate “the willingness to modify one’s position in light of other people’s arguments, in a way that avoids both floppiness and fleetingness, on the one hand, and rigidity and stubbornness, on the other”. To what extent do LLMs meet this standard?

My coauthor Dr David Lillis (UCD School of Computer Science) and I have been exploring this question experimentally. We presented results of our research last month at the 21st International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law, the leading international scientific venue for research on the topic.

Easily persuadable?

Studying persuadability is not straightforward. Indeed, the first thing we need to do is to work out what precisely ‘persuadability’ is. People form opinions and make decisions, but when can we say that they have been *persuaded* to reach a particular conclusion? In bilateral dialogues, we can examine whether, when, and under what conditions one person (the persuader) is able to convince another (the persuadee) to change their view on some question.

However, the kinds of legal settings that we are concerned with – courts and contested administrative decisions – have a different structure: instead of one persuader trying to convince one persuadee to change their mind, we find two persuaders (the parties, often through counsel) trying to convince the persuadee (the judge or other decision-maker) to reach two opposite conclusions, without a pre-persuasion starting point. Here ‘persuadability’ is not about moving from an initial position. Instead, it is about a tendency to agree with some arguments or advocates, independent of the merits of the case. Measuring that requires a different approach.

LLMs as advocates

We also need some concrete legal cases to study. We take these from real appellate court split decisions (cases with at least one dissenting judgment) from the Irish Supreme Court, the England and Wales Court of Appeal, and the US Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal. We extract the facts and the key legal issues, and then we task one of four 'AI advocates' to come up with the best legal arguments on each side of the cases. We use four different LLMs as advocates, choosing these with an eye to varying quality. We want a mix of strong advocates and weak ones, so that we can see whether our 'judges' are more prone to agree with some advocates over others, providing evidence of persuasion.

Once we have a bank of case scenarios and advocate arguments, we present our 'judge' models with the facts and a set of arguments for each side, randomising the advocate models on each side of the case. And we repeat this procedure 24,000 times. By randomising which advocate appears on each side of each case, we ensure that any resulting preferences for one advocate over another must reflect the form or content of the advocate arguments, rather than preferences that our judge models might have for one side or another in a case.

LLMs as judges

We test a wide selection of LLMs as judges. This includes leading models from OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google, which dominate many of the standard AI metrics. However, we also studied a range of 'open-weight' models, including DeepSeek, Mistral, and Qwen. These have the advantage that users can download and run them locally, on their own hardware, something that may be critical for users like courts and administrative agencies for whom privacy and security are paramount.

Our results are striking. Across 20 models or model set-ups, evidence of persuasion is statistically significant in every case. Further, the extent of persuadability is surprising. In any given pairing, the stronger advocate typically wins between 58% to 71% of the time, and where our strongest advocate is paired against



Our results are striking. Across 20 models or model set-ups, evidence of persuasion is statistically significant in every case. Further, the extent of persuadability is surprising



our weakest, the win rates range from 63% to over 90%, depending on the judge model chosen. This means that, given an imbalance in the quality of advocates, our least persuadable models are siding with the more compelling advocate almost two-thirds of the time, while our most persuadable models side with the stronger advocate nine times in ten.

Access-to-justice concerns

These results highlight a set of linked concerns around access to justice, fairness, and reliability of LLM-assisted decision-making. If a model is excessively persuadable, prone to agree with the stronger advocate, independent of the merits of a case, then this gives a structural advantage to those with the resources to engage the best advocates (whether human or AI).

At best, this reproduces an existing inequality in the justice system. At worst, it exacerbates it if our AI systems prove more persuadable than their human counterparts. (One difficulty evaluating this concern is that we don't know whether our models are more or less persuadable than human judges in similar situations. Knowing that



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Our results highlight the importance of understanding and measuring persuadability in any system that might be deployed to support decision-makers in legal or administrative settings

would require experimenting on judges themselves.)

This is not the end of the story. Our research tested persuadability with one type of cases (appellate court cases where judges disagree). Our results might look different with a different set of cases, or in particular areas of law, or in different jurisdictions, or with a different approach to model prompting. We don't think our results should be the final word on AI persuadability in legal settings. We are continuing to work on this issue, and we hope that other researchers will join us in doing so. However, our results highlight the importance of understanding and measuring persuadability in any system that might be deployed to support decision-makers in legal or administrative settings.

Other key concerns

Of course, neither accuracy nor persuadability are the only standards by which we should be judging AI tools in judicial or administrative decision-making. Transparency and accountability are also key concerns.

LLMs are vast mathematical models, with hundreds of billions of parameters, trained on unimaginably large



datasets. Even their designers have only the vaguest sense of how they reach conclusions in specific instances. If human decision-makers come to rely on them, then those humans' decisions become significantly less transparent. If they replace human decision-makers, then – notwithstanding their eloquent justifications – we may lose the ideal of a reasoned decision that is central to our rule-of-law tradition.

And if decisions are taken by AI models, then we lose the accountability that is essential to reconciling public power with our status as equal citizens. There are ethical and philosophical concerns with AI adjudication, as well as fundamental political choices. However, these need to be approached with a full understanding of the actual capabilities and performance of the underlying technologies, and the implications these will have for our justice system. ⁹

Dr Oisin Suttle is associate professor at Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology.

LOOK IT UP

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Emerald Isle to Square Mile

Dublin-born commercial lawyer Vincent Keaveny was the first Irish citizen to be elected Lord Mayor of the City of London. He speaks to Mary Hallissey about the pageantry, global dealmaking, and political bridge-building that have comprised his career

Sitting in the sleek offices of DLA Piper in London's Aldersgate, Vincent Keaveny looks back on a career that didn't

just cross the Irish Sea, but smoothed relations between the two islands during some bumpy moments.

His initial foray into London in 1989 – post the 'Big Bang' of massive financial deregulation imposed by the Thatcher regime in 1986 – was meant to be a short, differentiating stint.

He had followed UCD law with a BL at the King's Inns, and sought the further challenge of a master's at Trinity, writing a legal analysis of constitutional change in Ireland 1916–23.

"I hoped for a long career at the Irish Bar and thought, actually, if I want to get a year or two out of the country, this is the time to do it." But London, as it often does, had other plans, and its overpowering allure proved hard to resist.

London bridge

There is a living superhighway between the two islands, flowing with people, capital, ideas, and business – and straddling this living bridge between Britain and Ireland provides a unique perspective, Vincent believes.

"I found myself really loving London life and loving the work I was doing, and the international aspect." Once there, he benefited from the easier recognition of Irish legal qualifications that came in 1991, following EU directives aimed at creating a single market for professional services.

After six years in London, initially working at Bankers Trust, a top-tier Dublin firm offered him a senior associate role with a clear path to partnership. It was the homecoming his family had expected since he first packed his bags in 1989.

"I thought long and hard about it," he reflects now. "I decided I probably preferred the work I was doing and the transactional side of things. I've always got a real kick out of getting deals done, and I realised, possibly fortuitously, that maybe I'm a better deal-doer than a lawyer dealing with contentious matters."

“

In 2021, he made history as the 693rd Lord Mayor of London, the first Irishman to hold a title that dates back to 1189. The role serves an ‘ambassadorial’ function for the British financial and professional services sector

I’ve enjoyed the process of getting deals over the line. And, broadly speaking, there is a more constant level of big-ticket deals coming through in London.”

That said, his decision to emigrate for good broke his mother’s heart, he admits, since she realised he wasn’t coming back, even with a good offer on the table.

“One of the most wonderful things about ending up Lord Mayor of the City [a largely ceremonial position, as opposed to the directly elected political Mayor of Greater London] was being able to have all of the family over from Dublin for the Guildhall banquet for 700 people.

“It’s the most over-the-top banquet there is, and to have my mother and father there, and to be able to thank them – it was a moment where they could recognise that, maybe, that decision in 1995 didn’t end up too badly!”

Bow bells beckon

Vincent believes that the broader-based Irish educational system is what makes Irish legal graduates highly sought-after in London. Demand is always greater than supply, because of the ‘top-notch’ quality of Irish legal education, he notes. “We would take more if there was more interest – and not just trainee solicitors; there are Irish barristers doing brilliantly here.”

He advises incoming juniors to always keep an open mind, and not to be blinkered by preconceptions about the

work. “Go out and meet people” is his other piece of advice, and never miss the opportunity when something new comes along: “Make yourself known as somebody who is getting to grips with this new area, because you just never know where that will take you.”

The British class system endures, he points out, but the Irish can’t easily be pigeonholed under the usual indicia of accent or school tie, and may benefit from more amorphous origins. “I seem to have ended up a bit of a class warrior,” he laughs, pointing to his social mobility project Progress Together, a not-for-profit for improving socio-economic inclusion in the financial services industry. He feels that, as an Irishman, he can speak about these matters more freely.

London sits in the middle of the world in terms of global commerce and finance – Vincent loved that from the moment

he arrived. “Some of the most brilliant people you will ever meet are working in financial institutions around us, here in the City,” he says.

His abilities led him to the upper echelons of ‘Big Law’, including becoming a partner at UK firm Norton Rose in 1999. He moved as part of a four-person team to the US firm Baker McKenzie in the mid-2000s, where he spent ten years as a partner. It was his move 11 years ago to DLA Piper’s capital-markets practice that paved the way for his ascent to the Mansion House mayoral role.

Dick Whittington

In 2021, he made history as the 693rd Lord Mayor of London, the first Irishman to hold a title that dates back to 1189. The role serves an ‘ambassadorial’ function for the British financial and professional-services sector.

It also handed him a key role in history. He greeted the English royal family on the





steps of St Paul’s for the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth and, just weeks later, stood at the Accession Council following her death.

Vincent believes he has acted as a diplomatic conduit. Taking office when British/Irish relations were chilled by post-Brexit friction, he used the convening power of the Mansion House to thaw the atmosphere. The all-consuming mayoralty involved travelling about 100 days over the year to 22 countries.

“I haven’t done very much real lawyering following the mayoralty. My role here at DLA Piper now is much more advisory, ambassadorial, really,” he says. “I don’t think you should ever go backwards. And I can use this extraordinary network and profile that you acquire in office.

“There are not many people I can’t get hold of in London,” he admits. “You’re constantly bringing people into the Mansion House, and I had a very specific focus on the British/Irish relationship and hosted pretty much all of the senior Irish ministers in that year.”

The business, social, and familial links between the two nations are enduring and deep, he adds. Second- and third-generation London-Irish told him of the pride they felt at seeing Vincent proclaim

“**The British class system endures, he points out, but the Irish can’t easily be pigeonholed under the usual indicia of accent or school tie, and may benefit from more amorphous origins**

the new king on the steps of the Royal Exchange that morning in September 2022.

Puss in boots

Vincent reflects that business circles in Ireland remain small, while London is a vast city. He believes that the laws in the differing jurisdictions will continue to diverge. This is especially so as the Irish legal system develops more case law and scholarship, and the influence of European law diminishes in Britain.

The financial crash was a key factor in the Brexit vote, he believes – in the sense of displacement and a belief that the system was no longer delivering for ordinary people. “The well-organised ‘Leave’ campaign mobilised people; it was a high turnout among disconnected people. And there was complacency about the likely result among London-based politicians. I believe it wasn’t the right decision, but I don’t see Britain going back, although there is a growing closeness with the EU and sensible decisions on both sides about practical things.”

The price the EU would extract for Britain’s return would be too high politically, Vincent believes, and there is no great appetite for ‘return’ in the City either.



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CONFERENCES

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“The financial-services sector, I think, is very comfortable with where things are,” he says.

London’s Square Mile now employs 676,000 people – up from 450,000 at the time of the Brexit vote, he points out. “It’s been an extraordinary expansion. If everyone was coming in five days a week, we couldn’t move on the pavements. There’s been a huge amount of international investment activity. We have 40-plus Chinese financial institutions here in the City, all the major Indian financial institutions are here.”

The presence of US law firms has accelerated, driven by the arrival of private equity. “I suspect everybody’s probably working a bit harder and is very aware of global competition and not losing staff to rivals,” he says. There is also the ‘gung-ho’ longevity in US firms that sees lawyers continue at full tilt, well into their 70s. “I really don’t think we have that work ethic – there is a cultural difference there.”

Some young lawyers may take a positive decision to work extremely long hours and be very well rewarded, he adds, “but there are also plenty of younger lawyers looking for more in their lives, and we’re responding to that by providing ranges of career positions and outcomes. We have more senior positions

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There is a living superhighway between the two islands, flowing with people, capital, ideas, and business – and straddling this living bridge between Britain and Ireland provides a unique perspective

for non-partners now than would have been the case,” he says. “We’ve a lot of legal directors, some of whom positively don’t want to be partners, but are very good lawyers.

“The big additional responsibility is the requirement to generate work, which is tough. I think, objectively, we now look for much more from our partners. Anyone who’s practised as a lawyer will personally know of people who’ve had major mental-health crises. And we’ve got to have mechanisms to deal with this.”

Cock-a-doodle-doo

For all the pageantry, ceremonial grandeur, global dealmaking, and political bridge-building he has seen, Keaveny remains animated by the same instinct that first brought him to London as a curious young Irish lawyer. He still sees opportunity in openness and in the willingness to cross borders and build connections across industries and countries.

His long and wide experience has convinced him that the ties between Ireland and Britain will continue to deepen through commerce, culture, ambition, and personal relationships – with more to unite them than to separate them.

Mary Hallissey is a journalist at the Law Society Gazette.

David v Goliath

The prospect of AI levelling the playing field for smaller Irish legal practices appears close. The key to 'David' taking on the 'Goliath' law firms of this world will be in integrating AI with daily workflow. Sorcha Corcoran launches her slingshot





Image: Alamy



Developments in recent weeks indicate that the prospect of artificial intelligence (AI) levelling the playing field for smaller legal practices in Ireland is getting closer. When exactly this happens hinges on deep workflow integration – in other words, embedding an AI-powered, end-to-end platform across the firm that achieves sustained value from intake to resolution of work.

Global legal AI provider Clio's inaugural *UK & Ireland Legal Insights Report 2026*, published in April, finds that 89% of 500 legal professionals surveyed now use AI tools in some capacity, with 70% having made that shift in the past year alone. However, only 27% of firms have embedded AI widely across their organisation. The majority reports partial or minimal integration, confined to specific tasks or teams.

The report identifies workflow integration as the defining competitive variable for legal firms today. More than one-third of legal professionals (37%) say that integrating new tools into existing workflows is their main barrier to realising value from technology. The challenge is more pronounced among mid-sized firms, where 40% cite integration difficulties compared with 23% in smaller practices.

“The message from this research is clear: AI is no longer a differentiator in itself. Rather, depth of integration is what separates high-performing firms from those leaving real value on the table,” says Sarah Murphy (Clio's general manager, international).

“For solo, small, and mid-sized firms across the UK and Ireland, the opportunity is significant. These firms are often the most agile when it comes to reshaping workflows, and those that move from scattered adoption to cohesion stand to gain the most.”

Competitive advantage

Armin Hendrich, co-founder of Irish-based consulting firm Sentient Expanse, points to two significant recent announcements that seem to boost larger law firms' competitive advantage in this context, but actually, in his view, open up possibilities for smaller practices because of their agility.

The first, on 7 May, was Legora's unveiling of Legora aOS – a purpose-built agentic operating system that enables legal teams to execute complex legal work, end-to-end. This marks what it says is a fundamental shift – from AI that assists with individual tasks to AI that

drives legal work from start to finish, with human oversight.

At the heart of Legora aOS is the Legora Agent, the engine that powers it all. A party sends a contract redline at midnight. By the time the lawyer sits down the next morning, the Legora Agent has already reviewed every change, flagged the issues that need attention, and drafted a response that's ready to send.

Harvey and Legora are widely considered the leading enterprise-grade, legal-specific AI providers globally. Often compared to the 'Coke and Pepsi' of the legal-tech space, they dominate the market for large law firms and in-house corporate teams.

Minimum seat (or licence) restrictions and per-user costs of up to US\$3,000 (around €2,600) a month for basic implementation make them out of reach for sole practitioners and firms employing ten people or less. Legora's aOS involves additional costs beyond this.

Proprietary AI platforms

The second development Hendrich refers to is a *Financial Times* report on 27 May that US law firm Kirkland & Ellis is investing US\$500 million over the next three years to create its own proprietary AI platform. Representing one of the largest legal-tech investments to date, the project will capture the firm's collective intelligence to enhance research and drafting.

A former partner at DLA Piper in Vienna, Hendrich says that Sentient Expanse is already in discussions with lawyers who have left traditional firms and intend to create complete, end-to-end tools (similar to Legora aOS and that of Kirkland & Ellis) for use in their own entrepreneurial practices, with the potential to make these available to other sole practitioners and boutique firms.

Officially launched on 21 May, Sentient Expanse provides operational, technological, and strategic consulting services specifically designed to help experienced legal professionals in Europe to build and scale independent practices.

"At the moment, solutions such as

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If you claim 30 hours' by a junior lawyer for research, for example, clients are likely to challenge why this wasn't done using AI

Legora aOS don't exist at a price point relevant to a small law firm, but we expect them to start appearing in the market in the next year or two, as certain players start to develop their own tools," Hendrich predicts.

"While they won't have the same marketing budgets as Legora, if they succeed, they may offer a real alternative to Legora aOS that small practices could implement within weeks. This means they will be able to react much faster than large firms to where the market is going."

Productivity gains

Research from Trinity College Dublin in collaboration with Microsoft, published on 29 April, reveals that SMEs that invest in AI are more likely to report significant productivity gains than large organisations (18% versus 8%), while organisations with a formal AI policy are ten times more likely to report major productivity gains (30% versus 3%).

The *AI Economy in Ireland 2026* report finds that AI adoption is now near-universal, with 92% of organisations using or planning to use AI. Despite this, 10% of leaders describe their deployment of AI as advanced or frontier-level, while SMEs remain disproportionately concentrated at the early stages.

"AI is already delivering real value for Irish organisations, freeing up thousands of hours a month," says Catherine Doyle (general manager, Microsoft Ireland). "The opportunity now is to make sure the benefits are felt



equally. That means closing the confidence gaps wherever they exist and supporting SMEs to scale from early adoption to full integration. That's where the next wave of value lies."

Smaller practices won't necessarily find themselves at a disadvantage by taking a long position on whether to implement complete end-to-end AI solutions to realise this value, though, in Hendrich's view.

"For a start, not every firm with more than ten users is going to implement Legora aOS within the next weeks or months. If you look at the current implementation of Legora and Harvey, there's an extreme fear of vendor lock-in, with firms reluctant to commit to big upfront costs in case something better comes up," he says.

Partial deployment

"Firms aren't really deploying the solutions with all the in-depth capability they can offer. They're really only deploying them on the surface in ways that are only marginally better than the 'pro' versions of ChatGBT or Claude. Because of concerns around security issues and where data is processed, a lot of firms are just implementing Legora and Harvey as chatbots; they're not using them to tap into company documents or create institutional knowledge in the way Kirkland & Ellis aims to do."

While the implications of the Legora and Kirkland & Ellis announcements will take time to unfold in terms of deep workflow integration within the wider profession, this doesn't mean that smaller practices should hold off on AI adoption altogether, despite its current limitations.

"In my practice as a lawyer, which was around economic sanctions and policy, the answers I got from AI chatbots were wrong 70% of the time, but that didn't mean that 30% of the answers weren't incredibly helpful. Once you know how to use AI, it can bring research time down by tenfold," says Hendrich.

"With the market moving so fast, waiting for the dust to settle to fully understand AI is a problematic approach, as it ignores the fact that client expectations are rising. Clients assume now that law firms are using AI for efficiency gains and are looking more critically at lower-end resources. If



Image: Shutterstock

you claim 30 hours' by a junior lawyer for research, for example, clients are likely to challenge why this wasn't done using AI."

Software as a service

Michelle Daly, chief operating officer at LEAP Legal Software in Dublin, says interest in its AI tools is definitely growing at present, as law firms that had been reluctant to embrace the technology feel they have no choice but to do so now.

Under its software-as-a-service model, LEAP costs around €140 per user per month, on average – the equivalent of half a billable hour for most firms. This includes all of its AI features, in addition to the full case-management, document automation, brief builder, and legal-accounts solution, as well as ongoing training and support.

"Around half of our 500 client firms are regular users of our AI tools, with the remaining amount dipping their toes in the water, experimenting on tasks rather than opting to fully embed them," she says. "The vast majority of our clients have under ten users. Younger, more tech-savvy firms are

nearly insisting to work with AI to improve their operation, while traditional firms are still very wary: they aren't as keen to embrace it because of concerns around accuracy and client confidentiality."


Inward and outward-facing

LEAP's two most popular AI tools are 'Matter AI' and 'LawY'. As Daly explains, Matter AI works like a legal assistant or executive, helping to manage all ingoing and outgoing material on a matter.

"Each matter has its own record. For example, a personal-injury case running over a long period of time might have a couple of hundred to 1,000 documents relating to it. Matter AI can do a variety of tasks, including summarising those documents in a matter of seconds, finding information, and drafting letters or emails," she says. "For the PI claim, it can provide a chronology of hospital appointments or a list of injuries – it is capable of that level of granular detail. And you don't have to worry about accuracy, because everything is referenced. The tool is inward-facing

and the information never leaves the LEAP platform," she says.

LawY is an outward-facing research tool, similar to ChatGPT, but legal-specific. The information is never shared or used to train the AI model, and it includes a generic verification tool within it. "When LEAP first came to Ireland eight years ago, we advertised for solicitors to come on board with us to create a panel of verifiers who are specialists in their field," says Daly. "If a user asks a question about drink-driving laws, say, and needs further clarification following the AI chatbot's answer in LawY, a member of this panel will give them a response in less than a day. This works really well for smaller practices or solicitors in an isolated position who don't have people to bounce things off. They don't have to provide any personal information when making this request."

Daly says that smaller practices should treat AI tools as an extra pair of eyes on their work: "AI tools are brilliant at summarising large amounts of information and saving an enormous amount of time, but this doesn't replace solicitors' judgement, brain power, and knowledge of a case. Whatever AI tool you use, there's still an expectation that you thoroughly review and sign off on any output." 

Sorcha Corcoran is a freelance journalist for the Law Society Gazette.

LOOK IT UP

LITERATURE:

- *AI Economy in Ireland 2026 - AI Adoption Index: Benchmarking and Impact* (Trinity Centre for Digital Business and Analytics, Trinity College Dublin, in association with Microsoft Ireland)
- 'Kirkland & Ellis to spend \$500m building its own AI technology' (*Financial Times*, 28 May 2026)
- *UK & Ireland Legal Insights Report 2026* (Clio, April 2026)

WEBSITES

- Harvey (www.harvey.ai)
- LEAP: Matter AI (leaplegalsoftware.com/ie/features/matterai) and LawY (leaplegalsoftware.com/ie/integrations/lawy)
- Legora aOS (legora.com/product/aos)
- Sentient Expanse (www.sentientexpanse.com)



BAD MEDICINE

The High Court has ruled on the circumstances in which a stay may be granted on medical-negligence proceedings pending a plaintiff agreeing to undergo further testing sought by the defendant. Gemma Hayes gets out the swabs

The judgment delivered by Simons J in *C (A Minor) v HSE* is the first of its kind in Irish law. On 22 April, the High Court made an order in which it granted a stay on the progression of medical-negligence proceedings until such a time as the plaintiff (a minor child) and her parents agreed to undergo genetic testing by the defendant's expert.

The plaintiff, suing by her father and next friend, had advanced a claim of medical

negligence on the part of the defendant for alleged failures in her assessment, investigation, diagnosis, and management at St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny, on various dates in February 2020. It is the plaintiff's case that she suffered post-haemorrhagic hydrocephalus and that, as a result of the alleged failures, the defendant contributed to a permanent neurological injury and disability that she now experiences. The defendant admitted certain breaches in its duty of care to the plaintiff, but did not admit that it caused or contributed to the neurological injuries and disability that the plaintiff is alleged to have sustained.

What the doctor ordered

In the course of its investigations into the plaintiff's claim, the defendant obtained a report from a consultant clinical and biochemical geneticist. The report concluded that the plaintiff was suspected to have an underlying genetic factor that affected the presentation of her neurological injury and disability.

At the end of 2024, the defendant wrote to the plaintiff and her parents requesting that they meet with its consultant geneticist for examination and testing. The plaintiff and her parents declined to undergo the examination, citing safeguarding concerns about the handling and preservation of the genetic material collected, and the extent to which incidental or secondary genetic findings might be disclosed.

Following the exchange of significant correspondence on the issue, the defendant brought a motion seeking to stay the substantive proceedings until such time as the plaintiff and her parents (a) attend for clinical examination by its genetics expert, and (b) provide a buccal swab sample to allow for trio-exome sequencing testing to be conducted thereon. Importantly, the motion did not seek to compel the plaintiff and her parents to undergo genetic examination or testing – only that the proceedings be stayed until such time as they elected to undergo the examination sought by the defendant.

Remedy

At the outset of his judgment, Simons J reaffirmed the position set out in *McGrory v Electricity Supply Board* that the High Court enjoys an inherent jurisdiction to stay personal-injuries proceedings where the justice of the case so requires. The rationale underlying this jurisdiction is that a plaintiff who sues for damages for personal injuries waives the right to privacy that they would otherwise enjoy over their medical condition. The court in *McGrory* further found that the plaintiff must “not unfairly and unreasonably” impede the defendant in the preparation of its defence by refusing to submit to a medical examination.

Simons J said that it logically follows from the phrase “not unfairly and unreasonably” that the courts must engage in a balancing exercise whereby a defendant's right to defend a claim against it must be balanced against the likelihood of potential interference with a plaintiff's rights, including the right to privacy, confidentiality, and bodily integrity.

With reference to the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Ryan v Dengrove DAC*, Simons J went on to articulate a two-limb test to guide the court's consideration of whether it should exercise its jurisdiction to stay substantive medical-negligence proceedings until such time as a plaintiff agreed to undergo medical examination.

The first limb of the test is that the court must ascertain the relevance or materiality of the requested examination. If the examination is intended to elicit information that is required for the proposed defence, then the court may be so satisfied that the examination is relevant and material to an issue of controversy between the parties.

The second limb involves the court engaging in a balancing exercise in which the court must weigh the likely relevance or materiality of the results of the



The motion did not seek to compel the plaintiff and her parents to undergo genetic examination or testing – only that the proceedings be stayed until such time as they elected to undergo the examination sought by the defendant



The courts must engage in a balancing exercise whereby a defendant's right to defend a claim against it must be balanced against the likelihood of potential interference with a plaintiff's rights

medical examination to the issues between the parties against the potential interference with the plaintiff's rights to privacy, confidentiality, and bodily integrity. The court must assess the extent to which the outcome of the medical examination is likely to advance the moving party's case or to impair the opposing party's case.

Doctor, doctor

In applying this test to the facts before him, Simons J began with an assessment of the evidence before the court. The only expert medical evidence was in the form of three reports prepared by the defendant's consultant clinical and biochemical geneticist, comprising a principal report and two further supplemental reports that expressly addressed the safeguarding concerns raised by the plaintiff and her parents about agreeing to the genetic testing. The reports explained why genetic testing was relevant to the case (that it was suspected that the plaintiff's presentations had a genetic component) and why it was recommended that the plaintiff and both of her parents submit to the testing (in order to enable parental comparison at interpretation stage).

No expert medical evidence had been submitted on behalf of the plaintiff. On the basis of the information before the court, the latter concluded that the defendant had discharged the onus upon it to demonstrate that results of the genetic examination and testing proposed would go to resolving issues in controversy between the parties. Accordingly, the first limb of the test had been satisfied.

Simons J moved on to consider the second limb of the test, involving the balancing of the relevance or materiality of the results of the medical examination, as weighed against the potential interference with the plaintiff's rights to privacy, confidentiality, and bodily integrity.

I don't need no doctor

Simons J began his considerations by addressing one of the main arguments advanced by the plaintiff – that the proposed genetic testing did not fulfil the criterion of relevance. The plaintiff argued that, because the defendant admitted certain failures in assessment and diagnosis in February 2020, on the basis of an 'indivisible injury' principle, the plaintiff was entitled to recover as against the defendant for all of the physical and cognitive impairments experienced by her. However, Simons J noted that, crucially, the defendant made no admissions as to the impacts of the failures that it accepted occurred.

The judge went on to say that an 'indivisible injury' argument only arises where a negligent act has been found, on evidence, to have contributed to an injury, but the precise extent of that contribution cannot be determined. Such an argument could not be advanced here because, as Simons J observed, no medical evidence had been placed before the court that would allow for even a preliminary assessment of whether the plaintiff had a realistic prospect of relying on the 'indivisible injury' principle.

On the basis of the only expert evidence that was actually before the court, in the form of the reports of the defendant's consultant clinical and biochemical geneticist, Simons J was satisfied that the developmental delay, early onset obesity, dysmorphic features, and ventriculomegaly complained of by the plaintiff likely had a genetic basis. The court was, therefore, able to conclude that the proposed genetic examination and testing sought by the defendant was not only relevant, but that the results would likely have some meaningful bearing on the outcome of the proceedings.

Medicine man

The plaintiff submitted that she had previously undergone genetic investigations, which had come back as negative and, therefore, it was not necessary or appropriate for the court to order genetic testing in the circumstances. Once again, Simons J was satisfied by the evidence that had been put forward by the defendant's consultant geneticist as to why this previous testing was incomplete. The previous testing had looked at only two of more than 8,000 known genetic conditions, and did not include taking samples from the plaintiff's parents, which would allow for 'gold standard' comparative analysis.

The court then moved on to consider the rights of the plaintiff and her parents that might be impeded by the genetic examination and testing sought by the defendant. In particular, the court had regard to the privacy and autonomy concerns raised by the plaintiff.

On the basis of the expert evidence placed before the court by the defendant, Simons J accepted that the safeguarding measures put in place were adequate: examination would only proceed following pre-test

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counselling, informed consent would be sought, sampling would be by non-invasive buccal swab, referral could be made to a different consultant geneticist if the plaintiff and her parents so wished, the results would only be shared with the legal teams, and post-test counselling could be provided.

Doctor alibi

With respect to incidental and secondary findings, the judge was satisfied that incidental findings are only reported in rare circumstances, and secondary findings were not reviewed or reported unless indicated otherwise. In any event, issues with respect to incidental findings would be addressed as part of the pre-examination counselling. Simons J was similarly satisfied with the data-security measures put in place and the standard of the laboratories at which the samples would be tested.

Finally, the judge considered the plaintiff’s argument that it was inappropriate to make an order staying the proceedings, which, in effect, would require the plaintiff’s parents to attend for genetic examination and

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The court was able to conclude that the proposed genetic examination and testing sought by the defendant was not only relevant, but that the results would likely have some meaningful bearing on the outcome of the proceedings

testing when they were essentially third parties to the proceedings. The judge dismissed this argument on the basis that the plaintiff’s parents are “actively involved in the pursuit of the personal-injuries action”, particularly where the plaintiff’s father was acting as her next friend.

On the basis of the foregoing, as the genetic testing sought by the defendant would assist in resolving issues in controversy between the parties as weighed against the plaintiff’s opposition to undergoing testing, Simons J concluded that the balance of justice lay in favour of staying the proceedings until such time as the examination could be carried out.

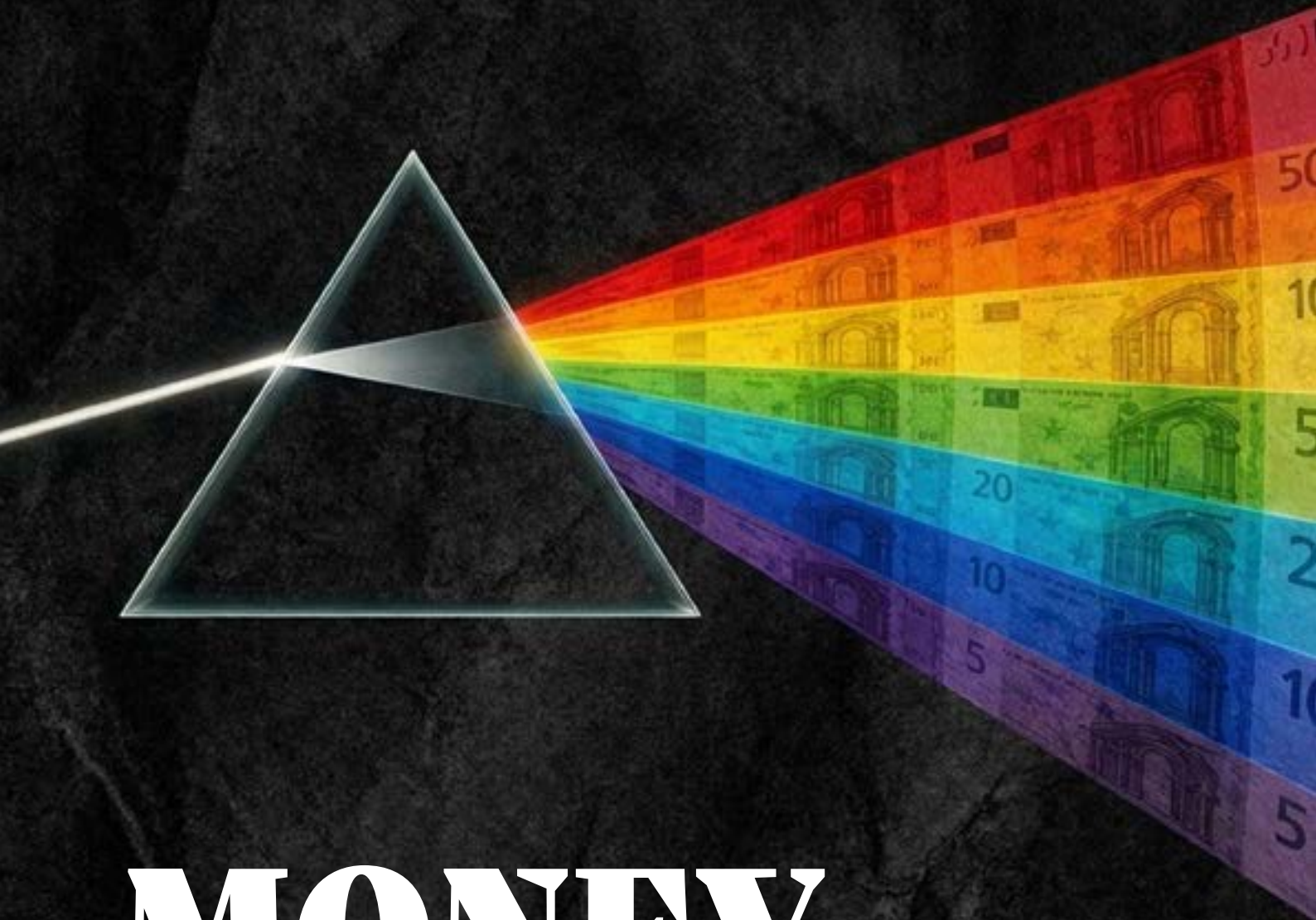
Given the novel nature of the examination that the defendant sought to have the plaintiff and her parents undergo in these proceedings, and the test set out by Simons J, this is a case that practitioners in the areas of medical negligence and personal injuries will likely need to become familiar with. ⁸

Gemma Hayes BL practises generally in civil law. She wishes to thank Michael Binchy SC for reviewing the article.

LOOK IT UP

CASES:

- *C (A Minor) v Health Service Executive* [2026] IEHC 234
- *Clarke v Poole & Ors* [2024] EWHC 1509 KB (England and Wales)
- *CNZ v Royal Bath Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust* [2023] EWHC 19 (England and Wales)
- *McGrory v Electricity Supply Board* [2003] 3 IR 407
- *Paling (A Child) v Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust* [2021] EWHC 3266 (England and Wales)
- *Ryan v Dengrove DAC* [2022] IECA 155



MONEY

Retirement can be a culture shock. Now is the time to take stock and plan the financial aspects well in advance to ensure a comfortable and rewarding retirement. Michael Ó Scathail and Jonathan Ginnelly see the light



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eaders will by now be aware that a legal practitioner contemplating retirement will encounter a wide range of issues, both tax and commercial, and that early engagement is critical. The first two parts of this series set out some of the key issues to be considered during the preparatory phase and those that arise on the retirement itself. Part 3 now considers the post-retirement phase.

It is often noted that retirement can come as something of a 'culture shock', and many retirees struggle with what might loosely be referred to as the 'social challenges' of retirement. These challenges are beyond the scope of this article, other than to note that experts in the field often cite the importance of taking stock and planning it out in advance in order to have a more comfortable and rewarding retirement – and this advice equally applies to the financial aspects.

Time

In the first instance, it's useful to set out a projection of your financial requirements in retirement and the income that will fund them.

Expenditure requirements will vary from case to case. Ordinarily, outgoings in retirement should be lower than during one's working life – for example, the mortgage on the family home may be paid off, the cost of commuting will fall away, etc. However, while some costs may diminish, the retiree might have certain plans for retirement, such as travelling or taking up a new hobby that could require some financial outlay.

The sources of income will vary depending on the individual's circumstances. For most retirees, the key sources will be pension (private and State).

In some cases, as discussed earlier in this series, a practitioner may have retained their business premises from which they are now generating a rental income. Some practitioners may have agreed to stay on in a consultancy role with their former firm for a period of time post-retirement and are, therefore, in receipt of a salary or consultancy fees. Various sources of investment income – dividends, interest, rents – can apply in some cases.

While the State pension receivable will be at the prevailing rate at the time (at the discretion of the Government of the day), the quantum of private-pension income will vary depending on the value of funds built up during the retiree's working life. (Readers may wish to refer to part 2 of this series – *June Gazette*, p48 – where the tax treatment of pension contributions and how pension provision might be boosted in the closing years, in particular, were considered.)

Another key feature of a private pension is the entitlement to draw down a lump sum at the outset. This has important tax as well as financial-planning implications, and is considered in some detail below. It is important that this lump sum is factored in correctly when preparing projections of income and expenditure in retirement. For instance, the lump sum may be used to fund some one-off requirements, such as works on the family home or, perhaps, an exciting overseas expedition that has been envisaged for some time. Assuming it is not all spent then, some may be reinvested or put into savings, with a view to gradually releasing it to provide an extra stream of income on an ongoing basis.

The pension may not be the only source of a lump sum: others include the repayment of the practitioner's capital account (an important issue that should be reviewed carefully and which is considered in more detail below) and, in some cases, the proceeds of sale of the business premises or where a capital payment has been received for practice goodwill.

It is important that it is the after-tax income that is compared with expenditure requirements. For the most part, other than the introduction of an age credit of €245 (or €490 for a married couple) at age 65, income-tax treatments do not change hugely in retirement.

There is an exemption from income tax where total income does not exceed €18,000 per annum (or €36,000 for a married couple) but, assuming that the State pension is not the only source of income, these thresholds are generally exceeded. There are also reduced USC rates at age 70 where the individual's annual income (excluding State pension that is not subject to USC) is less than €60,000.

Any colour you like

On retirement, the practitioner will likely have a capital account built up. This is ultimately a reflection of their earnings over the years and is taxed income. Its withdrawal should not, therefore, give rise to any additional tax costs and can provide the retiree with a welcome financial boost.

The manner in which this capital account is accessed can differ, depending on the circumstances. In an ideal world, the retiring practitioner would withdraw the entire amount on retirement – this should be possible where, for example, the practice is simply being closed. In other cases, however, such as where there is a successor taking over, or where the retiree was part of an existing partnership, the other practitioners may be less keen to distribute the entire amount upfront and, in those circumstances, it is important that a timeframe and structure is agreed for repayment – this with a view to avoiding any friction and to providing all parties with some cash-flow certainty.

Speak to me

The private pension is the likeliest other source of a lump sum and, in most cases, will be the main source of ongoing income in retirement. It therefore merits careful consideration, and specialist advice should be taken in advance on how best to access pension benefits.

While the rules of each scheme may vary, generally they allow up to 25% of the fund to be taken as a lump sum. Currently, such pension lump sums are

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The private pension is the likeliest other source of a lump sum and, in most cases, will be the main source of ongoing income in retirement. It therefore merits careful consideration, and specialist advice should be taken in advance on how best to access pension benefits

exempt from income tax up to €200,000, with the remainder up to €500,000 being taxed at a rate of 20% and any element above €500,000 (uncommon in practice) being taxed at marginal rates. These are cumulative thresholds, however, and it is important that any prior lump sums drawn down are factored in.

The remainder of the pension is then typically used to provide an income stream in retirement. Again, the nature and rules of the scheme must be considered but, normally, the choice is to either use the remainder of the fund to purchase an annuity or to transfer it to an Approved Retirement Fund (ARF). The appropriate course of action varies, depending on individual circumstances, and should be considered carefully.

Us and them

An annuity can provide a guaranteed income stream in retirement, but consideration should be given to the annuity rates available. An ARF, on the other hand, can continue to reinvest with a view to generating further returns (albeit that a conservative investment strategy is generally applied, the ARF-holder having now retired) that are not subject to tax inside the ARF.

The imputed distribution rules require an ARF to apply payroll taxes (PAYE, USC, and potentially PRSI) on 4% of the fund value each year from age 61, rising to 5% at age 71, even if no distribution is actually made. In practice, therefore, in order to avoid double taxation, the ARF distributes at least this amount each year to the ARF-holder.

Careful consideration should therefore be given to when the pension benefits should be accessed and the fund transferred to an ARF/annuity. One option that may be worth considering is splitting pension benefits between a number of funds and, initially, only accessing one fund, with the remaining funds being drawn down at a later date. They might, for example, draw down a fund that provides a tax-free lump sum of €200,000 and a sufficient income stream from the ARF (or annuity) for the next few years, allowing the other funds to potentially generate additional returns, and only draw them down (and trigger the additional tax costs) at a later date.

This is a complex area, and specialist and timely advice should be taken from a pensions specialist.



On the run

Another matter that requires specialist and timely advice is if an individual wishes to retire overseas or even wishes to divide their time between Ireland and another country.

This gives rise to a number of potential tax issues. At the simplest level, the tax rules of the other country will have to be taken into account. Issues such as the overall tax regime in the destination jurisdiction will need to be confirmed. If a significant amount of time is to be spent in Ireland as well, then the issue of dual-tax residency arises. In such instance, reliance on [double-taxation treaties](#) may be necessary in respect of potential double-taxation on income and gains.

The tax treatment of pension income will be particularly important. In principle, provided there is a [double-taxation agreement](#) between Ireland and the other country, pension income should generally only be taxable in the other country, and an exclusion order may be obtained to ensure that Irish tax is not withheld at source. In practice, however, the position may not always be as straightforward, in particular where ARFs are concerned.

The impact on assets should also be considered, including the CGT treatment in both jurisdictions on a disposal of assets and, longer-term, the impact on inheritance-tax treatment. It would also be advisable to seek local legal advice on the matter of wills and estates.



Another key feature of a private pension is the entitlement to draw down a lump sum at the outset. This has important tax and financial-planning implications

The great gig in the sky

While at the beginning of what will, hopefully, be a long and happy retirement, ‘wills and estates’ might not be a topic that one would wish to dwell on too deeply; however, it is something that merits careful consideration.

Who you leave your assets to and when you do so (by way of gift or inheritance) can have significant tax, as well as other, consequences. Legal practitioners will, no doubt, understand the importance of this more than most.

Where you own assets outside Ireland, you should consider any potential inheritance-tax exposures in that jurisdiction. One of the most common jurisdictions in this regard is the United States, due to the very significant

proportion that US equities account for in many investment portfolios. Where US equities in excess of US\$60,000 are owned by a non-US citizen at the time of their death, then an exposure to US federal estate tax will arise for their estate, even where the assets are passing to a spouse.

If you retire abroad, the inheritance-tax regime in your chosen jurisdiction, as well as legal provisions with regard to succession matters, will need to be considered. While Ireland has a broad network of double-tax treaties dealing with taxation of income and gains, the treaty network with regard to inheritance taxes is quite limited.

Ireland does allow unilateral relief for inheritance taxes in certain situations, but these provisions do not always fully mitigate double-taxation exposure. As such, if retiring abroad, a clear understanding of all relevant taxation provisions in the jurisdiction you intend to live in is important.

It will now be appreciated that, even after reaching the retirement milestone, there are still many issues to consider. This series of articles began with the observation that taking a long-term approach and early engagement with the issues are key to a successful retirement. As we conclude, it is a message that we find ourselves reiterating. ☒

Michael Ó Scathail is a director of the owner-managed business service in the tax department at Crowe. Jonathan Ginnelly, partner, leads the private clients' service in the same department.

FIND OUT MORE

For further details on succession planning and for information on supports and services available from the Law Society, contact the Solicitor Services Department at solicitorservices@lawsociety.ie.

Law Society's 'Buy/Sell/Merge' service: www.lawsociety.ie/succession-and-exit-planning/buy-sell-merge.



Pic: Jason Darte Photography

Criminal-law practitioners attending an information session on the proposed flat-fee structure at Blackhall Place on 9 June

Flat-fee reform spells jeopardy for practices

The Law Society has roundly condemned the ‘seriously flawed’ Department of Justice review of the proposed criminal legal-aid fee structure. Solicitors have been voting with their feet – withdrawing legal services from the courts from 17 June

The Law Society has said it strongly rejects claims made in the Department of Justice’s *Review and Reform Proposal of the Criminal Legal Aid Fee Structure for the District Court*, which were reported on 17 June.

The document – which the department did not directly share with the Law Society – contradicts recent comments from the Justice Minister, who clearly stated in the Dáil that there was no plan to cut fees, makes multiple critical

assertions about solicitors, yet fails to provide data to support them.

Law Society President Rosemarie Loftus, in a statement released on 18 June, said: “This is not evidence-based policy analysis. It is anecdote deployed as accusation. Criminal legal aid is not a discretionary spending line. It is the mechanism by which the State honours its constitutional obligation and its international obligations under the *European Convention on Human Rights* and established United Nations’ principles to

provide a fair trial to every person facing a criminal charge – regardless of means.

“It is worrying in the extreme that this non-evidence-based analysis is being used to support this flawed proposal from the Department of Justice,” she said.

Unfounded allegation

The president added: “The department’s document asserts that the higher rate of adjournments in legal-aid cases is down to financial motivation on the part of solicitors. This is a serious and unfounded

allegation. The department fails to provide evidence to support this claim.

“The reality is that adjournments are most often driven by statutory requirements and State-side delays. These include delays in providing disclosure, delays in getting DPP directions, delays in serving books of evidence, delays in obtaining probation and restorative justice reports, as well as challenges accessing interpreters.

“Each one of these adjournments is granted by a judge who is independent of either the defence or prosecution in every case, and the State has every right to object to those requests in each case.”

Complexity ignored

The Law Society says that the department’s comparison of legal-aid versus non-legal-aid cases completely ignores case complexity, rendering the conclusion that solicitors cause delays “analytically meaningless”.

Those using criminal legal aid are often vulnerable people struggling with addiction or serious mental-health conditions – homeless people, victims of trafficking, non-English speakers, and people in acute crisis. These cases almost always require additional time, additional appearances, and patient, repeated engagement with a solicitor.

President Loftus concluded: “The Law Society is calling on the Minister for Justice to enter into genuine, structured consultation and engagement with the profession. Criminal defence solicitors perform an essential constitutional function. They are entitled to be treated as professionals who act in the interests of their clients – and not blamed for delays that are fundamentally the consequence of inadequate resourcing of the wider criminal justice system.”

Genuine consultation

Last February, Justice Minister Jim O’Callaghan announced plans to introduce a flat fee for criminal legal-aid services in the District Courts. The proposed €455 flat fee would cover a case from beginning to end, regardless of the number of court appearances. This represents approximately a 20% cut. The Law Society has described the proposals as “unworkable”, warning that they would lead to an exodus of solicitors from criminal legal-aid work.

At a meeting convened by the Law Society on 9 June, more than 150 criminal-law solicitors from across the country met at Blackhall Place. Criminal Law Committee chair Shane McCarthy expressed frustration at the department’s lack of engagement with the Law Society submission, telling the meeting that the organisation

One solicitor summed up the mood by describing the proposals as ‘practice-threatening’

had been presented with a *fait accompli*.

The department had been invited to send representatives, but declined – a decision President Loftus described as a “discourtesy”. Other speakers described the absence of officials as “an insult” and “an absolute slap in the face”.

A Department of Justice spokeswoman insisted it remained open to further discussions before the July deadline and characterised the reforms as aimed at improving court efficiency and securing fairer remuneration for practitioners.

McCarthy stated that the Law Society’s submission had not been considered in any depth, and that proposals for amendment had been received in an “offhanded fashion”. He told the meeting that the current proposal had come as a “complete and utter surprise” and “in no way” represented a reversal of financial-crisis-era cuts.

Egregious wrong

According to the department’s own figures, McCarthy pointed out that solicitors were being paid an average of €480 for a

criminal legal-aid certificate, whereas the department was now proposing a flat fee of €455.

Speakers expressed particular concern about cases where a legal-aid transfer is made to a different solicitor – under the proposals, only the solicitor representing the defendant when the final order is made would be entitled to the fee. One solicitor described as “an egregious wrong” a situation in which a solicitor who had started a case would receive nothing.

Mayo solicitor Gary Mulchrone summed up the mood by describing the flat-fee proposals as “practice-threatening”. Criminal-law solicitor Dara Robinson told the meeting that the Department of Justice was “fixated” on costs and had no understanding of the critical input solicitors had into the operation of the system.

Committee vice-chair Amanda Connolly called for support from colleagues in other areas of the justice system, warning that criminal lawyers were “easy targets” and were being used as “guinea pigs” for potential similar proposals in civil law or the Circuit Court in the future.

McCarthy pledged to communicate the “palpable sense of anger and frustration” at the meeting to the department: “What we are hearing from practitioners is that these proposals would lead to practitioners no longer taking on District Court legal-aid work, with inevitable consequences for defendants, the courts, and the wider justice system. The Department of Justice needs to address the serious concerns of solicitors before pressing ahead with changes that will have lasting and harmful effects.”

Withdrawal of services

Some criminal legal-aid solicitors and law firms began withdrawing their services from the courts on 17 June, leaving thousands of criminal cases unable to proceed. Members of the Southern Law Association resolved to withdraw services in criminal cases indefinitely from 22 June, but subsequently deferred this action to allow notice to be given.

On 19 June, the Law Society’s Criminal Law Committee held an online meeting attended by more than 250 criminal-law solicitors, who were told that departmental officials had confirmed the new payments model would proceed as planned from 1 July. The meeting concluded with a clear sense of unity around escalation.

Following a meeting on 22 June, criminal-defence solicitors, acting independently, agreed not to act in new custody cases from midnight that night, while continuing to act in custody cases where already assigned. They agreed not to attend at garda stations or provide phone advice to those in custody, nor to make themselves available for evening courts, Saturday courts, or special sittings. As a result, no new juries can be sworn in for bail cases, and thousands more cases have been adjourned across the District and Circuit Courts, Central Criminal Court, and Court of Appeal.

Mary Hallissey is a journalist and Andrew Fanning is a freelance journalist at the Law Society Gazette. (Additional reporting by Mark McDermott, editor.)

‘First Conviction’ wins big at JMAs

RTÉ Radio 1’s ‘First Conviction’ was the overall winner in this year’s Justice Media Awards, which attracted a record 674 entries in 16 categories. Andrew Fanning reports



Photo: Jason Clarke Photography

The RTÉ Radio 1 podcast series ‘First Conviction’ has won the overall prize at the Law Society’s Justice Media Awards 2026. The team behind the podcast – Tim Desmond, David Doran, Pamela Fraher, Philip Gallagher, Aoife Hegarty, Mel Mercier, Ruth Negga, and Liam O’Brien – were presented with the award at a ceremony at Blackhall Place on 11 June.

The series, which also took

The collective noun for journalists is ‘a hackery’. Apparently...

the prize in the Broadcast Journalism (Podcast) category, investigated the case of a couple imprisoned for a crime against their child that never happened.

RTÉ Investigates was also awarded the prize in the Broadcast Journalism (TV/video) category for its special report on the same issue.

‘Shocking failures’

The judges described the winning podcast as a “hugely important piece of journalism” that “wore its hard work and research lightly”.

Chair of the judging panel

Michael Kealey described it as “timely”, saying that it informed the public of “shocking failures” that still take place in the legal system. “It shone a light on a terrible miscarriage of justice involving the most vulnerable in our society,” he stated, adding that it “gave a voice to the voiceless”.

Speaking at the ceremony, actress Ruth Negga praised the team for their “sustained and patient” telling of the story, adding that the key to fighting prejudice was to shine a light on people who had not had their voices heard.

Journalism's 'vital role'

This year's awards attracted a record 674 entries in 16 categories – a 35% increase on 2025. Issues relating to coercive control, domestic violence, the Satchwell murder case, critiques of the justice system, AI and data centres, and the DJ Carey case were among the key topics that proved popular across the 16 award categories.

Law Society President Rosemarie Loftus described the increase in the number of entries – “a 35% increase in entries since last year alone, and a tripling in entries in the last five years” – as “a testament to the health, strength, and diversity of legal journalism in Ireland”.

“In an increasingly complex world, trusted journalism is essential,” she added. “The awards are a reflection of the commitment of journalists across the country to producing rigorous, impactful public-interest reporting”

The president commented that the awards continued to demonstrate the vital role that journalism played in helping the public understand the law, the courts, and the issues that shape society.

“First Conviction’ was educational and informative. It captured the mood of the nation, highlighting distinct miscarriages of justice and areas of concern within the

It informed the public of 'shocking failures' that still take place in the legal system

legal system – and where they need to be improved. It was a stand-out piece of journalism,” she stated.

“On behalf of the Law Society, I congratulate all of this year's winners and finalists. Their work reflects the depth of talent that exists across Ireland's media landscape. Whether reporting for national or local audiences, producing podcasts, documentaries or digital content, these journalists are finding new and innovative ways to engage the public with legal issues,” the president concluded. 📺

Andrew Fanning is a freelance journalist at the Law Society Gazette.



FULL LIST OF WINNERS

There was one overall winner of the Justice Media Awards 2026, with 16 category awards and 37 merits presented across 16 categories.

Overall Winner

'First Conviction' – by Tim Desmond, David Doran, Pamela Fraher, Philip Gallagher, Aoife Hegarty, Mel Mercier, Ruth Negga, and Liam O'Brien (RTÉ Radio 1)

Print/Online Journalism (Daily)
Sinéad O'Carroll and Aoife Moore (*The Journal*): 'How the operator of gossip site, *Tattle Life*, was unmasked in an Irish court'

Print/Online Journalism (Sunday)
Michael O'Farrell (*Irish Mail on Sunday*): 'Brother Aidan Clohessy abuse investigation'

Print/Online Journalism (Feature)
Cormac O'Keeffe (*Irish Examiner*): 'Inside Ireland's deportation system'

Print/Online Journalism (Local)
Bernie English (*Limerick Post*): 'New laws on what happens when your name ends up in the paper for the wrong reasons'; 'Stop thief: The words no shopkeeper can say'; 'I just want the record set straight'

Broadcast Journalism (Radio - National)
Brian O'Connell (RTÉ Radio 1): 'Inside the Drug Treatment Court'

Broadcast Journalism (Radio - Local)
Niall Delaney (*Ocean FM*): 'Beaten to death – the Tom Niland case'

Broadcast Journalism (Podcast)
Tim Desmond, David Doran, Pamela Fraher, Philip Gallagher, Aoife Hegarty, Mel Mercier, Ruth Negga, and Liam O'Brien (RTÉ Radio 1): 'First Conviction'

Broadcast Journalism (TV/Video)
David Doran, Pamela Fraher, Philip Gallagher, Aoife Hegarty, Tim Desmond, and Liam O'Brien (RTÉ Investigates): 'First Conviction'

Court Reporting – Print/Online
Mary Carolan (*The Irish Times*): 'The struggle to rein in Ireland's teen offenders: These gangs have no fear of recrimination'

Court Reporting (Broadcast)
Barry Cummins, Sallyanne Godson, Sean Higgins, and Martin Vale (RTÉ Prime Time): 'Tina's truth'

Human Rights/Social Justice Reporting (Print/Online)
Alison O'Reilly (*Irish Examiner*): 'The 11-year investigation that led to Ireland's first ever mass exhumation'

Human Rights/Social Justice Reporting (Broadcast)
Gavin Cooney, Ronan Early, Niall Kelly, Gareth Lyons, Sinéad O'Carroll, and Nicky Ryan (*The Journal* and *The 42*): 'Blathnaid Raleigh on the aftermath of a rape trial and the two sides of sport'

Environmental Law/Climate Justice Reporting
Niall Sargent (*The Currency*): 'Data centre climate disclosures'

International Justice Reporting
Alice Chambers (*The Currency*): 'The "teen" category was one of the most profitable'

Newcomer of the Year
Ella Sloane (*The Irish Times*).

Student Journalism
Orla Mahon and Adam Schmitz (*The University Observer*): 'Coverage of UCD School of Medicine sexual assault and image-based sexual abuse'

I love EU!

The EU and International Affairs Committee operates as a vital ‘horizon scanner’ to catch EU directives early in their life-cycle – and intervenes when problems are foreseen. Mary Hallissey reports

The Law Society EU and International Affairs Committee is primarily an outward-facing unit, interacting extensively with representative bodies across Europe. It comprises approximately 16 members, meeting each month in a hybrid format, and with members that include former Law Society presidents, Council members, and other key participants. Each meeting results in a report that is circulated to the Law Society’s Council.

All committee members are multilingual, and all serve for multiple years to retain their deep institutional knowledge and maintain long-term international relationships, particularly with continental bar associations, the IBA, and the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE).

There are also representatives from key State bodies: the Chief State Solicitor’s Office, Attorney General’s Office (Anthony Joyce), and ComReg Commissioner Niamh Hodnett.

The committee has three senior counsel, including Cormac Little, who also represents Ireland on the CCBE. It also keeps ‘boots on the ground’, with member

Roughly 70% of Irish law comprises the direct implementation or transposition of EU law.

Bernard O’Connor SC located permanently in Brussels to monitor real-time EU developments. The committee also maintains the dedicated substantive section ‘Eurlegal’ for the *Gazette*, contributing articles and case notes to the journal of record.

Chair Richard Kelly, who speaks French, and vice-chair Duncan Grehan, who speaks both German and French, note that roughly 70% of Irish law comprises the direct implementation or transposition of EU law. Ireland legislates ‘around the edges’, but mostly implements EU law, they agree.

Interventions

The committee operates as a vital ‘horizon scanner’ to catch EU directives early in their two-to-four-year ‘drafting-to-implementation’ life-cycle, and intervenes where necessary if problems are foreseen.

Yearly, members meet their counterparts from the Belgian, French, German, and Spanish Bars to exchange information.

“People remain on the committee because they are enthusiastic about the work and international law,” says Richard. “It takes so long to build those relationships and we don’t want to lose that experience.”

Ireland frequently struggles with late transposition of complex EU directives due



The E-Team: Duncan Grehan, Richard Kelly, and Deirdre Flynn

to political prioritisation and workload constraints. This country currently faces 47 active breaches/infringements of European law (listed on the Government website) due to failure to transpose directives on time, Richard and Duncan add.

A February deadline to transpose EU laws regarding the preservation and admission of cross-border electronic evidence for cybercrime worldwide was missed, they say.

Duncan Grehan is chair of the subcommittee that has been assisting the Department of Justice with this transposition. He points out that Ireland is also the only EU country that has not yet ratified the *Budapest Convention on Cybercrime 2004*, and the only one that hasn’t sent a representative to the European Public Prosecution Office. Ratification will require approval of both Houses of the Oireachtas.

“These types of things are on our agenda to monitor, and



then the Law Society’s Council makes the decisions, because we are a committee within the Law Society,” Richard says. “What we do is report up – we can make suggestions.

“We also offer our services to Government departments, if they seek meetings with us. The more of that the better, rather than reports gathering dust on a shelf.”

Harmonising laws

Duncan adds: “We are very focused on items that are relevant to the solicitors’ profession and the work that they do, whether company law or the recognition of cross-border wills, for instance.

“We try to look at matters from an outside-of-Ireland viewpoint – to try and help harmonise our laws with those of our trading partners across Europe. There can be nuances in Irish law, for instance, that might not be recognised or understood at EU level.”

The committee’s workload includes monitoring heavily

worded EU mandates that place strict responsibilities on lawyers to report suspicious transactions and vet client-asset provenance, in compliance with anti-money-laundering law.

Regarding proposed EU legislation requiring solicitors to report “aggressive tax planning”

(which must be balanced precariously against client confidentiality duties), Richard comments: “A rule that says solicitors have to report tax evasion doesn’t sound like the hill you should die on but, actually, it is important because it is eroding the ability to provide independent,

privileged, legal advice.”

Telling a client that certain disclosures will necessitate a report to Revenue is tricky for any lawyer, the pair says. “How do you determine what is, or is not, borderline?” asks Richard. “I think it actually fell away because the commission didn’t actually have the confidence to legislate in that area.”

Dual roles

These are the kinds of matters on which the committee can help find a solution, even more so because many of them have dual roles on several committees. For instance, Duncan is also on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

Where the committee spots a problematic incoming proposal, they can feed that into the Government. For instance, electronic evidence preservation will require a united front and harmonised laws across 27 jurisdictions.

Nowadays, laundering



Deirdre Flynn (committee secretary)



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money may be simpler because of cryptocurrency and electronic banking, Duncan points out. “The fact that the EU is now regulating crypto coins shows that there is now acceptance of the reality of electronic finance,” he says.

A primary mandate of the committee is promoting Ireland as a premier jurisdiction for common-law dispute resolution and legal conferences, a role accelerated by Brexit. “It’s educating the profession in Ireland about things that are relevant at an EU level and trying to educate the profession abroad about Ireland and the common law,” Duncan says. Post-Brexit, European lawyers favour Ireland for short placements, because it is the primary English-speaking common-law jurisdiction in the EU without work-visa barriers.

The committee holds an annual roundtable meeting in Brussels with permanent representatives from other European bar associations to scan for upcoming legislative changes. It also runs an active trainee exchange programme with the Paris Bar. Duncan himself has hosted over 150 German legal interns, for three-month periods, over his 40 years in practice.

A rule that says solicitors have to report tax evasion doesn’t sound like the hill you should die on, but actually, it is important because it is eroding the ability to provide independent, privileged, legal advice

EU presidency

To coincide with Ireland’s presidency of the EU, the committee will organise an event on EU law, open to all, including senior judiciary.

Richard, who is an Ogier financial services partner, points out that the committee has members who work in immigration, in the Central Bank, and in a wide variety of other fields.

There is a marketing aspect to the committee’s work, Richard agrees. It has worked closely with the Ireland for Law lobby group, always with a focus on showcasing the relevance of Irish law for other European jurisdictions. “We offer Irish law solutions wherever they are needed,” says Duncan. “It’s a beautiful island, and it’s got good business hubs and networks. And 15 of the biggest platform companies are based here now. Ireland’s economy has escalated over the last ten to 15 years, and that makes it more attractive for lawyers from other countries.”

The presence of international corporations makes matters, such as competition and finance regulation, hugely important and in high demand, Duncan points out.

“It’s incredible how, over 45 years, the whole profile of

Ireland as an economy and as a legal infrastructure has so dramatically changed,” Duncan comments.

Young blood

Both agree that Ireland needs a lot more young lawyers with language skills. They note the decline in the number of young Irish people getting jobs in the European institutions, in part because application is a long, drawn-out process.

“There are very good, well-paid jobs competing, so the European roles are not as attractive as they once were,” comments Richard.

Duncan adds that feedback suggests that Ireland is not as well represented at senior levels as in the past, with the pipeline drying up somewhat. That could be changed if the Irish State were to financially sponsor Irish-lawyer interns at the start of their potential careers in the EU public service, Duncan suggests.

“It’s about making sure that we are kept fully informed and continue to contribute to what’s going on at commission level, and that there are enough voices representing Ireland in the room,” he concludes.

Mary Hallissey is a journalist at the Law Society Gazette.

SI 440 of 2025 - amendments to AML regulations

This practice note is to flag to solicitors, as designated persons under anti-money-laundering (AML) legislation, a recent amendment to the *Anti-Money-Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trust Regulations* and to remind solicitors of their obligations in relation to checking the Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts (CRBOT) and actions required where they note discrepancies or missing information.

The combined effect of SI 194/2021, SI 440/2025, and the 4th and 5th AML Directives significantly strengthens Ireland's beneficial-ownership transparency framework. The purpose of registration of beneficial ownership (as defined in article 3(6) of Directive (EU) 2015/849, the 4th EU Money Laundering Directive) is to help prevent money-laundering and terrorist-financing by improving transparency as regards who ultimately owns and controls Irish trusts and corporate entities. Trustees, corporate entities, and solicitors as designated persons must ensure robust identification, maintenance, and reporting of beneficial-ownership data to meet statutory obligations and support the broader EU objective of combating money-laundering and terrorist-financing.

Legal requirements

Arising from the *European Union (Anti-Money-Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) Regulations 2021* (SI 194 of 2021), solicitors are aware that trustees are obliged to:

- Obtain and maintain internal beneficial-ownership records,

and

- File information with the Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts (CRBOT), operated by the Revenue Commissioners, as required.

Failure of a trustee to meet their obligations is an offence, and SI 194/2021 sets out the penalties for trustees that fail to comply (the penalties are set out in regulation 30 of the SI).

Solicitors, as designated persons under AML legislation, are obliged to check the register to verify beneficial ownership before establishing a business relationship or if a change to the trust is identified during ongoing monitoring. In high-risk transactions, the solicitor would be required to repeat the check periodically until the matter has concluded. Solicitors must deliver a 'discrepancy notice' to the registrar when there is a discrepancy between the particulars of a trust's internal register and the CRBOT.

The *European Union (Anti-Money-Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2025* (SI 440 of 2025), which came into effect in October 2025, amend the provisions of SI 194/2021 to introduce new obligations on designated persons under regulation 22A in circumstances where details regarding a relevant trust have not been registered in the CRBOT.

Where a solicitor becomes aware that a trust has not been registered in the central register, they must notify the registrar in a timely manner. This applies when the solicitor:

- Identifies particulars of the beneficial owner(s) during CDD, and
- Forms the opinion that the trust is missing from the central register.

SI 440 of 2025 also creates a separate obligation on competent authorities, such as the Law Society of Ireland, to report non-registration to the registrar.


Failure of a trustee to comply with a request from the designated person to register the trust is an offence, and SI 194 of 2021 sets out the penalties for trustees that fail to comply (these penalties are set out in regulation 30 of the SI).

Failure of a designated person to comply with their duty to notify the registrar when there is a discrepancy between the particulars of a trust's internal register and the CRBOT or where there is a failure to register the trust in the central register is an offence subject to a class A fine on summary conviction.

The CRBOT is available for inspection to solicitors as designated persons.

Details of how to notify the registrar can be found here: [CRBOT discrepancy notice form \(revenue.ie/en/crbot/forms-guidance-material-for-the-crbot\)](https://revenue.ie/en/crbot/forms-guidance-material-for-the-crbot).

Relevant legislation

- The 4th and 5th *Anti-Money Laundering Directives* (AMLD), which require each EU member state to establish a CRBOT,
- *SI 194 of 2021* and the *Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2021*, which transposed into Irish law the requirements of the directives,
- *SI 440 of 2025*, amendment to discrepancy notice reporting requirements. 



Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal

REPORTS OF THE OUTCOMES OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL INQUIRIES ARE PUBLISHED, IN SUCH MANNER AS THE LEGAL SERVICES REGULATORY AUTHORITY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 88 OF THE *LEGAL SERVICES REGULATION ACT 2015*

<p>In the matter of Canice Egan (solicitor no S10044), currently practising at Canice M Egan & Co, 9 Sarsfield Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the <i>Legal Services Regulation Act 2015</i> [2025-LPDT35] <i>Law Society of Ireland (applicant)</i> <i>Canice Egan (respondent)</i></p> <p>By determination dated 7 May 2026, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society of Ireland an accountant’s report for the year ended 31 December 2023 within six months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1) of the <i>Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014</i> (SI 516 of 2024).</p> <p>The tribunal ordered that the respondent is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hereby censured in accordance with section 82(1)(c) of the act, 2) Directed to pay the agreed costs of the Law Society of Ireland (a sum of €1,512), in accordance with section 82(1)(j) of the act, 3) Directed to pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund, in accordance with section 82(1)(l) of the act. <p>In the matter of Creighton O’Sullivan (solicitor no S7130), a former solicitor, formerly</p>	<p>practising at Connolly Sellors Geraghty Solicitors, 6/7 Glentworth Street, Limerick, Co Limerick, and in the matter of an application by the Complaints Committee of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the <i>Legal Services Regulation Act 2015</i> [2025-LPDT52] <i>Complaints Committee of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (applicant)</i> <i>Creighton O’Sullivan (respondent)</i></p> <p>By determination dated 1 May 2026, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of professional misconduct in that he:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Failed to take adequate steps to ensure that he had the complainant’s instructions in relation to the transfer dated 27 March 2009, 2) Witnessed that the complainant signed a deed of transfer dated 27 March 2009, which transferred the interest of the complainant to his half-sister Kathleen Langan, when in fact he did not witness the signing of the deed by the complainant. <p>The tribunal ordered that the respondent is hereby:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Admonished, pursuant to section 82(1)(b) of the act, 2) Directed to pay a sum of €1,500 to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority as contribution towards the authority’s costs, in accordance with section 		<p>82(1)(j) of the act, to be paid within a period of six months from the date of inquiry [31 March 2026].</p> <p>In the matter of Canice Egan (solicitor no S10044), currently practising at Canice M Egan & Co, 9 Sarsfield Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, and in the matter of an application by the Law Society of Ireland to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, and in the matter of the <i>Legal Services Regulation Act 2015</i> [2025-LPDT63] <i>Law Society of Ireland (applicant)</i> <i>Canice Egan (respondent)</i></p> <p>By determination dated 7 May 2026, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found the respondent guilty of misconduct in that he failed to ensure that there was furnished to the Law Society of Ireland an accountant’s report for the year ended 31 December 2024 within five months of that date, in breach of regulation 26(1)(a) of the <i>Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2023</i>.</p> <p>The tribunal ordered that the respondent is hereby:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Censured in accordance with section 82(1)(c) of the act, 2) Directed to pay the agreed costs of the Law Society of Ireland (a sum of €1,512), in accordance with section 82(1)(j) of the act, 3) Is directed to pay a sum of €500 to the Compensation Fund, in accordance with section 82(1)(l) of the act. 
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WILLS

Atkinson, William Joseph (o/w Willie Joe) (deceased),

late of Chancery, Turlough, Castlebar, Co Mayo, who died on 13 April 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or any firm holding same, please contact P O'Connor & Son, Solicitors, Swinford, Co Mayo; tel: 094 905 0000, email: law@poconsol.ie

Carroll, Katherine (or Kathleeen) (deceased),

late of 13 Ballycarrido Cottages, Newtown, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, who died on 24 January 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased person please contact James O'Brien & Co LLP, 30 Castle Street, Nenagh, Co Tipperary; email: mmckeogh@jamesobrien.ie

Clerkin, John (deceased),

late of 35 Wellington Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6W, D6W HN34, who died on 29 January 2026. Would any person have any knowledge of the whereabouts of any will executed by the above-named deceased please contact Mary Arnold, Gerrard L McGowan Solicitors, 29 Thomas Hand Street, Skerries, Co Dublin, K34FC99; tel: 01 841 2115, email: info@glmcgowan.ie

Cody, Anastasia (o/w Stasia) (deceased),

late of Dunmore Park, Kingswood Heights, Ballymount, Dublin, and formerly of Tinnamona, Callan, Co Kilkenny, who died on 19 February 2024. Would any person having any

PROFESSIONAL NOTICE RATES

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Deadline for the August/September 2026 Gazette is Monday 10 August 2026.

No recruitment advertisements will be published that include references to ranges of post-qualification experience (PQE). The *Gazette* Editorial Board has taken this decision based on legal advice that indicates that such references may be in breach of the *Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004*.

knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact James Cody and Sons Solicitors LLP, The Parade, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow; DX167001 Bagenalstown; tel 059 972 1303, email: reception@jamescody.ie

Daly, Michael Gerald (deceased),

late of 16 The Gables, William Street, Drogheda, in the county of Louth, who died on 22 January 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Patrick Branigan, McKeever Tallan LLP, 31 Laurence Street, Drogheda, Co Louth; tel: 041 983 8639, email: patrick.branigan@mckeevertallan.ie

Dooley, Mary (Maud) (deceased),

late of Kilboy, Dolla, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, who died on 7 April 1993. Would any person having knowledge or whereabouts of any will made or purported to be made by the above-named deceased, or if a firm is holding same, please contact Denis J

Keane, solicitor, 51 Kenyon Street, Nenagh, Co Tipperary; email: deniskeane@djkeane.com

Dowling, Christopher Patrick (deceased),

late of 72 Fancourt Heights, Balbriggan, Co Dublin, who died on 16 September 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same or was in recent contact with the deceased regarding his will, please contact Gráinne Dolan & Co, Solicitors, Cross Lane, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan; DX 69 008 Carrickmacross; tel: 042 967 3759, email: info@grainedolan.com

Grogan, Josephine (otherwise known as Patricia Grogan, orse Fleming, orse Grogan Fleming) (deceased),

late of Annolville, The Burrow, Portrane, Co Dublin, and previously of 23 Forest Crescent, Swords, Co Dublin, who died on 18 January 2026 at Bon Secours Hospital, Glasnevin, Dublin 11. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Mary Lou Cronin at Cronin & Co, Solicitors, Main Street, Donabate, Co Dublin; tel: 01 895 8550, email: mlc@croninlaw.ie

Hart, Maeve (otherwise Hart, Margaret (Maeve) Mary) (deceased),

late of Mooretown

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Cottage, Canal Road, Moorestown, Dromiskin, Dundalk, Co Louth, who died on 5 May 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact McArdle & Co LLP Solicitors, 20 Seatown Place, Dundalk, Co Louth; tel: 042 933 1491, email: sharon@mcardleandcompany.ie

Heavey, Nora (deceased), late of URB Calahonda Golf, Block 3 No 64, 29649 Mijas Costa, Malaga, Spain, and formerly of 23 Holywell Rise, Swords, Co Dublin, and 6 Longlands, Swords, Co Dublin, who died on 8 March 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please urgently contact Gearóid O'Byrne, TP Robinson Solicitors, 24 Fitzwilliam Street Upper, Dublin 2; tel 01 676 4581, email: gobyrne@tprobinson.com

Helly, Kevin (deceased), formerly of 68 Roseville, Naas, Co Kildare, and Oficina De Correos, Apartado 41, Costa Teguisse 35508, Lanz, Spain, who died on 6 November 2024. Would any person having knowledge of any will executed by the above-named deceased please contact Colleen Breen, Hammerstones LLP Solicitors, 9 South Main Street, Naas, Co Kildare; tel: 045 493 434, email: cbreen@hammerstones.ie

Henry, Timothy, Peter A (deceased), who died on 30 August 2025, late of Drombroe, Bantry, Co Cork. Would any person having knowledge of any will executed by the above-named deceased please contact Amorys Solicitors LLP, Church Road, Greystones, Co Wicklow,

A63 P089; tel: 01 287 4341, email: info@amoryssolicitors.com

Heron, Edward J (deceased), late of 11 Raymond Street, South Circular Road, Dublin 8, D08 W9W3, and 6 The Drive, Woodbrook Glen, Bray, Co Wicklow, who died on 3 April 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Martin Egan & Co LLP Solicitors, 27 Church Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath; tel: 090 647 9412, email: info@martinegan.ie

Horkan (erroneously spelled 'Hokan'), Brian (deceased), late of 7 The Pines, Woodley Park, Kilmacud, Dublin 14. Would any person have knowledge of their firm holding the original will made by the above-named deceased on 28 May 1996. The deceased died on 22 June 2019. Please contact Anne Kelleher, Smith Foy & Partners LLP, Solicitors, 59 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2; tel: 01 676 0531, email: anne.kelleher@smithfoy.ie

Keating, James Francis (otherwise known as Jimmy Keating) (deceased), late of 25 Gort na Smol, Cashel Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, and formerly of Keatings Shop, Heywood Road, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, who died on 21 March 2026. Would any person having a knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Claire McCarthy, Binchylaw LLP, Quay House, Clonmel, Co Tipperary; tel: 052 612 1411, email: cmccarthy@binchylaw.ie

Kelly, Kieran (deceased), late of 68 Ardan na Mara, Seafield, Youghal, Co Cork, who died on

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12 September 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Lanigan & Curran, Solicitors, Cross Bridge Street, Dungarvan, Co Waterford; DX 75002 Dungarvan; tel: 058 41533, email: info@lanigancurran.ie

McWall, Michael (deceased), late of Carrickedmund, Kilcurry, Dundalk, Co Louth, who died on 12 January 2023. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Paul Tiernan, Tiernans Solicitors, 15 Church Street, Dundalk, Co Louth; tel: 042 933 2362, email: info@tiernanslegal.com

O'Sullivan, Michael (Mick Maugha) (deceased), formerly of Cappaboy (also Maugha), Kealkill, Bantry, Co Cork, who died on 14 July 2025. If anyone has information concerning the existence or location of a will for the above-named deceased please contact Kevin O'Donovan & Partners, Solicitors, Old Market House, Upper Main Street, Bantry, Co Cork, P75 A446; tel: 027 51440

Reynolds, John (deceased), who died on 28 December 2025, late of Carrig View, Tervoe, Clarina, Limerick. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made on 22 February 1995 by the above-

named deceased please contact Gerard P Yelverton, Yelverton & Co, Solicitors, 2/3 Hartstonge Place, Upper Hartstonge Street, Limerick; email: info@yelverton.ie

Roberts, William (deceased), late of Barton Street, Tinahely, Co Wicklow, and formerly of Barnahask, Bunclody, Co Wexford, who died on 23 January 1971. Would any person having knowledge of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Crean & O'Flaherty, Solicitors LLP, Estate House, Castle Hill, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; tel: 053 923 4500, email: info@creanandco.ie

TITLE DEEDS

To: any persons having or claiming a freehold in certain residential premises known as No 4 River Lane, Sundays Well, Cork

Take notice that I, Kevin Leahy, being a person claiming a relevant entitlement under the *Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019*, intend to apply to the Cork county registrar at the next available date for an order vesting in me the freehold and any other interests, superior to my own, in the said premises. Let any person having or claiming to own the freehold or any other interest in said property appear at said date and/or contact my solicitors, Finbarr Murphy, at tel: 021 427 3472

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of lands comprising part of the property known as Hotel Rosslare, St Martin's Road, Rosslare Harbour, Co Wexford, Y35 RW30: an application by Synlora Limited

Any person having an interest in the freehold or intermediate estates in the lease outlined below, which comprises part of the title to the above property: take notice that Synlora Limited (the applicant) intends to submit an application to the county registrar of the county of Wexford for the acquisition of the fee simple interest and all intermediate interests in that part of the aforesaid property held by virtue of the said lease, and any person asserting that they hold a superior interest in the said lease are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the below named within 21 days from the date hereof.

In particular, any person having an interest in a lease dated 20 April 1936 made between Richard B Nolan of the one part and James Wickham and Mary Wickham of the other for a term of 99 years from 1 August 1935, in respect of property described therein as "all that and those, a piece or plot of ground with the dwellinghouse thereon known as 'Seaview House', being part of the lands of Ballygillane Big, bounded on the north by lands in the possession of Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Company, on the south by lands in the possession of John Boyse and James Mannix, on the east by

lands in the possession of the representatives of George Nolan, deceased, or his undertenants, and on the west by the Pier Road, containing in length from north to south 189 feet, in breadth from east to west 130 feet, which said premises are situate, lying, and being in the parish of Kilrane in the barony of Forth and county of Wexford" and which form part of the premises and property now known as Hotel Rosslare, should provide evidence to the below named within 21 days hereof.

In default of such information being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the said application before the county registrar and will apply for orders and directions as appropriate on the basis that the person or persons entitled to the superior interests, including the freehold interest, are unknown and unascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: MW Keller & Son LLP (solicitors for applicants), 8 Gladstone Street, Waterford City

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of lands comprising 3 Saint Patrick's Terrace, Douglas, Cork

Any persons having an interest in the freehold or intermediate estates in the above property, take notice that JJP Capital Limited intends to submit an application to the county registrar of the county of Cork for the acquisition of the freehold interest and all intermediate interests in the aforesaid property, and any person(s) asserting that they hold any superior interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the premises to the below named.

In particular, any persons having an interest in: (1) a lease for the term of 200 years agreed between O'Brien Brothers Limited and James John O'Brien, dated 16 January 1935, to run from 14 July 1883; (2) a sublease dated 31 May 1972 as between Victor Brodie Nicholson of the first part, Nora Mary O'Brien and Mona Kathleen O'Brien of the second part, Ann Florence O'Brien, Sheila Pauline Wallis and Jane O'Brien of the third part, and Michael Moloney of the fourth part, to run for the residue of the said leasehold term less one day, as confirmed by deed of confirmation dated 2 August 1985 between Dónal Welstead and Mary Christine Welstead as lessors and Theresa Murphy as lessee, should provide evidence of their title to the below-named solicitors. Further, any persons having any estate or any interest superior to that of the grantors of the said leases as aforesaid, and any of them, and/or the fee simple interest in the above properties, should provide evidence of their title to the below-named solicitors.

In default of any such information being received, the applicants intend to proceed after the expiry of 28 days from the date of this notice with the application before the county registrar for the county of Cork to purchase the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the said properties and such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons entitled to the superior interests, including the freehold interest, in the said property are unknown and unascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: Katherina White Solicitors (solicitors for the applicant), 2nd Floor, 32 Oliver Plunkett Street, Cork

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts

1967-1978, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of an application by the SF Trust CLG, and in the matter of the former Franciscan Friary Chapel, Abbey Street, in the town of Clonmel and county of Tipperary

Take notice any person having a freehold interest or any lesser or intermediate interest in the lands, hereditaments, and premises known as the former Franciscan Friary Chapel, situate at Abbey Street in the town of Clonmel and county of Tipperary, as demised by an indenture of lease dated 30 May 1885 between (1) Samuel Perry and (2) the Very Rev John Alphonsus Jackman, the Very Rev Richard Augustine Hill, and the Rev Joseph Bernard Cooney for the term of 999 years from 25 March 1885, subject to the yearly rent of £12 late currency and the covenants and conditions therein contained (the 'lease'), and therein described as "all that and those the tenements and premises and steeple or castle thereunto belonging, now forming portion of the Friary Chapel situate in Abbey Street in the town of Clonmel, parish of Saint Mary's, barony of Iffa and Offa East, in the county of Tipperary, as particularly delineated in the map or tracing in the margin hereof hereon endorsed" should give notice of their intentions to the undersigned solicitors.

Further, take notice that the SF Trust CLG, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest under the lease and a person so entitled under the above acts, intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of Tipperary for the acquisition of the fee simple interest and all and any intermediate interests in same, and any party asserting that they hold any superior interest(s) in the aforesaid property are called

upon to furnish evidence of title to the aforesaid property to the undersigned solicitors within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the SF Trust CLG intends to proceed with the application before the Tipperary county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the said county registrar for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the all and any superior interest up to and including the fee simple interest in the aforesaid property are unknown or ascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: BHSM LLP (solicitors for the applicant), 76 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 EK81; ref: SFT001/0002

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-1978, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of an application by the SF Trust CLG, and in the matter of lands, hereditaments, and premises situate at Abbey Street in the town of Clonmel and county of Tipperary

Take notice any person having a freehold interest or any lesser or intermediate interest in the lands, hereditaments, and premises situate at Abbey Street in the town of Clonmel and county of Tipperary, as demised by an indenture of lease dated 9 April 1942 between (1) Bulmer-Magner Limited and (2) the Rev Hugh Leopold O'Neill, Rev Thomas Roberts (in religion Father Aiden), the Rev William Gray (in religion Father Paschal), and the Very Rev John O'Mahony

(in religion Father Cyril) for the term of 198 years from 1 May 1881, subject to the yearly rent of one penny late currency if demanded and the covenants and conditions therein contained (the 'lease'), and therein described as "all that and those the plot of ground situate at Abbey Street in the town of Clonmel, parish of St Mary's, barony of Iffa and Offa East, and county of Tipperary, as delineated on the map drawn on these presents (being a copy of the map annexed to the agreement) and thereon edged red" should give notice of their intentions to the undersigned solicitors.

Further, take notice that the SF Trust CLG, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest under the lease and a person so entitled under the above acts, intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of Tipperary for the acquisition of the fee simple interest and all and any intermediate interests in same, and any party asserting that they hold any superior interest(s) in the aforesaid property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the aforesaid property to the undersigned solicitors within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the SF Trust CLG intends to proceed with the application before the Tipperary county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the said county registrar for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the all and any superior interest up to and including the fee simple interest in the aforesaid property are unknown or ascertained.

EXPERT WITNESS: OPHTHALMOLOGY

Consultant Ophthalmologist Louis Clearkin is available to accept instruction in civil litigation.

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Date: 3 July 2026

Signed BHSM LLP (solicitors for the applicant), 76 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 EK81; ref: SFT001/0002

Notice of intention to acquire the fee simple: in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of property at 120 Oliver Plunkett Street in the city of Cork, and in the matter of an application by Maureen O'Sullivan as legal personal representative in the estate of Veronica O'Sullivan

Take notice any person having an interest in any estate in the above property that Maureen O'Sullivan (the applicant) intends to submit an application to the county registrar of the county of Cork for the acquisition of the fee simple interest and all intermediate interest in the aforesaid property, and any person asserting that they hold an interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the premises to the below named within 21 days from the date hereof. Any person having any interest in the property held under lease of 2 February 1897 (the lease) made between Arthur Hill and Robert Pulvertaft should provide evidence to the below named.

In default of such information

being received by the applicant, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar and will apply to the county registrar for the county of Cork for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons entitled to the superior interest in the said premises are unknown and unascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: Noonan Linehan Carroll Coffey LLP (solicitors for the applicants), 54 North Main Street, Cork

Notice of intention to acquire the fee simple: in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of property at 119 Oliver Plunkett Street in the city of Cork, and in the matter of an application by Maureen O'Sullivan as legal personal representative in the estate of Veronica O'Sullivan

Take notice any person having an interest in any estate in the above property that Maureen O'Sullivan (the applicant) intends to submit an application to the county registrar of the county of Cork for the acquisition of the fee simple interest and all intermediate interests in the

gazette

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aforsaid property, and any person asserting that they hold an interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the premises to the below named within 21 days from the date hereof. Any person having any interest in the property held under lease of the 8 December 1848 (the lease) made between Stephen Grehan and Edward George Martin should provide evidence to the below named.

In default of such information being received by the applicant, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar and will apply to the county registrar for the county of Cork for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons entitled to the superior interest including the freehold interest in the said premises are unknown and unascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: Noonan Linehan Carroll Coffey LLP (solicitors for the applicants), 54 North Main Street, Cork

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenants Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of lands at 16 Talbot Street, Dublin 1

Take notice that Stephen McGrath of 13 Duke Street, Dublin 2, intends to submit

an application to the county registrar for the county of the city of Dublin for the acquisition of the fee simple and all intermediate interests in the above lands, which he holds under a lease dated 7 August 1912 made between Rev Henry Harkness Streeten of the one part and Michael Keating of the other part, and take notice that any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the said lands or any part thereof and, in particular, that they are the successors in title of one Edward Carolin, to whom a lease was granted by one Anne Fisher on 23 August 1813, are hereby called upon to furnish evidence of their title to such interest to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

Take notice that, in default of any such evidence being received, the said Stephen McGrath intends to proceed with the said intended application at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and to apply to the county registrar for the county of the city of Dublin for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons entitled to the fee simple and any interests superior to the reversion expectant on the determination of the aforesaid

lease of 7 August 1912 are unknown and unascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: McDonald Solicitors (solicitors for the applicants), 5 Railway Terrace, Dublin Road, Naas, Co Kildare

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of an application by Maura Casey as to certain premises at East End, Ballymakeera, county of Cork

Take notice any person having an interest in the fee simple or any interest in an intermediate estate in "all that and those the dwellinghouse, garden, and premises known as 'East End', Ballymakeera, in the parish of Ballyvourney, barony of West Muskerry and county of Cork" held under lease dated 28 December 1929 made between Hanora Twomey, Michael Twomey, Mort Twomey, and John Twomey of the one part and Patrick Casey of the other part, and further take notice that Maura Casey intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of Cork for the acquisition of the fee simple and all intermediate interests in the property.

Any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the property is called upon to furnish evidence of their title to the below named within 21 days of this notice.

Date: 3 July 2036

Signed: Gibson and Associates Solicitors (solicitors for the applicants), Suite 238, The Capel Building, St Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2005, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in

the matter of an application by Meadowfield Capital Limited in respect of premises known as 33 Cadogan Road, Dublin 3

Take notice any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in all that and those the property known as 33 Cadogan Road, Dublin 3, being currently held by Meadowfield Capital Limited (the applicant) under an indenture of lease dated 19 July 1909 and made between George Walker Irwin of the one part and Minnie McGeehan of the other part, that the applicants, as lessees under the lease, intend to submit an application to the county registrar for the city of Dublin for the acquisition of the freehold interest in the aforesaid premises, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the aforesaid premises or any of them are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the aforementioned premises to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, Meadowfield Capital Limited intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of the 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for the city of Dublin for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest including the freehold reversion in each of the aforesaid premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 3 July 2026

Signed: Griffin Solicitors (solicitors for the applicants), Gabriel House, 6 Cypress Park, Templeogue, Dublin 6W

Final verdict

PRO BONOBO



Musky missiles mangle *maisons*

SpaceX is facing a class-action lawsuit from 80 residents of communities neighbouring its Texan launch facilities. They allege that the seismic vibrations produced by repeated rocket launches are physically destroying their homes, thenextweb.com reports.

The plaintiffs accuse the company of negligence, gross negligence, and trespass under the *Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984*, which empowers the Secretary of Transportation to suspend launches deemed harmful to public health and safety.

The lawsuit follows a [Reuters](https://reuters.com) investigation into life beside 'Starbase' (yep, that's what the billionaire boyman called it), painting a picture of a community fracturing under the mass of the Muskman's Mars machinations.



Bake from the brown bread

Scientists have made sourdough bread using yeast from the body of Ötzi the Iceman, the 5,300-year-old corpse discovered in the Alps in 1991.

The [Smithsonian Magazine](https://smithsonianmagazine.com) reports that researchers found four strains of yeast they believe have inhabited Ötzi's remains for millennia, and successfully cultivated them to leaven dough. Lead author Mohamed Sarhan admitted it took months of refrigerated cultivation before progress was made.

"Initially it didn't work," he said, "but as a dough, it was very, very good." The findings suggest Ötzi is not a static relic but a dynamic biological system.

Apparently, beer is next on the list. Mmm! Yeasty!

Double whammAI



A federal judge in Mississippi has cancelled a trial and fined attorneys on both sides after discovering they had each submitted court filings containing AI falsehoods.

According to [Mississippitoday.org](https://mississippitoday.org), Judge Sharion Aycock issued a blistering sanctions order, barring two of the four lawyers from appearing in her court for two years.

"This court is yet again burdened with addressing AI hallucinations in court filings," she wrote, noting the "unusual scenario" of opposing counsel committing near-identical misconduct simultaneously.

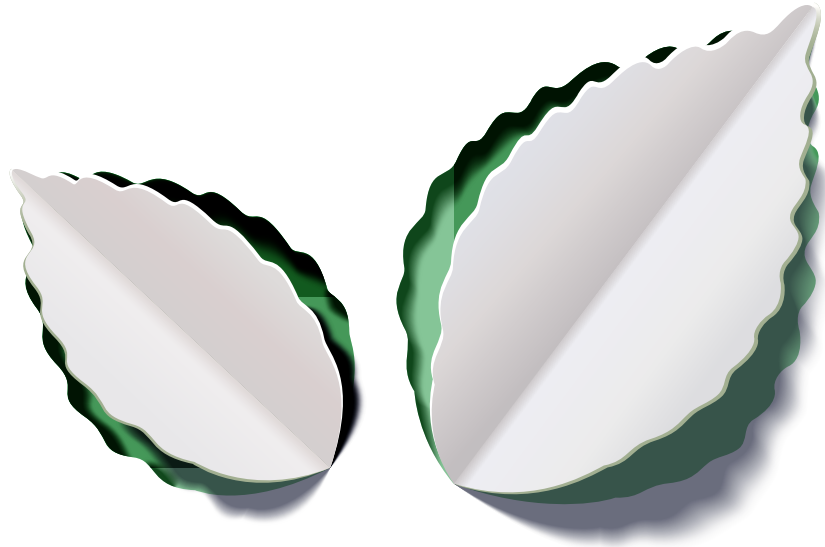
AI, AI... oh!

A KPMG report championing the global adoption of artificial intelligence has been withdrawn after it was found to contain fabricated case studies generated by the very technology it was promoting.

The report, *Redefining Excellence in the Age of Agentic AI*, made false claims about AI use by UBS, the UK's NHS, Swiss Federal Railways, and Transport for London. The hallucinations were identified by research group GPTZero and verified by the *Financial Times*.

After being alerted, UBS demanded KPMG remove the false references. [Swissinfo.ch](https://swissinfo.ch) reports that the Big Four firm subsequently pulled the report from several of its websites.

This is the latest in a number of apparent AI hallucinations in reports by professional services firms and follows EY's retraction of a study last month over fake footnotes and other errors. 🐼



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