



**The In-House and Public Sector Panel Discussion 2019**  
**Enhancing and Demonstrating Value – Sourcing and Managing Legal Services**

<b>Date</b>	4 December 2019
<b>Time</b>	2.00pm to 5.00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Meyrick Hotel, Eyre Square, Galway
<b>Fee</b>	€65
<b>CPD Hours</b>	3 Management & Professional Development (by Group Study)
<b>Event Code</b>	S1941

**Aims and Objectives**

The In-house and Public Sector Committee in collaboration with the Galway Bar Association and the West of Ireland in-house solicitors are pleased to host a panel discussion on getting and demonstrating value for money in legal services.

This discussion will address the challenges for in-house solicitors in trying to recognise, achieve and demonstrate value for money in legal services. It will be of relevance to all in-house solicitors, whether in the private or public sector and whether acting as sole practitioner, head of the in-house legal function or a member of the legal function team. Synergies exist through the in-house sector and our private practice colleagues working closely together, in a positive and constructive way, to achieve value for money for the benefit of our mutual clients.

The discussion will be facilitated by a select panel of both public and private sector in-house solicitors, who will share personal observations and insights based on their career experiences. Smaller break-out discussion groups will follow, which will provide an ideal opportunity to learn and explore further the issues raised by the panel with your in-house colleagues.

## **Chairperson,**

### **Caroline Dee Brown, General Counsel – Senior Executive Advisor to the Commission, Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)**

Caroline has been working in-house in the public sector for over 10 years after previously working in private practice in Ireland, America and the UK. In her current role as General Counsel for ComReg Caroline is responsible for: Providing strategic advice directly to the Commissioners and the Senior Management team, focusing on prospective solutions to effectively and efficiently contribute to robust decisions, process and procedures used to deliver statutory functions and objectives; Developing and implementing strategies to lead and mentor all of the legal advisors across the organisation ensuring: continuing involvement of matured high standards of legal advice; professional excellence; effective and efficient communication of independent advice across the matrix management system; Managing external legal advisors to the Commission to ensure efficient added value to decision making, and for enforcement and defence of decisions; Delivering advocacy role with strategic advice, key to ensuring the Commission's objectives and functions can be optimally delivered; Providing continuing professional development for Commission staff; embedding and disseminating corporate knowledge, legal developments and requirements to improve processes and procedures and optimal use of the Commission's powers.

## **Speakers/panellists,**

### **Áine Ní Chualáin, Director, Research and Development Counsel, Alkermes Pharma Ireland Limited, Athlone**

### **Elaine McCormack, General Counsel, Bio-Medical Research, Galway**

Elaine is a solicitor working as General Counsel and Company Secretary of Bio-Medical Research since 2015. Elaine qualified as a solicitor in 2003 having training with Dillon Eustace and following qualification worked with a number of commercial firms advising clients primarily in the area of commercial and corporate law. Prior to joining BMR, Elaine worked as Group Legal Counsel of Bookassist managing the legal function and looking after commercial and technology contracts. Elaine advises BMR on all aspects of commercial contracts and corporate transactions, data protection and IP.

### **David Rowe, Outsource**

David is a Chartered Accountant with a primary degree in law and has extensive experience in all of the business aspects of the provision of legal services, through law firms and in-house capacity. He held the position of Finance Director for leading law firm Matheson Ormsby Prentice for 10 years, before leaving to set up Outsource in 2000. Since establishing Outsource, David has provided ongoing strategic, financial, and management advice to law firms and buyers of legal services in Ireland. David also advises In-house and Public Sector clients on how to manage relationships with external law firms and achieve best advise at the best cost through tendering and other methods.

### **Eamonn Kennedy, Former Director of Legal Affairs, RTE**

Eamonn Kennedy qualified as a solicitor in 1991 having trained with Matheson. Following a short period with the European Commission in Brussels he practised in the area of general commercial law with A & L Goodbody until 1995. He became RTÉ's legal advisor in 1995. As Director of Legal Affairs he managed the RTÉ Solicitors' Office which provides advice and assistance to RTÉ across a range of areas, including litigation and commercial.

\*Law Society Finuas Skillnet members

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