



LAW SCHOOL NEWS

In this Issue



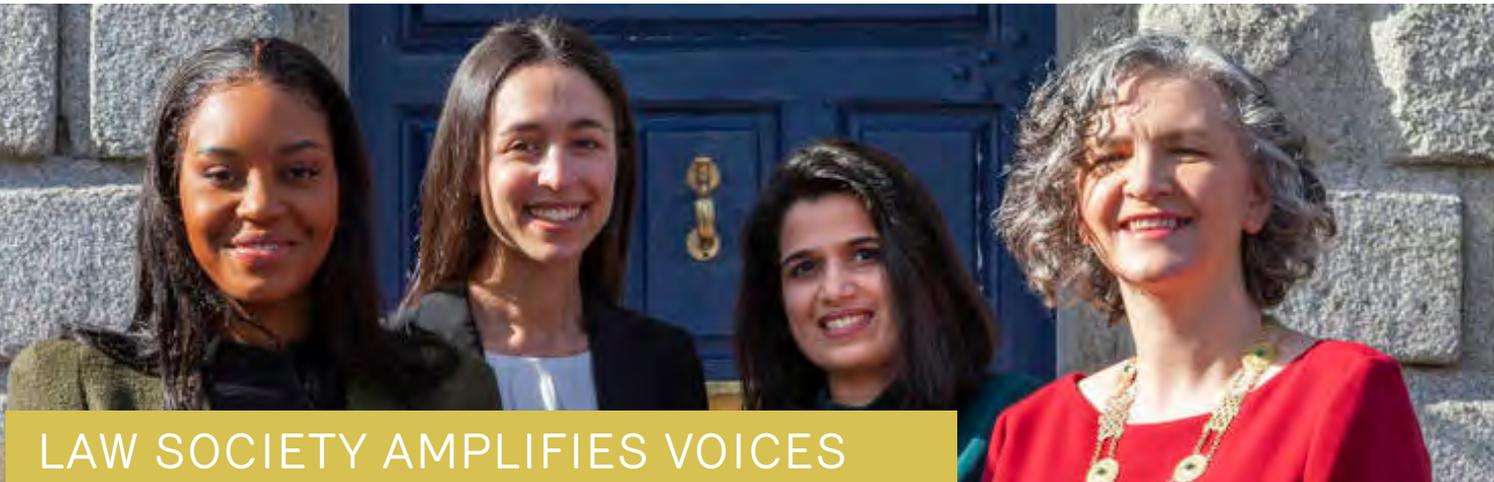
Trainee Life :
Page 2



Trainees take gold:
Page 6



Street Law:
Page 9



LAW SOCIETY AMPLIFIES VOICES OF FUTURE LEGAL LEADERS

On International Women's Day (8 March), the Law Society of Ireland looked ahead to the future of the solicitors' profession where more diverse representation will help to 'break the bias' and increase access to justice for all.

President of the Law Society, Michelle Ní Longáin said, "As the fifth woman to hold the position of President of the Law Society, diversity and inclusion are more than just words to me. The Law Society has embedded these principles in everything we do. I am proud to lead the solicitors' profession at a time of transformative change towards a more diverse future."

"Trainee solicitors at the Law Society are at the centre of this change. They represent the future of the profession and the future legal leaders of Ireland. The growing diversity among our trainees is reflective of the diversity present in modern Irish society. Solicitors work in communities in every corner of Ireland, providing trusted advice on all areas of life and business. A more diverse profession is important to help increase access to justice for all," she said.

DIVERSITY MATTERS

Alysha Hoare from Cork is a trainee solicitor at McCann FitzGerald LLP, Dublin.

"As the first in my family to embark on a legal career, diversity in the profession is important to me. A more diverse profession brings with it the opportunity for more people to access justice and have an understanding of the laws which govern many aspects of their daily lives. This is in the interest of all in society as our clients are extremely diverse.

"The legal profession should continue taking meaningful steps to promote inclusion in the workplace. It is important for solicitors and the wider justice sector to reflect the public it serves.

When this happens, individuals will be more likely to seek and trust the advice of a solicitor on matters ranging from personal affairs to business decisions."

Anjusha Puthan Purayil qualified as a solicitor in India in 2016 and successfully completed the FE1 exams at the Law Society in 2020. Anjusha now works as a trainee solicitor in Crowley Millar Solicitors LLP, Dublin.

"Diverse lawyers bring diverse opinions, diverse teams make better decisions, and a more diverse and equitable legal industry drives more innovative and creative solutions. It is extremely important to support and protect diversity because by valuing individuals and groups in a manner free from prejudice, and by encouraging a climate where equity and mutual respect are fundamental, we create a fair society, which is needed for a country to run smoothly."

Reflecting on the International Women's Day 2022 theme, 'Break the Bias', Anjusha said, "When I think of my future career as a solicitor, 'breaking the bias' means creating a world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive; a world where difference is valued and celebrated. If we as individuals can consciously break our biases and lead by example, I believe that we can then break the bias in our communities and our workplaces."

AMPLIFYING VOICES

Tarisai May Chidawanyika moved to Dublin from Zimbabwe 14 years ago and qualified as a solicitor in 2020.

"We need to amplify and listen to the voices of those who are marginalised. To me, 'breaking the bias' means I will carry my challenges, conflicts and triumphs and comfortably take space in every room I know I worked hard to be in," said Tarisai, who works as a solicitor at Matheson.

"How much more real would access to justice in

Irish society be when the person who is about to pave the trajectory of your life understands your background, your personal circumstances and what has led you to be in the situation you now face? Let's encourage and educate students from disadvantaged backgrounds, from primary school all the way through to third level, and show them that the legal profession is achievable for them too."

Gráinne Cuddihy, from Cork, qualified as a solicitor in 2020 and is currently practising at James J. O'Donoghue & Co. in Tower, near Blarney, Cork.

"When my children were teenagers I decided to pursue a law degree at night while working full time. My path to entering solicitor training was through my many years working as a legal secretary. I enjoyed studying and working in law and thought that becoming a solicitor would fulfil my potential.

"It is important for members of the legal and justice sector to reflect the public it serves so that the public can identify with their solicitors thus feeling their issues are understood. Breaking the bias in my future career would mean that colleagues and clients would appreciate my previous life experience prior to qualifying and see how this would benefit them."

"This year's International Women's Day theme, Break the Bias, is particularly fitting. While women have been in the majority of the Irish solicitors' profession for many years I am conscious that this is not yet reflected throughout all leadership levels. Recognising challenges that need our focus and action does not lessen the progress made to advance gender equality, diversity and inclusion in the solicitors' profession. Now we must look forward with renewed purpose to increase access to leadership for women and those with diverse backgrounds," said Ms Ní Longáin.

TRAINEE LIFE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONFERENCE



Alysha Hoare (McCann Fitzgerald)

In late February 2022, the European Commission hosted a legal training conference on the topic of initial training of justice professionals serving the rule of law. Bordeaux was selected as host city to coincide with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, who co-organised the event. The conference took place over two-days consisting of workshops, panel discussions and keynote speeches.

I was delighted to represent the Law Society of Ireland as part of the Irish delegation alongside T P Kennedy, Director of Education. Each European Union Member State nominated one trainee lawyer to represent their country and I was honoured to have been selected.

My journey to the conference was a challenge! Storm Eunice halted the travel arrangements of many attendees across the continent. I arrived at Cork Airport at 4am to learn that my flight had been cancelled. After a few calls and emails, I was redirected on to three flights from Cork to London, London to Paris and then Paris to Bordeaux. I can certainly say I took the scenic route! I arrived in Bordeaux at 8pm local time and soon bumped into an attendee from Greece. We exchanged stories of our rerouted travel plans and our expectations for the conference which was commencing the following morning.

There was a sense of gratitude and excitement in equal measure on the first day. The conference was the first in-person EU training conference of its kind since the advent of the pandemic. Over the past two years, many participants worked remotely alongside their European colleagues and this was a wonderful opportunity to come together again. The conference opened with a welcome address from Nathalie Roret, Director of the French National School for the Judiciary (ENM). This was followed by a speech from Peter Csonka, Deputy Director for Criminal Justice at DG Justice, European Commission. Mr Csonka highlighted the importance of embracing digital technology regarding legal training and noted

that in 2020, 318,000 justice professionals received training in EU law. He further outlined the grounding of EU legal systems and legal culture in a community of law which upholds and promotes the rule of law. Attendees then heard from James MacGuill, President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), who delivered an address on the diversity of national training for lawyers across the EU.

After a busy morning agenda, the afternoon schedule was equally engaging. Aileen Donnelly, Judge of the Court of Appeal, presented on ‘The rule of law, a concept in crisis?’. I later attended a workshop on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The workshop fostered fruitful discussions among attendees who shared insights from their national jurisdictions. I particularly enjoyed the subject matter as I have completed an LLM in European Union law at the University of Amsterdam.

On the close of the first day, participants attended a dinner cocktail at the French National School for the Judiciary (ENM), commonly referred to as ‘Justice Island’ due to its location beside the Palais de Justice de Bordeaux (court of first instance). The architecture of both buildings are impressive, powerful and distinctive, combining older features with newer glass extensions, designed to reflect values intrinsic to the French legal system - notably openness and transparency. It was a wonderful experience to be hosted in such an incredible location.

The second day of the conference was oriented around workshops. The goal of which was for participants to draft recommendations which would later be presented in a plenary session and form the basis of the conference report. I participated in a workshop on initial training for lawyers. I was delighted to share my recent perspectives and insights from PPC-1 which I attended last September. The conference closed with a keynote speech from Tamara Capeta, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

I was extremely thankful to attend the conference. In particular, I enjoyed meeting colleagues from across Europe and discussing our experiences of legal training. I spent time with delegations from Italy, Germany, Greece, Slovenia and Bulgaria and I really appreciated hearing about their experience of being a lawyer in Europe and the road to qualification.

OVER €29K RAISED FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION CRUMLIN



Conor Dunne (Ronan Daly Jermyn)

The PPC Connect Committee organised a Blackhall Charity Fight Night in February to raise funds for the Children's Health Foundation Crumlin.

On the night, 22 participants from PPC I took part in white-collar boxing matches against each other. Trainees have been preparing in the Headon Boxing Academy since early December. Along with training, they have been actively fundraising for their chosen charity and have raised over €29,000.

LAW SCHOOL TEAM TRAVEL TO DUBAI

Having successfully competed in a virtual mediation and negotiation competition in April 2021 and being named 'best negotiating team', Ihunanya Enyi-Amadi (Matheson), Alfie Fitzgerald (William Fry) and Lisa Collins (William Fry), alongside their coach John Lunney, secured a spot in the ADR ODR International Negotiation competition. This competition was hosted and run by ADR ODR International in conjunction with the European Institute for Conflict Resolution and took place in Dubai in November 2021.



Unfortunately, Alfie was unable to travel and so another William Fry trainee, Rebecca Murphy, stepped up to the plate. Together with 20 other teams from around the world, the Law School team travelled to Dubai where they were taught negotiation skills and tactics by global experts

in alternative dispute resolution. They then had the opportunity to showcase these skills by competing in 4 rounds of competition. The participants were presented with fictional scenarios and tasked with negotiating the best deal for their client. Each scenario placed an emphasis on the Expo 2020. The Expo which is currently taking place in Dubai is a global "showcase of human brilliance and achievement." It is running until March 2022 and involves exhibitions from 192 participating countries.

In between preparing and participating in the first 3 rounds of the competition, the team took some time to explore Dubai, visiting the Gold and Spice Souks and Old Dubai, tasting the local street food and taking a ride in an old merchant boat. The competition culminated in a final round of negotiations in the desert. The teams were driven across the sand dunes at sunset and completed their last negotiation cross legged under the stars. While awaiting results, the competitors were treated to local cuisine, entertainment and camel rides.

The team left the desert and Dubai having placed sixth overall in the competition, topping the silver medal category.

EYE ON NATURE



Thank you to all the trainees that entered our Climate Committee's Nature Photography Competition.

The overall winner is Fiona Stinson for 'Illuminated Landscape'

2nd place to Jessica Heary for 'Rainbow over Water'

3rd place to Emma Murray for 'Hello there'

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 2020 and 2021.



2021 STETSON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Ruth Cormican (MacGuill & Co), Alysha Hoare (McCann Fitzgerald) and Mairead Hughes (A&L Goodbody) stole the show at the 2021 Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, winning the overall competition, 'Best Memorial', and two 'Best Speaker' prizes. The team was coached by T P Kennedy (Director of Education, Law Society).



2020 STETSON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Fiachra MacElhatton (Maples & Calder), Karolina Rozhnova (William Fry) and Peter Carvill (William Fry) - pictured with coach TP Kennedy (Director of Education, Law Society) - represented Ireland at the 2020 Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, with distinction to secure a semi-final appearance.



2021 BROWN MOSTEN INTERNATIONAL CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION

Sarah Linehan (A&L Goodbody) and Naoise Anderson (McGrath and Associates) won the 2021 International Client Consultation Competition. The team were coached by Dr Rachael Hession (Law Society).



2020 BROWN MOSTEN INTERNATIONAL CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION

Aisling Ward (Dechert) and James Leahy (Ronan Daly Jermyn) won the 2020 International Client Consultation Competition. The team were coached by Dr Rachael Hession (Law Society).



2021 ADR ODR INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MEDIATION COMPETITION

Lisa Collins (William Fry), Ihunanyachukwi Enyi Amadi (Matheson) and Alfie FitzGerald (not pictured, William Fry) were named 'best negotiating team' at the 2021 ADR ODR International Online Mediation Competition.



2020 INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION (INADR) INTERNATIONAL LAW SCHOOL MEDIATION TOURNAMENT

James Leahy (Ronan Daly Jermyn), Hannah Gallagher (Mason Hayes and Curran) and Katie Lee pictured with coach John Lunney (Law Society) placed overall second in the 2020 (INADR) International Mediation Tournament, with Katie receiving a special recognition for her role as mediator.



2021 INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION (INADR) INTERNATIONAL LAW SCHOOL MEDIATION TOURNAMENT

David Murphy (Anne O'Connell Solicitors), Paula O'Halaran (CDS Law & Tax) and Grainne Hussey (Eversheds Sutherland, represented here by her father, Tom Hussey) won the 2021 INADR International Mediation Tournament. Team coached by John Lunney (Law Society).



2021 IMSG INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION SINGAPORE

Teniola Ayeni (Ronan Daly Jermyn, pictured with coach John Lunney, Law Society), Sinead Cullen (William Fry) and Brid Kenny (Eugene F. Collins) won the gold medal for 'Best Mediation Advocacy' at 2021 IMSG International Mediation Singapore.



2021 PRICE MEDIA LAW MOOT COMPETITION

Laura Dunne (Arthur Cox), Laura Kirwan (Orpen Franks), Conor Forde (William Fry) won the EU round of the prestigious Price Media Law Moot Competition and went on to secure 9th place in the international round. Team members not pictured are Rebecca McKittrick (A&LGoodbody), Brid Mackle (Mason Hayes and Curran) and Shay Buckley (Arthur Cox).



2019 INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION (INC)

Richard Bonham (Kelly Caulfield Shaw) and Raaj Zutshi (Matheson) continued the Society's proud record in international negotiation competitions by securing second place in the 2019 International Negotiation Competition (INC) in Tokyo, Japan.

TRAINEES TAKE GOLD



LAW SCHOOL WIN INAUGURAL ALL-IRELAND ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COMPETITION

Congratulations to Lauren Keogh (Arthur Cox), Ciara Dinneny (Michael J. Staines & Co.) and Helen Ryan (Matheson) on winning the inaugural All-Ireland Environmental Moot Competition. Ciara Dinneny was also named best speaker.

The team coached by T P Kennedy (Director of Education, Law Society) will advance to the 26th Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition International Finals held at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida.



SADSI TEAM WIN PRESTIGIOUS IRISH TIMES DEBATE

Congratulations to Ross Merriman (Mason Hayes & Curran), Conor White (Arthur Cox) and Pierce Lyons (Mason Hayes & Curran) on their recent success at the final of the prestigious Irish Times Debate. The SADSI duo of Ross and Conor claimed the Demosthenes trophy after a very enjoyable final at University College Cork on Friday, 11 March.



LAW SCHOOL DUO CROWNED WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

Congratulations to Enya Levy (Arthur Cox) and Kevin Barrett (McCann Fitzgerald) on winning the National Negotiation competition. The Law School team and Trinity College team of Lana Lana Bader and Raman Malashchanka qualified for the final after coming through the online qualification rounds held in February. This law student competition involves two law students representing a party/client negotiates either an international transaction or the resolution of an international dispute with an opposing team of two law students.

The Law School team will represent Ireland at the International Negotiation Competition this summer.

TRAINEES TAKE GOLD



LAW SCHOOL TEAM WIN IRISH NATIONAL ROUND OF JESSUP

Congratulations to Alysha Hoare (McCann Fitzgerald), Cormac Bergin (McCann Fitzgerald), Bessy Zhu (A&L Goodbody) and Megan Fanning (Eversheds Sutherland) 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 will go on to represent Ireland in the online international rounds. Pictured here with academic advisor Dr Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan.



EXCELLENT RESULT IN THE PRICE MEDIA LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Law School team on another excellent result in the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition.

Chloe O'Reilly (A&L Goodbody), Dónal Merrick (Eversheds Sutherland), Éilís Ní Bhraonáin (Mason Hayes & Curran) and Niamh Shanahan (A&L Goodbody), coached by Rebecca McKittrick (A&L Goodbody) won the Northern European Rounds, and will advance to the International Rounds in Oxford. The team also won Best Memorial, while Chloe O'Reilly was named Best Oralist.



STREET LAW WINNERS FOR BEST ORIGINAL LESSON PLAN

Congratulations to Alannah Short (LK Shields), Luke McGivern (A&L Goodbody), Saskia Kirrane (Matheson) and Sarah Kildea (A&L Goodbody) on winning best original lesson plan in the Society's Street Law Programme. Pictured with Richard Hammond S.C. (Chair of the Education Committee) and Street Law Coordinator John Lunney.

REPRESENTING THE LAW SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL CLIENT CONSULTATION COMPETITION 2022



The Brown Mosten International Client Consultation Competition (ICCC) is an annual competition for the winners of national competitions across the world. It provides an exciting opportunity for law students to learn and practice interviewing and counselling skills. Over the last fifteen years, law students from 33 countries have taken part. This year's ICCC will be hosted by Swansea University and held online.

Best of luck to our Law School team of Eimear Brophy (Colm O Cochlain & Company Solicitors) and Anthony O'Shea (Arthur Cox) representing Ireland in the Competition with their coach Dr Rachael Hession.

THE NEGOTIATION CHALLENGE 2022



Best of luck to the Law School team of Adrienna McCarthy (KPMG), Brid Kenny (Addleshaw Goddard) and Clodagh Crumlish (Matheson) participating in the Negotiation Challenge 2022 with coach John Lunney.

The Negotiation Challenge is an international negotiation competition which allows students from around the world to showcase their skills and negotiate with each other based on realistic simulations.



TELDERS INTERNATIONAL LAW MOOT COMPETITION

Best of luck to the Law School team of Shauna Moran (Matheson), Chris Brogan (John Gaynor and Co. Solicitors), Rachel Jones (Holmes O'Malley Sexton) and Jonathan Guy (Arthur Cox) in the finals of the Telders International Law Moot Competition with coach Claire O'Mahony.

STREET LAW



OUR STREET LAW EXPERIENCE

by Conor Dixon & Cliodhna Joyce – Daly

“The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery,” were the words of Mark Van Doren, Pulitzer Prize winner and professor of English.

The skill of teaching is incredibly niche and is an expertise that does come effortlessly to some individuals. For non-teachers or academics the idea of teaching triggers memories of uncertainty, failure and boredom, especially in subjects that we are not interested in or which are unfamiliar to us. For trainee law students, the thought of teaching law seems like a terrifying task, largely encompassed by the fact that many of us are still so new to the law. This is exactly how we felt walking into Mount Carmel Secondary school – clueless and nervous. Although, we had been given the proper tools through our training – going in creating lesson plans and teaching a group of Transition Year students was daunting. This brought us back to when we were Transition Year students when Cliodhna’s only knowledge of the law at that time was knowing who the Gardai were and Conor thinking law consisted of just criminal law.

Street law has completely changed our perception on how to teach law. Street law

goes beyond the regimented information overload that students are normally exposed to and offers a more interactive approach to teaching and learning law. The students at Mount Carmel swiftly dove into the lessons with experience beyond their years. From the start, many of the girls expressed interest in the law and each student gave unique definitions of what they thought the law was comprised of. Their knowledge of the law was highlighted in our first activity for example, a game which required elimination for not correctly identifying a crime. Many of the students were engaged and informed, the elimination process nearly filled up an entire class.

Through this experience in Mount Carmel, the idea of teaching law no longer seems daunting. Overall, Street law has been such an enjoyable and rewarding experience not only in learning us how to teach law, but in enabling us to give back to the wider community and show students that law could be a career for them in years to come.

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022 a new 'Ag Obair mar Aturnae' brochure has been launched and is available for those interested in becoming a solicitor.

On the 14 March President Michelle Ni Longáin visited Transition Year students in Scoil Chaitríona to speak about the law, her role as President and advice for a career as a solicitor.

In the afternoon trainee solicitors Felim Ó Maolmhána (Dillon Eustace) and Hannah McLoughlin (Hayes Solicitors) delivered a Street Law session for the 55 TY students and distributed goody bags which included a copy of the new Irish language brochure.



COURSES & EVENTS

SHRINK ME: PSYCHOLOGY OF A LAWYER



Shrink Me: *Psychology of a Lawyer* has truly come into its own since reshaping as a live online module, supporting trainees throughout the two years of the pandemic. Our PPC I trainees enjoyed a great selection of speakers from September 2021 to January 2022.

Reflecting on the recent Law Society Dignity Matters report Julie Breen, Professional Wellbeing Executive at the Law Society, explored the programme of action by the Law Society to address bullying, harassment and sexual harassment in the profession. Chris Owen, Co-Chair of the European Regional Forum of the International Bar Association examined the crisis in mental wellness levels across the global legal sector on the release of the IBA's two global wellbeing surveys.

In a wide-ranging and honest conversation Senator Lynn Ruane revealed her aspiring zeal for social justice and her return to education and University as a mature student through the Trinity College Access programme. Senator Ruane was full of valuable advice on how solicitors can work effectively with clients who experience

challenging backgrounds and have had trauma in their stories. She also shared with trainees the personal experiences that shaped her professional life as a political leader and Senator and her philosophy on transcending social backgrounds and barriers, and finding her own unique path.

Former New York litigation attorney turned high-altitude mountaineer, ultra-marathoner, author, speaker, and coach, Walt Hampton, J.D. spoke entertainingly to trainees on getting inspired to achieve their highest potential, maintaining laser focused on goals and objectives and sustaining peak performance. The art of storytelling is common ground between lawyers and writers and award-winning author Alex Preston was in animated conversation with journalist Anne O'Neill to explore this crossover ahead of the publication of his fourth novel *Winchelsea*.

For the series finale, we were honoured to welcome President Michelle Ní Longáin who perceptively empowered trainees to negotiate the demands of balancing work and personal life at a moment in time where the issue of occupational burnout has reached a tipping point in the profession. The President's own professional journey and education at Queen's University Belfast, and her time practising in the UK have all influenced her ability to relate deeply with the needs of her own clients and those of the wider Society. In an uplifting clarion call to trainees, President Ní Longáin reflected on how lawyers' preferences develop throughout their career and urged trainees to be their authentic selves as they strive towards qualification as solicitors.

TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS EXPLORE THE WORLD OF LAW



The Diploma Centre welcomed 40 transition year students from across Ireland to participate in the Solicitors of the Future TY Programme. This innovative programme, offered annually is designed to give transition year students the opportunity to learn about the law and the route to becoming a solicitor in a fun and collaborative way.

Over the course of a week, students learned about a wide range of legal topics including human rights, employment law and criminal law through workshops, mock courts and interactive sessions.

On the final day, students were presented with their parchments by the Chair of the Law Society Education Committee, Richard Hammond SC.

Thank you to the many trainees who joined in during the week and shared their insights and experiences with the transition year students.



The Law Society of Ireland is flying the Ukrainian flag at Blackhall Place in a small gesture of solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The flag was raised by the President of the Law Society of Ireland, Michelle Ní Longáin.

CONTACT US IN CONFIDENCE FOR COUNSELLING SUPPORT



Trainees are engaging in individual Time Concentrated Therapy during training. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the volume of trainees accessing counselling services increased substantially. The mental health impact of the pandemic was widespread amongst trainees and provided a unique impetus for

the Psychological Services team to provide highly accessible psychological supports and interventions. The uptake of counselling services remained substantial during PPC I with nearly 55% of trainees engaging with in-person or online Time Concentrated Therapy sessions with the Psychological Services Team.

Contact us: Trainees can contact us in confidence for counselling support. Email counselling@lawsociety.ie (PPC trainees) or hybridcounselling@lawsociety.ie (PPC Hybrid trainees).

THE LAW SOCIETY'S NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL



The Law Society of Ireland has appointed Mark Garrett as new Director General. Congratulations to Mark and a warm welcome to Blackhall Place.



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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. E-mail: R.Raftery@lawsociety.ie