

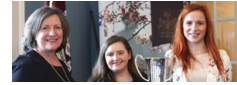


# LAW SCHOOL NEWS

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## PPC HYBRID

On 10 January 2020, we welcomed 46 trainee solicitors to our campus for their first on-site lectures of the new PPC Hybrid. Their arrival marked a new chapter in the story of the Law School and the route to becoming a solicitor.

“Increasing access to legal education and providing a more flexible route to becoming a solicitor is a key factor in the PPC Hybrid” explains PPC Hybrid Course Manager Rory O’Boyle.

“The PPC Hybrid is specifically aimed at delivering a flexible route to the solicitor qualification without the traditional requirement for trainees to be on-site at

Blackhall Place in Dublin for a full-time substantial continuous period.

It will potentially facilitate access for a range of people, including for example, mature and regional students and those with parental or other family commitments. All entrants to the Society’s solicitor training can now decide on which route suits them best in terms of time, costs and preferred method of study”.

### About the course

The PPC Hybrid is delivered through an optimised blended learning format, which combines face-to-face tuition with online lectures. Online content is released on a play-on-demand mode and supported by a

monthly intensive weekend session where revision lectures, workshops and small-group interactions are facilitated.

The course is also structured so that trainees will be able to continue working during the PPC Hybrid, as on-site tuition occurs primarily at monthly weekend sessions. Importantly, if the trainee’s employment is with a practising solicitor in the State, the trainee may accrue partial credit of up to five-months for in-office training occurring during the PPC I. This is in addition to any pre-PPC I credit.

Further information on the PPC Hybrid is available on the website:  
[www.lawsociety.ie/ppchybrid](http://www.lawsociety.ie/ppchybrid).



## LAW SCHOOL INTRODUCES ACCELERATED ACCESS TO TAKING THE FE-1

1 January 2020 marked an important step in the continuing development and modernisation of solicitor training in Ireland, with *The Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2011 (Apprenticeship and Education) (Amendment) Regulations 2019* coming into operation.

Encouraging greater access to the profession for trainees across diverse educational, professional and socio-economic backgrounds is a key commitment for the Law Society's Law School, explains Education Committee Chair, Carol Plunkett.

"These new regulations will improve access, drive innovation, and streamline solicitor education. The Law School has begun to implement many key initiatives, which include accelerated access to taking the Final Examination First Part (FE-1).

The introduction of accelerated access will not only facilitate students in taking the FE-1 in a more timely and effective manner, it also provides, to an intending trainee solicitor, the potential of foreshortening the time it takes to progress to the Professional Practice Course.

Third level students will be able to overlap their degree exams with the FE-1 exam and take subjects in the FE-1 immediately after studying that subject in university or third level institution."



### Entrance Examination

The FE-1 is the entrance examination to the Law Society's Professional Practice Course. It is held in Dublin twice a year, normally in spring and autumn and consists of eight papers on core legal subjects. This examination ensures that trainee solicitors, who come from third level studies of all disciplines, whether in arts, humanities, engineering or science, commence their practical training in the Law Society with an acceptable and consistent standard of knowledge in those eight subjects.

### Accelerated access at a glance

1. Students who have completed the first or any subsequent year of a course leading to a qualification at level 7 or higher on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications or a degree awarded by a university in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales are eligible to sit the FE-1 examination.
2. Students can provisionally pass any one or more of the eight subject examinations of

the FE-1; with provisional passes becoming absolute passes once the recognised degree is obtained.

3. There is no longer a requirement for candidates to sit and pass at least three subject examinations in their first sitting, before being able to proceed further. Candidates can now sit the eight subject examinations one or more at a time in one or more sittings.
4. The time within which all eight subject examinations should be passed, starting from the time of the candidate first passing one or more of them, is being extended from five to seven years.

For the March 2020 examination, there will be an additional sitting in Cork as well as Dublin.

**Further information on the FE-1 is available online at: [www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor](http://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor)**



## LAW SCHOOL UNVEILS NEW LECTURE THEATRE

The Law School unveiled a new Lecture Theatre in September. Both PPC students and solicitors attending CPD events will benefit from this enhanced education space, with improved seating, better accessibility, state-of-the-art AV facilities and more.





#### **22nd International Negotiation Competition 2019.**

Richard Bonham (Kelly Caulfield Shaw) and Raaj Zutshi (Matheson) were awarded second place in the 22nd International Negotiation Competition 2019 in Tokyo, Japan.



#### **Red Cross Corn Adomnán International Humanitarian Law Competition 2019.**

Gráinne Hussey (Eversheds Sutherland) and Aneta Szczurek (Kennedy Solicitors), winners of the Red Cross Corn Adomnán International Humanitarian Law Competition 2019.



#### **Gallagher Shatter prize for Family Law 2019.**

Aylin Barry (Walkers Global), winner of the Gallagher Shatter prize for Family Law 2019.



#### **Diploma Centre conferral ceremony**

Pictured at the recent Diploma Centre conferral ceremony are the LLM Advanced Legal Practice and LLM Employment Law in Practice classes of 2019.



#### **2020 Stetson International**

Best wishes to the Law School team of Peter Carvill and Karolina Rozhnova (William Fry Law) and Fiachra MacElhatton (Maples Group) representing Ireland in the 2020 Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition.



#### **PPC Hybrid Group**

PPC Hybrid trainees and Law School staff pictured on Law School campus ahead of the first PPC Hybrid lectures.



## SDS (STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICE) ACTIVITIES

New trainee solicitors have thrown themselves into the Blackhall experience with a variety of volunteering, social and extra-curricular events, all supported by Student Development Services (**SDS**).



PPC trainees take part in the inspirational Run in the Dark 2019 to raise funds for the Mark Pollock Trust



Blackhall Hiking Group enjoying the great outdoors during the term, visiting Howth Head, Ticknock and Cuilcagh Mountain Park



Blackhall Culture Society on a recent trip to Newgrange and the Hill of Tara



Congratulations to our Ladies Gaelic Football team on reaching the semi-final in the All-Ireland League.



PPC trainees host a bake sale to raise funds for Just Ask - After School Klub



## PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES: NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

National Mental Health Week 2019 took place across the country from the 7 to 11 October. The Law School hosted a series of free events for the trainees building on their Shrink Me; Psychology of a Lawyer module. Shrink Me is an integral part of the Professional Practice Course; with psychology forming a third pillar of professional education alongside core legal subjects and skills.





## TRAINEE SOLICITORS: FROM THE COURTS TO THE CLASSROOM



Since 2013 over 3,000 transition year students have completed the Law Society's Street Law programme.

Street Law is an initiative which places trainee solicitors studying at the Law Society in local schools to teach law in a practical way. Originally developed in Georgetown University in the United States, the Street Law programme has been run by the Law Society since 2013.

Each year, over 40 volunteer trainee solicitors participate. As part of the programme, the trainee solicitors attend an orientation weekend which prepares them to teach the Street Law course to Transition Year students at partner DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools in the local community.

This year's Street Law orientation weekend took place from 20-22 September and was facilitated by Professor Richard Roe and Melinda Cooperman from Georgetown University. The trainee solicitors will start teaching the programme in local DEIS schools later this month.

### Teaching about social justice and equality

Trainee solicitor Nonie Bhandha volunteered with the programme and taught Street Law at her former school, Mercy Secondary School, Inchicore, Dublin 8.

"Street Law is a teaching programme that teaches young people about social justice, equality and key legal principals," she said. "It's a programme that gives them practical legal application of issues that affect them on a daily basis that they may not even be aware of."

"Street Law helps students understand they

have a part to play in shaping a society that appreciates their input and engagement."

### Engagement on real-life legal issues

Once orientation is completed, the trainee solicitors are put in pairs and attend a school in the community. They deliver the programme over six lessons and cover topics such as the court systems, family law, discrimination law and sexual offences.

"We taught six lessons every Friday for one hour and 30 minutes. The students were really engaged and had a good knowledge of key social and legal issues like fairness and equality," said Ms Banda.

"They were also very knowledgeable about legal cases being reported in the media and asked many questions about the procedure and application of law. They had curiosity of legal issues such as consent, the courts system and the area of criminal law."

Trainee solicitor April Rose Byrne also taught at her former school, Coláiste Bride, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 and said she was surprised at the students' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm.

"Although they were not legally old enough to vote they had so many views on past referendums," she said. "They were full of 'what ifs' and 'how comes' which was refreshing and allowed for further and more in-depth discussions. They cared about topics we studied, especially the ones that directly affected them, such as consent."

### Practical law

Street Law allows the school students to see how the law affects their daily lives and helps promote

lifelong civic engagement.

"One of the key benefits of the programme for the students is that it gave them a chance to hear about real cases and find out about how the law is practically applied in real life," said Ms Banda.

"We covered issues such as the fragility of jury selection, prejudices, the media's role and the restorative nature of the criminal justice system."

The Street Law programme also provides students with a first-hand experience of a Mock Trial hearing in the Criminal Courts of Justice, and offers an insight into what it might be like to train and study as a solicitor.

Ms Banda said the programme was an opportunity to make a positive contribution to young people and also a chance for her to grow and develop.

"Street law allowed me to give back to the community and provide an example to the girls that no matter where you are from, or what your post code is, you are entitled to fulfil your highest potential and do your best," she said.

### Street Law Prison

In the last four years, the Law Society has expanded the Street Law programme to Wheatfield Prison in partnership with the charity Solas and their Compass Programme for prisoners. The programme is also offered in Mercy Law Resource Centre, Mountjoy Prison and the Dóchas Centre.

The Society's Street Law programme is run by course manager John Lunney. You can learn more about Street Law by visiting: [www.lawsociety.ie/streetlaw](http://www.lawsociety.ie/streetlaw)

## DIVERSITY DISCUSSION

Law School hosts a diversity discussion focusing on the benefits of a diverse student body with attendees swapping stories and tips for success in a supportive atmosphere







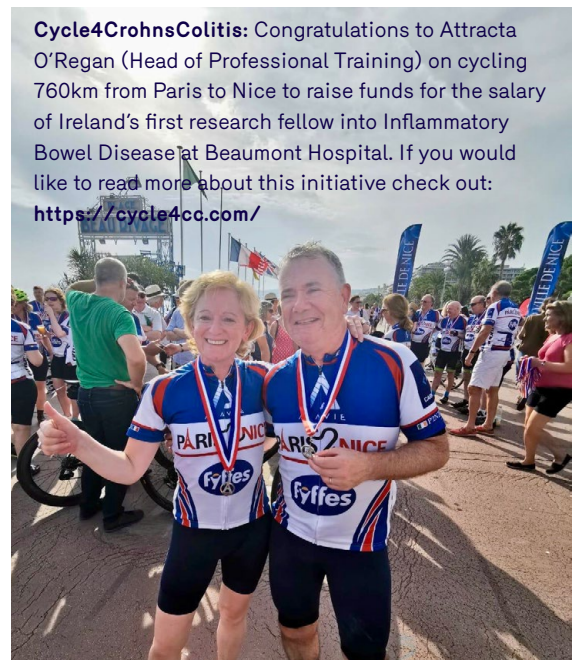
Former President Mary Robinson visits the Law School to talk about the fight against climate change, and much more at the Irish Women Lawyers Association (IWLA) AGM.



Steve Collender (Diploma Centre) showcases the Society's annual Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the World Conference of Online Learning 2019.



Marie O'Brien (Partner, Aviation & Transport Finance Dublin, A&L Goodbody) with Claire O'Mahony (Acting Head of Diploma Centre) at the 2019 Diploma in Aviation Leasing and Finance conferral ceremony. This diploma has been shortlisted for Best Postgraduate Course of the Year Law at the GradIreland Higher Education Awards 2020.



**Cycle4CrohnsColitis:** Congratulations to Attracta O'Regan (Head of Professional Training) on cycling 760km from Paris to Nice to raise funds for the salary of Ireland's first research fellow into Inflammatory Bowel Disease at Beaumont Hospital. If you would like to read more about this initiative check out: <https://cycle4cc.com/>



Colette Reid (Law School) pictured with a team of voice coaches and actors that work with PPC trainees to build confidence and hone public presentation skills.



John Lunney and Rebecca Raftery representing the Law School at the Chambers Ireland Corporate Social Responsibility Awards 2019, with Street Law commended in the Excellence in Community Programme category.



## WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE? INVEST IN YOUR EMPLOYEES

If your firm is committed to hiring, managing, developing and retaining the most talented employees – we have three programmes designed to help you develop a superior workforce.

### Executive Leadership Programme – Starts 7 February 2020

This Programme is designed and delivered in partnership with renowned experts in the fields of corporate leadership, psychology, executive coaching and the legal profession. We will equip participants to take full control of their careers and exert leadership and influence among their own teams and their unique professional settings.

### Certificate in Professional Education – Starts 19 February 2020

This Certificate in Professional Education is best in class for anyone involved with or interested in moving to a Learning and Development or professional education role. The Certificate is tailored specifically to meet the needs of professional educators by taking a nuanced and comprehensive approach to the theory and knowledge, attitudinal judgement and skills and practice required to excel as a professional educator.

### Coaching Skills for Solicitors and Practice Managers – Starts 28 February 2020

Success in the legal field demands skilful teamwork. This course is designed to help participants as they develop their own unique coaching style, blending insights from psychology, executive coaching, and other fields.

To find out more about these programmes, visit our webpage – [www.lawsociety.ie/CPD](http://www.lawsociety.ie/CPD) or contact a member of our team for details – [FinuasSkillnet@lawsociety](mailto:FinuasSkillnet@lawsociety)



## Changes have been made to the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS) and the process of becoming a solicitor in England and Wales.

Solicitors admitted by the Law Society of Ireland no longer need to pass any QLTS assessments to become a solicitor of England and Wales.

As a direct result, there is no longer a requirement to complete and pass the Law Society of Ireland's Certificate in English and Welsh Property Law.

Further information and the AD1 application form can be found by visiting the Solicitors Regulation Authority website: <https://www.sra.org.uk/>



## RETIREMENT

In 2019 our colleagues Maura Butler and Jane Moffatt retired from the Law School. Thank you for all your hard work and many contributions over the years. We are sad to see you go and wish you both great success and happiness in your next chapter.

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- Diploma Centre



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