



MEETING THE IN-HOUSE CHALLENGES OF 2017

With 18% of qualified solicitors in Ireland working either in-house (15%) or in the public sector (3%), the role of the in-house solicitor has evolved significantly. The need to expand and diversify is increasing for many organisations and, in turn, their in-house counsel.

Starting on 3 March, a new Certificate in Strategic Development for In-House Practice, being offered by the Law Society's Diploma Centre, will equip participants with practical skills to identify and exploit key opportunities for innovation, development and growth within the workplace. It will assist participants to:

- Identify how their practice creates value for the organisation,
- Explore how typical budgetary constraints may be overcome through monetisation and business modelling,
- Expand the scope of the ser-



PIC: CIAN REDMOND PHOTOGRAPHY

vices offered by the in-house function, and

- Help identify and assess key trends and dynamics in the commercial environment.

Participants will learn about how to identify opportunities for developing and expanding their in-house expertise. In addition, they will design and build a business

model establishing key deliverables to secure successful implementation of this expansion, using metrics to manage risk.

In order to boost their skills in representing their company or organisation, those taking part will gain new communication and marketing expertise through the development of pitching and presentation skills.

Mindful of busy schedules and the limited time available to firms for business development, this Certificate in Strategic Development for In-House Practice course is delivered through block releases on Fridays and Saturdays – lectures will be delivered at Blackhall Place and simulcast online.

To learn more or to sign up for the certificate course, visit www.lawsociety.ie/diplomacentre. The closing date for applications is 24 February 2017.

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR IN-HOUSE LAWYERS

Legal research support for in-house lawyers is an important aspect of the work carried out by the Law Society Library, writes Mary Gaynor (head of Library and Information Services). Our focus includes the research requirements of solicitors working outside of private practice, whose needs can be both broad ranging and highly specific.

Currently we have a selection of books including *In-house Ethics in Practice*, by Tracey Calvert; *Butterworth's In-house Lawyers' Handbook*, by Ian Jones; *A Strategic Guide to Managing the In-house Legal Function*, by Brian Swartz; *The Future of the In-house Lawyer: The General Counsel Revolution*, by Richard Tapp; and *General Counsel in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities*, Christoph H Vaagt and Wolf Peter Gross (eds).

We also subscribe to various



journals that regularly carry articles featuring in-house lawyer articles, such as the *In-house Lawyer* journal. This journal is published by Legalease quarterly and contains a multiplicity of articles on differing aspects of working in-house. The autumn 2016 issue has a range of articles on leadership

and the modern GC, technology, cybersecurity, crisis management, the post-Brexit landscape, and so on.

We can carry out article searches on any aspect of working in-house, and our library services make it easy for in-house lawyers to borrow books that can be deliv-

ered or collected. Our online catalogue provides instant access to judgments, which can be searched by specific topics or using other filters.

If you require case law from other jurisdictions, we are happy to guide you through various free online databases, or to advise about the suitability of searching on a commercial database.

A list of [selected library resources](#) for in-house lawyers is available on the [committee](#) page. Finally, the library's weekly newsletter, *LawWatch*, provides all members with updates on selected case law, legislation and journal articles. It only takes a couple of minutes each week to browse through the newsletter and identify what is pertinent to your area of practice. You can contact the library at 01 672 4843 or email libraryenquire@lawsociety.ie.