



LAW SCHOOL NEWS

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BLACKHALL WELCOMES 470 TRAINEES TO NEW PPC

The Law Society's new fused Professional Practice Course (PPC) started on the 6 September with 472 new trainees being welcomed to the Blackhall Place campus. The new course consolidates solicitor-training education, meaning trainee solicitors are now required to complete one academic course, instead of two.

Unitary approach

This unitary approach streamlines the entire taught elements of solicitor training, marking the most significant reform to solicitor education in Ireland in over two decades. This innovative new course was developed by the Law Society as part of its strategic plan to increase access to solicitor training in Ireland. Chair of the Law Society's Education Committee Richard Hammond SC said: "We are confident that this new streamlined course will set the global standard for first-class solicitor training, where equal priority is given to psychological development, and legal skills and knowledge."

"This course is designed specifically to equip trainee solicitors with extensive future-focused legal knowledge, innovation and technical skills," explained Rory O'Boyle (Education Standards Manager at the Law Society).

The 24 months of in-office training continues as a vital and essential vocational component of the overall training to become a solicitor.

"The legal sector is in an era of opportunity, as new areas of practice emerge alongside technological advances to deliver cutting-edge client service," said O'Boyle.

This new era is set against a backdrop of rapidly changing social, political, technological, and environmental factors.

The reimagined PPC is a unique educational offering, providing essential and modern skills to develop the next generation of solicitors



Lisa Quigley, Ogier Leman and James O' Mahony, Matheson

capable of innovating and collaborating together to address current and future global legal needs.

Centre of legal excellence

"As the largest English-speaking common-law jurisdiction in the EU, Ireland is well placed to be a centre of legal excellence. Our new course will prepare solicitors to meet the fast-paced and evolving demands of business, society and

legal services in a globalised world.

"Trainee admissions to the Law Society are at a ten-year high, with trainee intake this year up 10% on last year, and access to solicitor education and the profession continuing to increase apace.

"We look forward to making further progress in this area as we welcome the first cohort of trainee solicitors on the new fused PPC," O'Boyle concluded.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



1. Kirstin Deery, Arthur Cox and Eleni Stavrou, Arthur Cox

2. Liam Needham, Maples and Calder and Aoife Jade Bromley, Callan Tansey Solicitors

3. Sally Barnicle, Arthur Cox, Michael McGrogan, Matheson and Molly Barnicle, DAC Beachcroft

4. Padraic Courtney and Dr Geoffrey Shannon (Law Society)

5. Holly Billings, Hayes Solicitors and Gavin Dowd, A&L Goodbody

6. Caroline Kennedy, Emma Cooper and Aisling Byrne (Law Society)

7. T P Kennedy welcoming trainees in the President's Hall

8. Pictured in the Education Centre ahead of their panel discussion on becoming a solicitor, where they reflected on why they decided to pursue a career in law, shared their insights, experience and funny stories with our new trainee solicitors are

- Melanie Crowley (Mason Hayes and Curran)
- Jeanne Kelly (Browne Jacobson Ireland)
- Graham Murray (Solicitor)
- Rory O'Boyle (Law Society)



7.



8.

CELEBRATING LAW SCHOOL MOOTERS

Trainee solicitors were presented with awards from Law Society president Michelle Ní Longáin as the Society celebrated the teams who excelled at virtual and in-person mooting competitions during 2021 and 2022.



BROWN MOSTEN INTERNATIONAL CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION

Congratulations to Eimear Brophy (Colm O Cochlain & Company Solicitors) and Anthony O'Shea (Arthur Cox) on winning the national competition and representing Ireland in the Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition (ICCC), where they reached the semi-final. (Eimear is pictured with President Michelle Ní Longáin) Team coached by Dr Rachael Hession (Law Society).



Congratulations to Ciara Dinneny (Michael J. Staines & Co.), Helen Ryan (Matheson) and Lauren Keogh (Arthur Cox), on placing third in the Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition held at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida. (Pictured here with Law Society President Michelle Ní Longáin). The team were coached by T P Kennedy (Director of Education, Law Society).



Congratulations to Dónal Merrick (Eversheds Sutherland), Éilis Ní Bhraonáin (Mason Hayes & Curran), Chloe O'Reilly (A&L Goodbody) and Niamh Shanahan (A&L Goodbody) first place winners in the Northern European Regional rounds of the Monroe E Price Media Law Moot competition. (Pictured here with Law Society President Michelle Ní Longáin). The team were supported by their coach Rebecca McKittrick (A&L Goodbody).



Congratulations to Darren McConnon, EirGrid and Shauna Scannell A&L Goodbody, Louise O'Callaghan (McCann Fitzgerald) and Samuel Elliott (Matheson) on winning the Philip C. Jessup Moot Competition - Irish Final 2019-2020. (Darren and Shauna pictured with Law Society President Michelle Ní Longáin). Team were coached by Deirdre Potenz, McCann Fitzgerald.



Congratulations to Cormac Bergin (McCann) Fitzgerald), Megan Fanning (Eversheds Sutherland) and Bessy Zhu (A&L Goodbody) on winning the Irish national round of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and retaining the Wallace Cup in Blackhall Place. The team defeated the Kings Inns team in the final round and had great success representing Ireland in the online international rounds. (Pictured with Law Society President Michelle Ní Longáin). Team coached by Alysha Hoare (McCann Fitzgerald).



Congratulations to Laura Brohan (Dillon Eustace), Alysha Hoare (McCann FitzGerald), Isobel d'Arcy (Arthur Cox), Samuel Elliot ((Matheson) and Diarmuid O'Huallachain (McCann FitzGerald who competed in the first ever joint National UK and Irish Jessup Rounds in 2021, the team won as Irish champions at the competition and ranked 6th overall, with team mates Samuel Elliot and Isobel d'Arcy ranking in the Top 25. The team had great success representing Ireland in the International rounds. (Laura and Alysha are pictured here with Law Society President Michelle Ní Longáin). Team coached by Deirdre Potenz (McCann FitzGerald).



Congratulations to Enya Levy (Arthur Cox) and Kevin Barrett (McCann FitzGerald) on representing Ireland with distinction at the International Negotiation Competition, which sees two law students representing a party/client, negotiating an international transaction or the resolution of an international dispute with an opposing team from a different country. Continuing the Law School's proud record in this competition, Kevin and Enya placed third at the 2022 international finals in Nebraska, USA. . (Enya is pictured with Law Society President Michelle Ní Longáin). Team were coached by John Lunney (Law Society).

LAW SCHOOL AMBASSADORS CONTINUE TO CREATE A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

Congratulations to our newest group of ambassadors joining the Law School Ambassadors Programme. Ambassadors share their valuable expertise and experience to support, empower and encourage PPC trainees on their route to become a solicitor.

- **Aimee Dudley,**
Michael J. Staines & Company
Solicitors
- **Alison Jameson,**
Jones Magee Solicitors
- **Alysha Hoare,**
McCann FitzGerald
- **Amy Grant,**
Mason Hayes & Curran
- **Dia Silverstein,**
Kiely Solicitors
- **Diarmuid Hickey,**
Maples Group
- **Felim O'Maolmhana,**
Dillon Eustace
- **Frank McNamara,**
Beauchamps
- **Jade Bakar,**
ByrneWallace
- **Karina Bartz,**
Natasha McKenna Solicitors
- **Laura Kirwan,**
Orpen Franks
- **Lisa Collins,**
William Fry
- **Lydia Doyle,**
Higgins and associates
- **Mareike Erika Zackariat,**
Matheson
- **Patricia Camilon,**
Jonathan Dunphy & Company
Solicitors
- **Rebecca McKittrick,**
A&L Goodbody
- **Rosalyn English,**
Eversheds Sutherland
- **Sara O'Sullivan,**
Fieldfisher
- **Stephanie Villanueva,**
Frank Murphy Solicitors
- **Sophie LawLess,**
Eversheds Sutherland



The student ambassador programme provides a great opportunity to recently qualified solicitors to speak to new students beginning in Blackhall and offer them advice. It was only a few years ago that I was a PPC1 student! It is always a pleasure to chat to people starting out on their legal careers and it's a privilege to offer guidance. I'm happy to be of service.

Frank McNamara, Law School Ambassador, Younger Members Committee and Solicitor (Beauchamps)

BLACKHALL MUSIC CLUB HOST A JAM SESSION IN THE VANILLA CAFÉ AT BLACKHALL

1. Martin Shannon, Arthur Cox, Philip Hayden, Arthur Cox and Evin Mooney, Matheson
2. Seán Quinn, William Fry and Hannah Faul, Matheson
3. Martin Shannon, Arthur Cox and Michelle Heffernan, ByrneWallace



BLACKHALL HIKING CLUB – GLENDALOUGH HIKE (SPINC AND GLENEALO VALLEY WALK)



Some of the Blackhall Place trainees who competed in the first round of the **Irish Times Debate 2022-23** on 24 October. In all, 23 Blackhall trainees (comprising of 8 teams of two speakers, and 7 individual speakers) have progressed to the Quarter Finals of Ireland's most prestigious debating competition.



Back Row (L-R):

- Gavin Halpin (Clark Hill Solicitors LLP);
- Gavin Dowd (A&L Goodbody);
- Martin Shannon (Arthur Cox); and
- Nicole Cotter (A&L Goodbody)

Front Row (L-R):

- Imogen Bowles Gray (William Fry LLP);
- Gavan Mc Laughlin (Arthur Cox LLP and Auditor of SADS);
- Ailbhe Noonan (Arthur Cox);
- Giselle Keenan (Whitney Moore);
- Lorna Groves (Clerkin Lynch);
- Romy Higgins (McCann Fitzgerald); and
- Rebecca Ross (Arthur Cox).



Members of the Blackhall Running Group ("the Gazelles") – Run in Phoenix Park

Gabriela Balazs,
Eversheds Sutherland
Patrick Daly, John
Gaynor & Co Solicitors
Alice Kearns, McCann
Fitzgerald



Blackhall Sustainable Fashion Society – Halloween "Swap Shop" event

Martha McGarry, Arthur Cox,
Sinead Britchfield, Arthur Cox and
Sarah Courtney, Arthur Cox

Blackhall GAA Team pictured ahead of their match against DCU DE at UCD St Patrick's Campus



YOUNGER MEMBERS COMMITTEE – ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Michelle Nolan, (YMC Committee Secretary), Dr Melrona Kirrane (Associate Professor, DCU Business School), Barry Lee (Founder, The Mindfulness Centre), Fiona McNulty (Senior Vice Chair YMC, Mason Hayes & Curran), Micheál Grace (Partner, Mason Hayes & Curran), Sarah Kelly (Partner, The Panel), Dr Rachael Hession (Law Society Professional Training).



YMC Committee Members - Avril Flannery (RDJ), Amy Grant (Mason Hayes & Curran), Fiona McNulty (SVC, Mason Hayes & Curran), Hannah Shaw (A & L Goodbody), Greg Benson (McCann FitzGerald), Michelle Nolan (Committee Secretary).

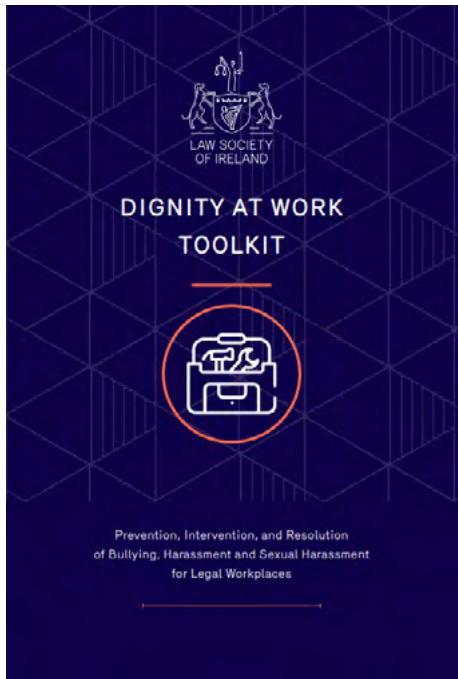
On 6 October, The Law Society's Younger Members Committee hosted 'Building Your Career: Tools of the Trade'. This event, chaired by senior-vice chair Fiona McNulty, looked at the skills that younger members (solicitors in their first seven years of practice) need as they progress in their careers. Dr Melrona Kirrane presented on 'The Leadership Challenge' and considered different ways of leading. Barry Lee is a solicitor who, having practiced for over a decade as a corporate lawyer, now teaches mindfulness workshops in law firms and other workplaces. He gave some very pointers on how to manage stress, in particular noting the

importance of the activities that help us to recharge – such as exercise or spending time with loved ones. Micheál Grace, a partner in Mason Hayes & Curran LLP shared his tips for younger lawyers who are beginning to look at business development within their firms, with lots practical (and humorous!) examples. Rounding off the panel was Sarah Kelly, a legal recruitment expert who gave attendees an overview of the legal jobs market, while also looking at the pitfalls of making a career move for the wrong reasons.

This was an in-person only event, and attendees enjoyed an opportunity

to network with colleagues after the event at a drinks reception generously sponsored by The Panel recruitment. The Younger Members Committee is grateful to LSPT, Fizzers for all the support with this event.

PPC trainees are reminded that the Younger Members Committee is here to support them as newly qualified solicitors. If they have a query or would like to become a member of the Committee when they qualify, they should email the Committee Secretary Michelle Nolan – m.nolan@lawsociety.ie



Law Society Psychological Services launch a Dignity at Work Toolkit for the legal profession. It provides practical information and helpful resources to prevent, intervene in and resolve dignity at work issues.

Download the Toolkit at: www.lawsociety.ie/dignitymatters

Congratulations to Michalis Kirimlidis (Education IT) who won the Men's Sabre category at the Irish Fencing Open, one of the largest and most important competitions in the Irish Fencing calendar. This is Michalis's third Irish Open victory in a row, equalling the record for consecutive wins dating back to 1954! He's looking forward to the opportunity to set a new record next year."



The Law School has been recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for the third time, one of only six educational institutions in Ireland to achieve this status to date.

As an Apple Distinguished School for 2021-2024, the Law School is recognised as a centre of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence that demonstrates a vision for learning with technology.

Pictured are members of the education team with T P Kennedy (Director of Education) and Éanna Ó Brádaigh, Apple's Education Officer for Ireland.



DIPLOMA CENTRE SCOOPS PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATION AWARD

The Law Society Diploma Centre was delighted to win the prestigious **'Best Further Education Provider'** award at the 2022 Education Awards. The award celebrates the Centre's commitment to providing courses to the legal profession and wider public, and recognises the innovative, bold and creative strategies that have helped the Diploma Centre to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Up against five other leading postgraduate education providers, the Diploma Centre is delighted to have been recognised for its contribution and ongoing work within the sector, and looks forward to delivering an extensive programme of diplomas, certificates and LLMs in the coming months. Explore autumn 2022 courses here: www.lawsociety.ie/diploma-courses

STREET LAW ORIENTATION WEEKEND



This year we celebrated our 10th annual Street Law Orientation Weekend. Frank Murphy, Solicitor, Ballymun Community Law Centre shares his experience with us.

There I was in the classroom desperately trying to sell the solicitor career path to the assembled school students when a voice rings out loud and clear: 'I couldn't be a solicitor.' Not wanting to in anyway putdown the young contributor I mumbled back something about everybody could be a solicitor. But it was to no avail the voice came back again with the same words: 'I couldn't be a solicitor.'

His certainty shook me. I wondered could this schoolboy know something about legal qualifications that I did not. Despite my protestations that everybody could be a solicitor he was unmoved in his belief that he couldn't be a solicitor.

Of course, he didn't know anything more about legal qualifications. There was absolutely no bar to him becoming a solicitor. But more importantly he knew about life. He knew that former students from his school did not become solicitors indeed they're chances of going on to third level education were much less than the national average.

This happened some years ago and while hopeful that in more recent times there may have been some little improvement sadly, I'm not confident. However, a weekend in Blackhall has given me cause for optimism when, with some colleagues, I was honoured to join the Street Law trainee orientation programme. Who was

to know it but there behind the black railings some 30/40 trainees, who had spent the week buried in their professional course studies, returned for their entire weekend to learn how to teach street law.

Not quite the chic city break, the thought of a weekend in Blackhall does not exactly have one salivating with enthusiasm. Well think again! The learning environment created by the trainees under the leadership of Dr, Sean Arthurs and John Lunney is truly inspirational. Instead of feeling jaded on Monday morning you feel invigorated and inspired. You're just wanting to get out on the street up and teaching!

You have hardly sat down in the Green Hall and they're looking for your favourite song and movie. What next? Do you come here often? Do you like the band? Anyone who has a heart is what it is actually, as we find our to teams to decide who of the 6 listed deserving patients are to get the one available heart for the lifesaving transplant.

ET phone home is next on the screen when it appears the Aliens have landed and taken over the country and with all our human rights up for grabs it's the trainees here today who are asked to negotiate what rights we will be allowed to keep.

You couldn't make it up! At the outset it seems quite incredible but as the clock ticks and the rights are shorn away it becomes much more real. In the end each group must pick just three rights. Things are desperate. Then when we think it sorted the Taoiseach phones John on his mobile telling him that it has to be only three rights for the entire country.

Surely this is all too much. But no, from the back of the Hall two trainees march up to the front unasked and unannounced and put order on the chaos even taking a vote to finalise the selection of the third right. It was fitting there was some refreshment to celebrate this good work.

Saturday and Sunday saw us inspecting crime scenes, some 28 exhibits scattered throughout the building, deliberating on the imposition of suspensions for fighting in the school, even sitting in judgement on the infamous shipwreck survivors last straw lottery otherwise known to jurisprudential scholars as *Regina v Dudley and Stevens (1884)* QB at 8.30am on Sunday morning.

Everything to do with the law is laid out before us but all with the overall intent and purpose in getting it out there on the street. By the end of the weekend the trainees were to be up there at the front teaching the class. And that they were. Every single one of them. Teaching like as if it was their calling. No aspect of the law too difficult to put out there. Reflection was a word that Sean put a lot of emphasis on during the weekend. He's right of course. When I look back at that Aliens scenario, I realise on reflection that it is not so fanciful at all. In fact, it truly represents the reality with which we are faced.

Our trainees have those human rights in their hands, and they are choosing to bring them out to their communities. It is essential work.

If you are lucky enough to get an invite be sure and take it. You won't regret it in fact you won't forget it!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"One of the fundamental skills a lawyer needs is people skills as we deal with clients 24/7. Having people of colour, from other nationalities, other walks of life in the field is a skill you cannot buy. The ability to understand the law, understand clients and to provide an unmatched service comes from having a very diverse firm and diverse clients."



Law School Ambassador Jade Barake shares her story:

This October the Law Society celebrated Black History Month. Jade Barake, Dublin, is a trainee solicitor with ByrneWallace LLP and one of our 2022/2023 Law School Ambassadors. She explains why she has chosen a career in law and what Black History Month represents to her.

Why did you study law?

"The decision to study law came natural to me. As cliché as it sounds, I always wanted a career in something that made a difference. I am a great problem solver and analytical thinker. My environment growing up consisted of watching people fight for their justice, basic human rights and a chance at life.

As the eldest child in a first generation immigrant family, it fell upon me to assist my parents and siblings in navigating a different world. I have been translating contracts, reading terms and conditions of agreements, searching for legal solutions and meaning for my parents from a very young age. I completed my undergraduate degree in Law in UCC and a Masters in Global Legal Studies in Maynooth. Soon after, I secured my first job before graduation but it was tricky. Not only am I the

first in the family to study law, first in my family to go to university, but I also did not know a single person working in the industry.

Although I enjoy working in large commercial firms, my long term goal is to work on pro bono cases, I would really like to give back to the community that gave me a chance, mainly to those that do not have a voice."

What does Black History Month mean to you?

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is very important to me. It has only been celebrated in Ireland since the Covid-19 pandemic, and this is due to the dedication of some extraordinary people. To be able to celebrate it means that people like me are being acknowledged. It means history may not have to repeat itself. More than anything, it's a month of awareness.

What can we do to encourage more people from diverse backgrounds to consider a career in law?

I think the Law Society is doing a commendable job in promoting diversity and inclusion. I utilised the Access Scholarship Programme throughout my training programme. This was fundamental and made the entire process stress free. I was able to assess subsidised services and unbiased advice. The Access Scholarship Programme is similar to the HEAR and DARE programme in university whereby it really allows those coming from non-law backgrounds, lower socio-economic backgrounds to be able to receive the same education their peers receive. There is a fear and stigma that comes with speaking up and voicing concerns where there is discrimination. In a field where competition is fierce, black people are already working overtime for the same level of recognition.

In the past year I have seen more firms embracing diversity and inclusivity. One firm is running an event in support of small black businesses this month whilst another actively recruits ethnic

staff. To have Irish law firms in Ireland openly and proudly support BLM is historical. However, a lot more work is required. It goes further than having the words "Diversity and Inclusion" on a webpage, or one black representative in a firm. The aggregate number of black qualified lawyers in the top 10 firms in Ireland is too low. Being the first or only person of colour in a firm causes an unnerving and extreme pressure to combat stigmas and to overcompensate.

Through networking, I am aware that many black law students, of which are mainly women, have expressed their hesitation and reluctance of completing their legal qualification in Ireland due to the low recruitment rate and even lower retention rate. There is a lack of visible diversity within firms. Ireland is experiencing a high rate of young people emigrating, however what goes undocumented is the high rate of young black people emigrating. I want to work in an environment where there are people who look like me, and more importantly people who look like me in higher positions.

What would true diversity and inclusion in the legal profession look like to you?

One of the fundamental skills a lawyer needs is people skills as we deal with clients 24/7. Having people of colour, from other nationalities, other walks of life in the field is a skill you cannot buy. The ability to understand the law, understand clients and to provide an unmatched service comes from having a very diverse firm and diverse clients. I would like to believe that I will get to experience true diversity and inclusion during my legal profession, which is why I believe that these types of conversations are monumental. I hope these conversations will benefit future law students and lawyers. In a utopian world, I would be one of many black people in a firm. My training journey would have been extraordinarily different if there was a black lawyer in the firm to relate to.



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counselling@lawsociety.ie



LAW SOCIETY PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

A fundamental redefinition of what it means to be a professional is taking place globally. In the legal context, this new frontier will require more from its professionals than the traditional twin pillars of legal knowledge and legal skills. It will require us to go further and to also attend to a new 'third pillar' – the internal development of the trainee and the practising lawyer

The Head of Law Society Psychological Services, Antoinette Moriarty says “Business is changing – and we have to change with it.” Law Society Psychological Services’ new venture to facilitate this change and reach out – beyond the Psychological Services team, beyond the Law Society – to the wider legal community begins with primary school students, working through traineeship right up to advanced lawyers and senior leaders in the profession, and wherever lawyers work.

Redefining Professionalism: the Third Pillar

The International Bar Association’s recent global wellbeing report highlighted 0-5 years qualified as a critical period for young lawyers in terms of stress, and not having a safe place in which to make mistakes or to get support.

The Complete Lawyer is now an expanded course designed to create a healthy and sustainable way of practising law. Since reshaping as part of the core curriculum of the new fused PPC trainees are enjoying a series of in-person lectures, Peer-to-Peer Interaction Series workshops, and live, online fireside chats.

A host of international and local voices to energise and support trainees and to strengthen their ability to engage with complex and fast-paced environments, and to manage their own boundaries with demanding clients included Desi Vlahos (Lawyer and Mentor, Leo Cussen Centre for Law, Australia) reflecting on the key capacities required for successful professional practice and challenges experienced by lawyers in practice. Collaborations with international colleagues continues addressing themes which support the profession beyond a ‘mental health’ framework solely such as diversity and inclusion, gender equality and, wider organisational structures and dignity at work. Ronan MacSweeney (Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Law Society of New South Wales) was in conversation with Maeve Delargy (Phillip Lee LLP), to share his own professional journey from Ireland to Australia

with trainees and aspiring zeal for critical responses to make diversity, equity and inclusion a reality in practice.

The incremental nature of the course, beginning with the personal experiences of trainees and moving to the professional aspects of legal practice, led to trainees building their own psychological toolkits in peer-to-peer interaction workshops in the first few weeks of the course. Trainees swiftly dove into the reflective and interactive approach in project teams to build creative and collaborative projects from human pyramids to TikTok videos, and bespoke artworks and poems to claim their awarded Digital Badges, the first-of-its-kind digital education awards on the new fused PPC.

Catrin Prys-Cummins’ (Director of Legal Services, Accenture) lecture on the theme of ‘Belonging’ strongly highlighted trainee’s uniqueness as complex and ever changing individuals, and the importance and value of having a sense of belonging from a personal and professional perspective. In a delightful representation of identity, Catrin pointed out “we are all onions” with many layers surrounding the core of our identity, constantly in a state of evolution, of growth and learning.



EVERYONE CAN CODE

Empowering young students on their learning journey while teaching them to harness their full potential

The Law School's Everyone Can Code programme is a voluntary initiative between Law School staff and a local primary school. Instead of teaching law we teach code. This project started in 2018 and after a short pause during Covid we are pleased to announce that Caroline Kennedy, Anne Burke and Paul Mooney are back in action once again with their classes.

Our young students join us on the Law School campus to learn the basics of code through the Apple Everyone Can Code programme. At the start of the course the students participate in interactive cyber smart awareness activities. AirPlay, AirDrop and iMovie is an integral part of the course helping to promote a more interactive and hands on approach to the sessions. At the end of the coding course the students attend a graduation ceremony for little coders and receive their certificates in recognition of their participation. This year an extra class covering feelings and emotions. was added to the curriculum and facilitated by the Society's Psychological Services team, Antoinette Moriarty and Mary Duffy.



3,500 PARTICIPANTS JOIN THE 2022 MOOC ON EMPLOYMENT LAW AND REMOTE WORKING

The Diploma Centre's annual online MOOC reached audiences far and wide this year with 3,500 people joining the course from 30 countries. Participants, including trainees and Law Society members, availed of numerous free lectures delivered over a five-week period, that provided a comprehensive guide to the key legal issues relating to remote working, and interesting insights on the future of work.

The opening address was delivered by Leo Varadkar (Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment) and solicitors Richard Grogan, Ciarán Ahern and Wendy Doyle and other employment law experts also contributed.

The 2023 MOOC will be announced in spring 2023 and will be free and open to all – watch this space!



Blackhall Place trainee solicitors win six awards in international mediation and negotiation competition

Trainee solicitors representing the Law Society of Ireland took home six awards from the International Academy of Dispute Resolution Competition. Jessica Heary (Beale & Co), Niamh Shanahan (A&L Goodbody) and Rachel Jones (Holmes O'Malley Sexton) travelled to Poznań, Poland with their coach Dr Rachael Hession to compete in four intense rounds of negotiating and mediation. The team of three were selected from an internal negotiation and mediation competition run by the Law Society of Ireland during their time at Blackhall Place. The tournament sees participants compete through three preliminary rounds in which each team member must serve as a mediator, advocate and client. Mediators are paired with a co-mediator from different law schools, in recognition of the collaborative nature of mediation. Each team was assessed on a range of skills sets including how they controlled the mediation, built rapport, represented their client's interest and analysed and assessed their

specific needs. The first round focused on an artistic dispute, the second on an environmental and Trade Union dispute, and the third on a business dispute with a focus on the challenges brought about by the Pandemic. The final also had a modern twist, as it was inspired by Elon Musk's recent Twitter feud. The format of the competition was challenging as teams from four institutions competed in one room, two negotiation teams and two mediation teams.

They competed in three individual rounds and made it to the final against teams from all over the world including Poland, Denmark and India. They brought home the distinguished award for best overall client/advocate team and best client/advocate team in the individual rounds, the team also placed third in both the individual rounds and in the final as well as taking home a further two awards for their skills.

The aim of this annual competition is, through education, worldwide recognition of the power of dispute resolution processes to peacefully resolve conflicts and promote conciliation and healing. The goal is for participants to identify that mediation is about working together to reach a solution, rather than competing at every turn.



A big thank you to Conor Courtney (Eversheds Sutherland) for his contribution to this issue of the Law School News. Conor holds an English degree and has a passion for journalism. We were delighted to have him on the LSN team.

We are deeply saddened by the death of our colleagues Niamh Hall on Sunday, 20 November and Richard Grogan on Tuesday 22 November 2022.

Niamh was a highly respected Trade Mark Attorney and solicitor who served the Irish and European IP profession in many different ways. She was the first woman to hold the office of President of the Irish Association of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys (APTMA), and co-authored the leading Irish IP law textbook, "Intellectual Property Law in Ireland" (Clark, Smyth & Hall). She also co-authored "Technology and Intellectual Property Law" (Law Society of Ireland)



and "Concise European Trade Mark and Design Law" (Kluwer Law International). Niamh offered lectures in IP law at the Law Society, and she represented the profession on the Trade Marks Examination Board.

Richard Grogan was a well-known expert on employment law and solicitor who served as a member of the Council of the Law Society. He was principal and head of employment and dispute resolution at Richard Grogan & Associates, a firm he had set up in 2009 to focus on employment law and personal-injury matters. Richard was a tireless advocate, both in proceedings and in the public arena. His work in making employment law accessible to the consumer, and in the simplest terms, will never be forgotten. Richard offered lectures in Employment Law at the Law Society. Only last month, he had been named 'Lawyer of the Year' at the 2022 Dye & Durham Irish Law Awards.

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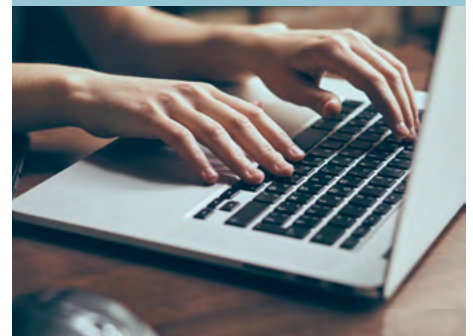
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Articles for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to: Rebecca Raftery, Editor, The Law School News, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.

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