



OLLSCOIL NA  
GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí  
School of Law

# Dlíscéala Newsletter

Issue 10 | September 2023

For friends, students and alumni of the School of Law



## Tom O'Malley delivers Annual Distinguished Lecture 2023

Mr Tom O'Malley, recently retired Associate Professor of Law at the University of Galway, a Senior Counsel and a member of the Inner Bar of Ireland, gave the 2023 Annual Distinguished

Lecture in Law in May 2023. The title of the lecture was "From practical wisdom to guidelines: The future of sentencing and regulation in Ireland". **Read more on page 18.**

### TOP 150

2023

Law



BY SUBJECT

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We would like to hear from you, wherever you are in the world.

To submit your class note, email [alumni@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alumni@universityofgalway.ie) or visit [universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/](http://universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/)

Discover more at [UniversityofGalway.ie/Law](http://UniversityofGalway.ie/Law)

# Welcome from the Head of School

Dear Friends of the School of Law,

It's been a busy year at the Law School, and in this new edition of *Dlíscéala* there are lots of interesting features on what staff and students have been getting up to over the past twelve months.

The School has not only maintained its high ranking in the QS World University Rankings, but we also secured an Athena SWAN Bronze Award recognising our commitment to gender equality. Our redesigned Moot Courtroom was also recognised for its quality and design by the Royal Institute of Architects, so there has been a lot of good news to celebrate. As well as reporting such good news, this edition also dives into the success of CÉIM peer learning in the School, and celebrates a number of individual successes and achievements of our talented law students. A group student achievement has been the re-launch of the Galway Law Review by a committed student editorial and production team. The first edition of the Review appeared in the past year and is well worth a read. The Review has been generously sponsored by William Fry LLP.

The School has been busy in developing its internationalisation activities, including launching a new US District Court summer internship and exploring new partnerships with a number of high ranking universities in various parts of the globe. We have also maintained our contributions to the Law Schools Global League. We remain the only law school in the country to be a member of this prestigious association of global law schools.

There is also lots of staff news to celebrate. Our staff have been engaging in notably impactful research and engagement activities, have been shortlisted or have won awards, and have been securing funding for their research projects. We have said grateful farewells to a number of staff, one of whom, Tom O'Malley, gave a brilliant Annual Distinguished Lecture in May, and have also welcomed some new colleagues, including Prof Roja Fazaeli who joins us with a prestigious European Research Council award.

There is much else to read about in this edition, including the many activities of our Centres, mooted competitions, conferences, summer schools, alumni news, and reports from a number of students on their successful workplace placements. Our year-long professional work placement scheme is a distinctive feature of our undergraduate students' experience, and it remains unique among Irish Law Schools.

Finally, I am happy to report progress on the plans for the new Law School building. The University successfully secured some funding from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, which has allowed for the advertisement of the tender for a design team for the project. I hope by this time next year there will be even more progress to report.

**Professor Martin Hogg**  
Dean of the School of Law,  
University of Galway

[HoSLaw@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:HoSLaw@universityofgalway.ie)





## Joint 1st Law School in Ireland



## University of Galway School of Law Ranked in the 101–125 band in the World for Law

University of Galway School of Law was ranked in the 101-125 band in the world for Law in the 2023 Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject, published in October 2022, placing us alongside Trinity College Dublin as the joint highest rated Law Schools in Ireland. Times Higher Education's (THE) annual World Subject Rankings cover 11 subject areas, giving an overview of the best places in the world to study a chosen discipline. This ranking for University of Galway School of Law recognises the School's innovative approach to teaching law and high quality legal research.

The School of Law was also placed in the top 100-150 Law Schools in the World in the 2023 QS World University Rankings in March 2023.



**We would like to hear from you, wherever you are in the world.**

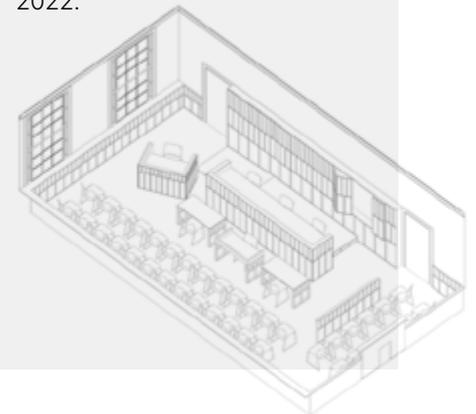
To submit your class note, email [alumni@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alumni@universityofgalway.ie) or visit [universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/](http://universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/)



## Moot Courtroom recognised by Architecture Ireland

The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland publish what it believes to be good architecture in its bi-monthly publication 'Architecture Ireland', and only a small number of projects get this recognition each year. The School of Law were delighted to see that the Moot Courtroom was included in the January/February 2023 issue. Congratulations to all involved, particularly Michael Horan of Axo Architects. The

Moot Courtroom was also amongst the projects selected for exhibition in the RIAI Awards 2022.



## School of Law accredited with new Athena SWAN Bronze Award



University of Galway secured two additional Athena SWAN Bronze Awards in April 2023 in recognition of the University's commitment to advancing gender equality for staff and students.

The University's School of Law, along with a joint submission from the School of Computer Science and the Data Science Institute, received the accolade which acknowledges efforts to create cultural change within higher education institution.

Prof Martin Hogg, Dean of the School of Law, said: "The School of

Law is delighted to be the recipient of an Athena Swan Bronze Award. The Award recognises the commitment we have made as a School to advance gender equality in a range of ways, and we intend to make an early start on the work needed to achieve this. The award represents the next step of an important journey for us, one which we embark upon with renewed confidence. The School owes a huge debt of gratitude to our Self-Assessment Team for the time and effort they put into securing this award, and I should like to thank them for all their hard work."

# Student activities



CÉIM Law leaders 2022/23

## CÉIM peer learning in the School of Law



Established in 2015 as a partnership between Law students, the School of Law and the University of Galway Students' Union, the CÉIM programme delivers weekly peer learning sessions for all 1st year Law students in small discipline-specific groups.

CÉIM has a proven record of supporting transition to higher education, health and wellbeing, academic success, progression and transferable skills development.

2022/23 saw a renewed focus in CÉIM sessions on small group work and building academic confidence with less reliance on technology. It was decided to change the structure of the CÉIM programme slightly to facilitate greater collaboration between CÉIM student leaders in the various Law disciplines. In spite of timetabling challenges, this has been very successful with student leaders from all disciplines meeting weekly with School of Law staff and the Students' Union CÉIM team to share their experiences, learn from each other and provide feedback in a timely manner. The 28 School of

Law CÉIM leaders worked incredibly well together and working collaboratively they piloted many new Law peer learning activities that have supported students in their first year at University of Galway. A big thank you to all the leaders and staff who have contributed to the School of Law CÉIM programme over the years.

For the second time in recent years a graduate of the School of Law is joining the CÉIM team as a staff member, which will further support the great working relationship between the School of Law, students and the Students' Union.



Weekly Peer Learning Sessions



Coursework Support



Group Chat



Digital Badge

### 1st year student quotes

- The CÉIM leaders are brilliant at helping us and making us feel more a part of the university.
- I found CÉIM to be extremely beneficial. In the 1st semester, it was useful for settling into campus life, meeting new people and figuring out the campus.
- It's very encouraging and makes me more confident in asking for help.
- CÉIM is an excellent way to engage with your classmates. Through CÉIM I've gotten to talk to more people.
- I find it really helps me with my own assignments by talking to CÉIM leaders and my classmates about them.
- Nice being able to ask questions to people around our age group, made it less intimidating to ask for help when confused over something.
- It motivates me to study.

### Leader quotes

- I really enjoyed interacting with the first years and the feeling of fulfilment from being able to help them out and see them learn.
- Allows for huge personal development and a sense of achievement and pride in giving back to the university community.
- Improved my communication and public speaking skills.



## Keelin Barry

Irish Research Council PhD scholar, Keelin Barry, presented to UN Commission on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, for general comment on Article 11 in March 2023. Her presentation can be watched back on **UN Web TV**.

The Joint Submission from the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy to the Draft General Comment on Persons with Disabilities in Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies (Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) can be **read on the Centre's website**.



## Valerie Hayes

Congratulations to Valerie Hayes (3rd Law and Business) on being awarded the **German-Irish Lawyers and Business Association Student Award** in December 2022. This award is given to the student who achieves the highest marks in Second Year Legal German across our law programmes. Appropriately, Valerie spent her Erasmus year at the University of Würzburg, Germany.



(L-R) Prof Joachim Fischer, Aishling Cunniffe, and Dr Sorcha de Brún, course director of the BA European Studies at the University of Limerick

## Aishling Cunniffe

Legal German student Aishling Cunniffe (1st Law and Business) was awarded first prize in the Modern Languages category of the EUROPA 2073 competition for third-level students in April 2023. Students were asked to imagine Europe fifty years from now. Hosted by Prof Joachim Fischer, Jean Monnet Chair in European Cultural Studies and Dr Sorcha de Brún, Course Director, BA European Studies, the prize was awarded at a hybrid event, 'UL@50' to mark 50 years of European Studies at the University of Limerick.



## Caoilinn Devins and Adam Connolly

Congratulations to Caoilinn Devins (Final Law (BCL)) and Adam Connolly (Final Law and Business) who participated in the Chief Justice's Summer Internship Programme for Law Students in June 2023. The programme offers students a unique experience that will boost their future careers. The selection process is extremely competitive between universities.



(L-R) Conor McMahon, Sean O'Connor (brother) and Tom O'Connor. Tom's Uncle Conor was one of the key supporters of the documentary project from the beginning, along with University of Galway School of Law's Prof Donncha O'Connell

## Tom O'Connor

Congratulations to Tom O'Connor (3rd Law (BCL) and Human Rights) on his excellent documentary on the life and work of the late Prof Kevin Boyle for the University of Galway radio station FlirtFM. 'Boyle's Law: The Story of Kevin Boyle', can be accessed on Spotify or on Mixcloud. In April 2023, the podcast was recognised as Podcast of the Year at the National Student Media Awards (Smedias), hosted by Oxygen.ie at the Avida Stadium. Prof Boyle was Professor of Law and Head of Law in UCG in the 1980s, during which time he co-founded the Irish Centre for Human Rights with Denny Driscoll. He died in 2010 and had an illustrious career as a human rights academic, activist and lawyer. The documentary draws on the biography of Kevin by Mike Chinoy, which was based largely on the Boyle Archive housed in the Hardiman Library.

Tom also received the **European Commission Award for Journalism Relating to European Affairs** at the 2023 National Student Media Awards for an article entitled 'Tales from Białowieża', exploring how migrants, history and climate change converge in a forest in rural Poland.



(L-R) Gabriele Lorenzo (European Commission Representation in Ireland), Tom O'Connor and Cathy Gray (University of Galway alumnus now working at European Movement Ireland)



(L-R) Director General of the Law Society, Mark Garrett, Caoimhe Looney, Flirt FM and President of the Law Society Maura Derivan at the Justice Media Awards at the Law Society of Ireland

## Caoimhe Looney

Congratulations to Caoimhe Looney (3rd BA (Law & Journalism)) who won the best student journalism award at the Law Society of Ireland's annual Justice Media Awards in June 2023 for her piece called "The right to protesting and housing", which was broadcast on Flirt FM.

The judges said, "This was an interesting piece exploring one of the most topical issues facing the nation - the right to housing and the right to protest." And "This journalist has a captivating interview style. The journalist had conducted significant research in advance to ensure her listeners were all the better informed."

The Justice Media Awards accept student entries every year and the entry period usually opens in Feb/ March for three to four weeks.



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Jack is pictured in the back row, just to the right of then-Taoiseach Micheál Martin at the award presentation in April 2023

## Jack Power

Congratulations to Jack Power (2nd Law (BCL)), who was a finalist in the national third-level competition, 'My European Union, My Ireland, My EU50!', run by European Movement Ireland. His submission was 'EU Human Rights and Human Dignity: Advocating for the Homeless.' Jack writes: "My speech primarily focused on the EU values of human dignity and human rights, with a specific emphasis on these values in the context of the Irish homelessness crisis. Through this speech, I was able to do a deep dive into Ireland's response to the EU's commitment to these values since our initial membership, and reflect on the crisis of homelessness which is so prevalent in our modern Ireland. This is an issue which I have always been deeply moved by, and hope to be able to make a positive impact on in the future. A massive congratulations to the top three winners of this competition, and a huge thank you to my EU Law lecturer Rosemary Keogan for all her help throughout the process."



Dr Rónán Kennedy (faculty advisor), Matthew Mulrooney (Founder, Vol 1 Managing Editor-in-Chief), Róisín Elizabeth Cowan (Vol 1 Editor-in-Chief (editorial)), Rhiannon Mulcaire (Director of Culture & Marketing), Prof Martin Hogg (faculty advisor)

## Launch of the Galway Law Review

The Senior Board of the **Galway Law Review** celebrated the launch of their inaugural volume in October 2022 in Harbour Hotel, Galway. They were joined by contributors to the journal, representatives of their sponsor (William Fry LLP), Prof Martin Hogg and Dr Rónán Kennedy from the University of Galway School of Law, as well as representatives from other legal societies and organisations within the University of Galway.

This year's team consists of Co-Editors-in-Chief, Rhiannon Mulcaire and Róisín Elizabeth Cowan (both Final Law (BCL)), who anticipate the publication of Volume II, themed 'Jurisdictional Pressures: Ireland's Position in an Evolving Global Legal Climate', in September 2023. At which point preparations for Volume III will commence under the careful guidance of the incoming Co-Editors-in-Chief, Emma Halpin and Tom O'Connor (both 3rd Law (BCL) and Human Rights).

## First Graduating Law (BCL) and Human Rights Class

Congratulations to our first graduating class of our Law (BCL) and Human Rights, pictured with the course Programme Director Dr Maeve O'Rourke (front, right) at the August 2023 conferrals.





## Talk on the Role of the Judge and the Judicial Assistants

While the High Court sat in Galway in October 2022, students across our undergraduate programmes had the opportunity to attend Galway Courthouse for a talk with High Court Judges, Mr Justice Michael Hanna and Ms Justice Eileen Roberts. The event, organised by Ursula Connolly, Director of Mooting in the School of Law, gave students the opportunity to discuss the role of the judge and the career opportunities available to graduates within the Courts Service. Both Mr Justice Hanna and Ms Justice Roberts gave students a fascinating insight into the challenges and rewards of

being a judge. Students were also fortunate to hear from Mr Justice Hanna's Tipstaff, Martin McCarthy, a role that has now been replaced by that of the Judicial Assistant. Ms Justice Roberts's Judicial Assistant, Robert Adamson, spoke about how to become a Judicial Assistant and what this rewarding role entails. Our thanks to Mr Justice Hanna and Ms Justice Roberts and their colleagues for giving so generously of their time and for the insights offered.

The School of Law would also like to wish both Martin and Mr Justice Hanna the very best in their recent retirements!



Students gather outside the Quadrangle, University of Galway, before their visit to Limerick

## Student Visit to Limerick Prison

Students from the LLM module, Imprisonment and Rights, and the undergraduate module, The Protection of Prisoner Rights under International Law, visited Limerick Prison in March 2023 with their module convenor Dr Róisín Mulgrew, and Dr Charles O'Mahony.

The students were able to see the changes that will be brought in by recent investment in the male prison – contrasting the recently closed and very old section of the male prison with the new wings. Students were also able to view the new women's section of the prison, based on innovative and trauma-informed design. Students were able to quiz Governor Mark Kennedy and staff about all aspects of prison life and management.

Sincere thanks to Governor Kennedy and all his team for facilitating this visit and making it such an engaging and insightful experience for the students.

## US Federal District Court Summer Internship Program

The School of Law was delighted to participate for the first time in a summer internship program organised by the Honourable Judge Mark Kearney, judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of Delaware. Two of our students, Petrina Sheridan (3rd Law (BCL)) and Sophia Tiger-Murphy (3rd BA (Law)), awarded the internships after a competitive process, spent summer 2023 with interns from

across the US, experiencing first-hand court litigation and assisting judges with legal research and writing tasks. Petrina had the following to say:

"I had a fantastic experience on the placement. Our typical workday was from 8:30am to 5/6pm. The day consisted of completing assignments independently as well as sitting in to observe proceedings in court. I particularly enjoyed



(L-R) Judge Kearney, Petrina Sheridan and Sophia Tiger-Murphy

working on 'MDL' [multi-district] litigation which centralised cases onto Judge Kearney's docket."



## 2022 Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholars

University of Galway School of Law are delighted to continue to partner with global law firm DLA Piper for the Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholarship. Congratulations to our 2022 Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholars Aileen Reidy, Law (BCL) student and Abbie Duffy Glendon, Law (BCL) and Business student.

The scholarship provides funding and support to students in financial need studying in the School of Law and is awarded on the financial need and academic merit of the successful applicants. For full details about this scholarship, including terms and conditions, visit: [www.universityofgalway.ie/dlapiperscholarship](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/dlapiperscholarship)



Aileen Reidy



Abbie Duffy Glendon

# Internationalisation

## Study Abroad

The School of Law continues to revamp its study abroad programme and we are very excited to announce the addition of many destinations in the European Union and in the wider world.

Our Study Abroad group, composed of EU and non-EU academic coordinators, study abroad officers and administrative staff of the School of Law have worked on strengthening our Internationalisation agenda, further developing our international portfolio and offering the best possible support to our students.

A **dedicated webpage** provides more detailed information about our partner universities and their programs. Through the Erasmus Exchange programme, Dr Edel

Hughes and Nicola Murphy, with the support of our study abroad officers, Fiona Keane and Maria Gilligan, have established links with 20 first-class universities in the European Union and 16 international university partners. We are delighted to be supporting 81 Law students to complete their study abroad experience in the coming academic year.

Our Director of Internationalisation, Dr Anita Ferrara, is continuing to expand the student exchange agreement with Institutions all over the world. The School has currently student exchange agreements with universities in Australia, Canada, USA, China and India.

We are very much looking forward to the beginning of an exciting year ahead, allowing our students the chance to live the enriching experience of spending a year abroad.

## 2021–22 Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Bursary Prize Winner

In addition to the Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholarship, a separate annual Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Bursary is awarded to the student achieving the highest grade in the School of Law, Law and Innovation module. Congratulations to our latest winner Algirdas Mockus, Bachelor of Corporate Law graduate.



Algirdas Mockus

# Study Abroad Experiences



The striking library in Aix-en-Provence where Emma often studied



Emma (left) and friend in Morocco

## Emma Burke (3rd Law (BCL)) studied at the University of Aix-en-Provence in 2022/23

Living in Aix-en-Provence and going to school in SciencesPo Aix for the last nine months has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience full of laughter, learning and making lifelong friends. We went on many travels together around France, Europe and Morocco. Erasmus has really given me the opportunity to make friends all over the world.

We even got the opportunity to practice our French language skills in Morocco as French is one of the country's official languages! A love for the French language and culture has blossomed through my travels and experiences living in this beautiful country. I have already created plans with many of my new friends to reunite in the near future.



Paul Cézanne's studio (Atelier de Cézanne) in Aix-en-Provence

## Laura Egan (3rd Law (BCL) and Human Rights) studied at the University of Strasbourg in 2022/23

My Erasmus year in Strasbourg was truly unforgettable. I came to really love living and studying in this beautiful city. Although the initial move was quite daunting and took some adjustment the experience really gave me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Erasmus offers so much, the chance to travel, immerse in a new culture

and develop language skills really expands your idea of what you can achieve and your place in the world. I even had the chance to attend events at institutions like the Council of Europe and intern at the European Parliament which was really incredible and eye-opening. I feel really lucky my degree afforded me the opportunity to study abroad.



A reception at the Irish embassy in Paris



Laura at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg



Meeting President of Ireland, at the Council of Europe headquarters



Laura (left) visiting the European Parliament in Strasbourg

# Doctoral Programme

## PhD Graduates



### Dr Marta Bitorsoli

Congratulations to Dr Marta Bitorsoli, who successfully defended her PhD thesis in June 2023. Marta's thesis, 'Transnational Criminal Law: National, Regional and International Prosecutorial Strategies', was supervised by Prof Ray Murphy of the Irish Centre for Human Rights. The examiners were Prof Shane Darcy (Irish Centre for Human Rights, internal) and Prof Yvonne McDermott Rees (Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University, external). The viva was chaired by Prof Siobhán Mullally.



### Dr Abigail Rekas

Congratulations to Dr Abigail Rekas, who successfully defended her PhD thesis in November 2022. Abigail's thesis, 'Yes, and: Implementation of access to cultural materials for persons with disabilities', was supervised by Dr John Danaher. The examiners were Prof Anna Arstein-Kerslake (Irish Centre for Human Rights, internal) and Dr Paul Harper (University of Queensland, external). The viva was chaired by Prof Eilíonóir Flynn.



(L-R) Prof Colin Harvey (on-screen), Prof Siobhán Mullally, Dr Colin Caughey, Prof Anna Arstein-Kerslake, Prof Eilíonóir Flynn and Dr Janos Fiala-Butora

### Dr Colin Caughey

Congratulations to Dr Colin Caughey, who successfully defended his PhD thesis in November 2022. Colin's thesis, 'Amplifying Disability Voices: the role of National Human Rights Institutions', was supervised by Prof Eilíonóir Flynn and Dr Janos Fiala-Butora of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. The examiners were Prof Anna Arstein-Kerslake (Irish Centre for Human Rights, internal) and Prof Colin Harvey (Queen's University Belfast, external). The viva was chaired by Prof Siobhán Mullally.



### Dr Clíona de Bhalíís

Congratulations to Dr Clíona de Bhalíís, who successfully defended her PhD thesis in April 2023. Clíona's thesis, 'It's My Life! Decision-making for children and young people with disabilities in Ireland and Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities', was supervised by Prof Eilíonóir Flynn of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. The examiners were Dr Janos Fiala-Butora (internal) and Dr Bronagh Byrne (Queen's University Belfast, external). The viva was chaired by Prof Donncha O'Connell and captioning was provided by Karen Crehan.



(L-R) Dr Sheila O'Donovan and Dr Connie Healy

### Dr Sheila O'Donovan

Congratulations to Dr Sheila O'Donovan who graduated with a PhD in Law in July 2023 on the topic of 'Sharenting – the parental sharing of children's images online and its impact on a child's right to privacy', supervised by Dr Connie Healy. The external examiner was Dr Claire Bessant (Northumbria University) and the internal examiner was Prof Padraic Kenna. The viva was chaired by Prof Martin Hogg.



### Dr Claire Raissian

Congratulations to Dr Claire Raissian, who successfully defended her PhD thesis in May 2023. Claire's thesis on intersectional discrimination against unaccompanied migrant children in the context of reception in European states and Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was supervised by Prof Siobhán Mullally of the Irish Centre for Human Rights. The examiners were Dr Ciara Smyth (internal) and Prof Ton Liefaard (Leiden Law School, external). The viva was chaired by Prof Eilíonóir Flynn.

# Staff News

## Doctoral Scholarships

The School of Law had great success in the Hardiman Scholarship competition in 2022/23 with two Hardiman Scholarships recently awarded to applicants in the School of Law: Louisa Celine Klatt (supervisor Dr John Danaher) and Amanie Issa (supervisors Prof Eilíonóir Flynn and Prof Anna Arstein-Kerslake), both of whom will commence their PhD research in September 2023. Congratulations to both scholars.

## Dr Lucy-Ann Buckley and Dr Shivaun Quinlivan

Congratulations to Dr Lucy-Ann Buckley and Dr Shivaun Quinlivan, whose research has informed new equality law in the States of Guernsey (Channel Islands). Dr Buckley and Dr Quinlivan acted as expert advisors to the States of Guernsey from 2018-2020 and again in 2022 to help to develop the law. The Prevention of Discrimination (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2022 (as amended) was unanimously adopted by Guernsey's parliament on 30 September 2022. The law, which will be phased in over six years, prohibits discrimination based on disability, carer status, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Age and gender discrimination will be addressed in a second phase. The legislation will apply to employment and the provision of goods and services, including education. The new law is a key step in enabling Guernsey to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is an essential part of the island's Disability Strategy.



## Dr Shane Darcy

Prof Shane Darcy has contributed a book chapter to a recently published collection of essays which explores various international legal challenges concerning situations of prolonged occupation with a particular focus on Israel and Palestine. His chapter – 'Private Sector Responsibility for the Treatment of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Light of the Law and Policy of the International Criminal Court' – was published in *Prolonged Occupation and International Law*, which was edited by Nada Kiswanson and Susan Power, and published by Brill in March 2023.

Dr Nicholas McMurry, a graduate of the PhD programme at the Irish Centre for Human Rights recently launched his book, 'Participation and Democratic Innovation under International Human Rights Law'. The book was published by Routledge in April 2023 and is based on his doctoral dissertation, which was supervised by Prof Shane Darcy.

After ten years of editing the influential 'Business and Human Rights in Ireland' blog, Prof Darcy stepped down as editor in August 2023 and wrote a **final post reflecting on a decade of law, policy and practice developments** concerning business and human rights in the Irish context. His post discussed how Irish-made products have been found in conflicts in Ukraine, Darfur and Yemen, yet insufficient Government action over the past ten years has meant a lost opportunity at developing robust oversight of companies from a human rights perspective. He also addressed the remarkable developments in civil society during this time in terms of the development of capacity and expertise in the realm of business and human rights.



## Dr Rónán Kennedy

Dr Rónán Kennedy and Dr Abigail Rekas are working on 3G4P: *Towards a Göttingen-Groning-Galway Perspective on the digital revolution*, involving colleagues in those institutions as part of the ENLIGHT project. With the digital revolution, data science is becoming an increasingly important tool in developing responses to various challenges. However, its successful application often hinges of the ability of data scientists and experts from various fields to work hand in hand. Students in many disciplines often struggle with statistical approaches themselves, while STEM/statistics students can lack skills for symbiotic teamwork with diverse partners. This project will tackle this problem by developing open educational resources (OER) on the basis of H5P (an open source content collaboration framework) which will enable cross-disciplinary learning – by considering policy responses to three key challenges – to climate change, workplace stress, and access to justice – through the eyes of three disciplines – statistics, psychology and law. The course materials thus developed will be opened under a CC BY 4.0 licence and used in a pilot course for three years entailing roughly 30 students per university.

In May 2023, a new study by Dr Kennedy and Dr Brian M Barry (TU Dublin) found that more than one in five members of the Irish judiciary rated the standard of IT equipment used in trials and other courtroom hearings as poor. The study was widely cited in news reports such as in the **Irish Independent** and can be read in full in the **Irish Judicial Studies Journal**.



Dr Mulgrew presenting at the International Conference on Foreign National Prisoners

### Dr Róisín Mulgrew

The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions, Dr Morris Tidball-Binz delivered his report on **Deaths in Prison** to the Human Rights Council in Geneva in June 2023. The report aims to raise awareness of the ‘invisible, albeit largely preventable, tragedy of global dimensions’ caused by the failure of states to protect the right to life of persons deprived of their liberty. The report’s discussion and recommendations in relation to information collection and use are informed by Dr Róisín Mulgrew’s research. In particular, the report cites her article, with Prof Tomczak (**‘Making Prisoner Deaths Visible: Towards a new epistemological approach’** (2023) 4 *Incarceration* 1-21) and the policy brief, **Deaths in Prison**, co-produced by her collaborative prisonDEATH team (Dr Mulgrew, Prof Tomczak and Dr Appleton) and Penal Reform International.

In May 2023, Róisín presented a paper on ‘Foreign Prisoners in Europe’ at the International Conference on Foreign National Prisoners, Stadskanaal and Ter Apel Prison, The Netherlands, attended by policy makers, practitioners and academics. She also presented a paper on ‘The Enforcement of International Sentences of Imprisonment: A Complex Comparative Evaluation’ at the Comparative Enforcement of International Law Workshop, Rutgers Law School, Newark.



### Prof Donncha O’Connell

As part of Independent Expert Review Group on the Offences Against the State Acts appointed by Government in 2021 and chaired by the retired Court of Appeal judge, Judge Michael Peart, Prof Donncha O’Connell with Dr Alan Greene of Birmingham Law School co-authored a Minority Report which was published with the Majority Report in June 2023. The Review Group unanimously recommended repeal of the Offences Against the State Acts but the six members differed on what should replace the legislation.

In particular, the Minority Report objected to the establishment of a permanent or ‘standing’ non-jury court to replace the Special Criminal Court, as recommended by the Majority, where the prosecution (DPP) would still decide on trial venue with no unequivocal recommendation grounded in concrete measures to ensure a future reduction in the use of non-jury courts. The Minority also disagreed with the Majority on the admissibility of belief or opinion evidence favouring, instead, the approach taken in Northern Ireland and the UK. They also adopted a different approach to the Majority on the issue of proscription. Both reports can be **accessed online**.

Prof O’Connell is currently working on a part of the Seán MacBride archive, which he has on loan, dealing with the famous case of *Lawless v Ireland*, the first case ever decided by the European Court of Human Rights, in which the late Mr MacBride acted for the applicant, Gerard Lawless. The archive contains all papers relevant to the case as well as other associated material from that time.



(L-R) Richard Hammond, S.C., Chairperson of the Irish Law Awards Judging Panel; Dr Maeve O’Rourke; and Ivan Yates, host of the Irish Law Awards 2022. Photo by Paul Sherwood

### Dr Maeve O’Rourke

Congratulations to Dr Maeve O’Rourke, Assistant Professor at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, who received a special merit award at the Durham and Dye Irish Law Awards in October 2022. The award was in recognition for her work with survivors of Magdalene Laundries. Maeve was appointed to the Young Academy of Ireland, established by the Royal Irish Academy, in March 2023. This prestigious appointment reflects Dr O’Rourke’s standing as an internationally renowned scholar, teacher and legal practitioner, and her leadership in human rights law research and public policy engagement, through initiatives such as the award winning Human Rights Law LLM clinic at University of Galway, the CLANN project and the Justice for Magdalenes Research campaign.

### Dr Brian Tobin

Congratulations to Dr Brian Tobin, who was awarded funding from the Society of Legal Scholars and the CBPPL to hold a significant Family and Child Law conference on ‘Contemporary Parent-Child Relationships and the Law’ at the University of Galway in November 2023. Brian was on Ireland AM on Virgin Media Television in February 2023 with Tommy Bowe and Muireann O’Connell discussing living with Li-Fraumeni syndrome. After facing three types of cancer, he was advised by doctors to undergo genetic testing. The results showed Brian to possess an extremely rare genetic disorder. Congratulations to Brian also on his appointment in July 2023 to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee of the Society of Legal Scholars. The Society of Legal Scholars’ EDI Committee works to promote EDI across legal academia in the U.K. and Ireland.

## New Staff Appointments



Prof Roja Fazaeli



Dr Rory Kelly



Dr Abigail Rekas



Dr Peter O'Loughlin

Dr Abigail Rekas joined the School of Law in April 2023 from University of Augsburg as our new Lecturer in Law & Innovation. Three new colleagues joined the School of Law in July 2023. **Prof Roja Fazaeli** joined from Trinity College, Dublin as the new Professor of Law and Islamic Studies. Dr Peter O'Loughlin joined from University of Oxford as our new Lecturer in Company & Commercial Law. Dr Rory Kelly joined from University College London as our new Lecturer in Evidence & Criminal Justice. A very warm welcome to them all!

## Staff Departures



Lucy, Caterina and Tom pictured with their colleagues at the occasion of the 11th Annual Distinguished Lecture in May 2023 (L to R): Dr Caterina Gardiner, Anna-Louise Hinds, Prof Martin Hogg, Dean of School, Dr Connie Healy, Tom O'Malley, Dr Lucy-Ann Buckley, Dr Iognáid (Iggy) Ó Muircheartaigh, President of University of Galway (2000-2008), Dr Shivaun Quinlivan, Deirdre Callanan, Dr Diarmuid Griffin and Ursula Connolly

### Dr Caterina Gardiner and Tom O'Malley

The end of this academic year saw Tom and Caterina's retirement from the University. The School of Law wish to extend our best wishes and profound gratitude for their years of dedicated service. They will be much missed on campus.

### Dr Lucy Ann-Buckley

Best wishes to Lucy who is leaving the Law School and taking up a new role as Head of the Law School and Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Limerick in September 2023.

## Dean's Awards for Inclusive Teaching — College of Business, Public Policy and Law

Dr Maeve O'Rourke from the School of Law was announced as one of five individual winners of the Dean's Awards for Inclusive Teaching in October 2022. The winners were nominated for the award by students, in recognition of their highly inclusive and empathetic approach to teaching. These awards were established in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law (CBPPL) in 2019 as a key part of a project to support inclusive learning in the College (joint project leads: Dr Shivaun Quinlivan and Dr Lucy-Ann Buckley). The aim of the Dean's Awards is to recognise and reward inclusive teaching practice, and anyone teaching a module in the College is eligible for nomination. Maeve received a

€500 teaching development grant, which may be used for the purchase of equipment to support conference participation, teaching development, or any other relevant purpose, and a digital badge that can be used on a CV, teaching portfolio or website.





Dr Brian Tobin receiving his award from President of University of Galway Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

## College Awards for Teaching Excellence

Dr Brian Tobin from the School of Law was announced as one of three individual winners of the CBPPL Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in April 2023. The assessment panel was very impressed by the extremely high standard of all the nominations, and the excellent teaching practice demonstrated by so many colleagues across the College.

Brian received a Teaching Development Grant to the value of €750 which may be used for the purchase of equipment, to support conference participation, teaching development, or any other relevant purpose. In addition, the winning submissions were forwarded for consideration in relation to the President's Awards for Teaching Excellence.



## Irish Law Awards

Two of our lecturers, Dr Rónán Kennedy and Dr Brian Tobin were finalists in the category 'Legal Educator of the Year' at the Dye & Durham Irish Law Awards 2023, which took place in Dublin in June 2023. The Legal Educator of the Year Award recognises and celebrates educators who have made significant contributions to the area of legal education in Ireland, and Dr Kennedy and Dr Tobin were among 9 national finalists in this category. The eventual winner was an alumna of the University of Galway, Dr Aisling De Paor of Dublin City University (BCL 2005, PhD 2013). Congratulations Aisling!

## Visiting Scholars'/Researchers' Programme

The Visiting Scholars'/ Researchers' Programme aims to host 'Visitors' from all over the world.

The programme provides Visitors' access to University facilities and libraries so that they can conduct research on an approved topic while in residence. Visitors are expected to participate in the research events around the university to present their work

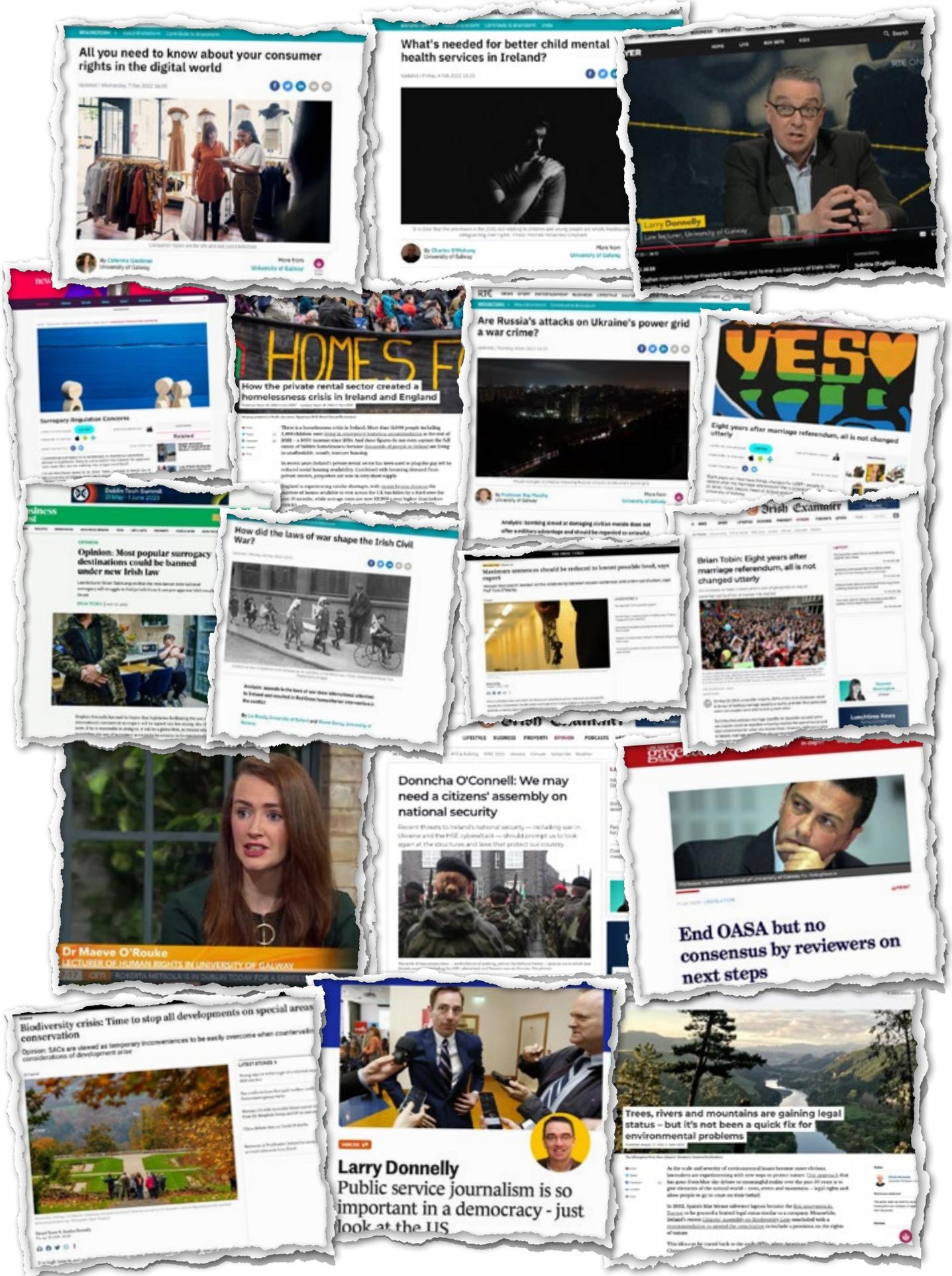
and participate in the intellectual life of the Law School community.

A Visiting Scholar is generally a professor of law at another institution or a senior member of the legal profession; a Visiting Researcher is generally a person who is working towards a post-graduate degree, doing post-graduate work at another institution, or a junior member of the profession.

In selecting applicants for Visitor status, the relevant Committee considers the applicant's background, field of interest, scholarly achievements, research proposal, availability of School of Law faculty for consultation in the proposed research area, and English language proficiency.

Full information and application guidelines are **available online**.

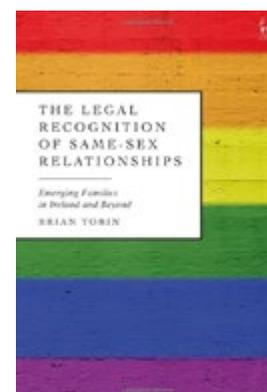
# Staff in the Media



# Selected Publications and Research

What follows is a selection of major publications by colleagues from the School of Law and its Centres published during the past two years. It evidences a consistently high quality of academic research and writing but, also, of engaged scholarship and impact both nationally and internationally.

Dr Róisín Mulgrew, Associate Head for Research



## Books

- Lucy-Ann Buckley, *Combatting Disability Harassment at Work: Human Rights in Practice* (Bristol University Press 2022)
- Ray Murphy et al (eds), *Dealing with the Legacy of Conflict in Northern Ireland through Engagement and Dialogue* (Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation/Irish Centre for Human Rights 2022)
- Brian Tobin, *The Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging Families in Ireland and Beyond* (Oxford: Hart 2023)

## Articles

- Lucy-Ann Buckley and Shivaun Quinlivan, 'Inclusive learning in Ireland: A case study' (2023) 23(1–2) *International Journal of Discrimination and the Law* 103 [Special Issue on Inclusive Post-Secondary Education and Persons with Disabilities]. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13582291231169397>
- Eoin Daly, 'Rousseau's illiberal constitutionalism: Austerity, domination, and the

circumstances of politics' (2022) 20(2) *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 563. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icon/moac027>

- Eoin Daly, 'Popular Sovereignty after Brexit' (2022) 23(1) *German Law Journal* 1. <https://doi.org/10.1017/glj.2022.3>
- Eoin Daly, 'Boredom at the end of history: 'empty temporalities' in Rousseau's Corsica and Fukuyama's liberal democracy' (2022) *Philosophy and Social Criticism*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01914537221107405>
- Eoin Daly, 'Contesting the idea of disagreement as the circumstance of politics' (2022) 46 *Revus*. <https://www.doi.org/10.4000/revus.7779>
- John Danaher, 'Technological Change and Human Obsolescence: An Axiological Analysis' (2022) 26(1) *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* 77. <https://doi.org/10.5840/techne2022524159>
- John Danaher, 'In Praise of Objectivism, Optimism and Utopianism: A Counterpoint to Sorgner' (2023) 25(1) *Etica e Politica / Ethics & Politics* 318. <http://hdl.handle.net/10077/34685>
- John Danaher and Jeroen Hopster, 'The Normative Significance of

Future Moral Revolutions' (2022) 144 *Futures*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2022.103046>

- John Danaher and Henrik Skaug Sætra, 'To Each Technology Its Own Ethics: The Problem of Ethical Proliferation' (2022) 35(4) *Philosophy and Technology* 93. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-022-00591-7>
- Henrik Skaug Sætra and John Danaher, 'Technology and moral change: the transformation of truth and trust' (2022) 24(3) *Ethics and Information Technology* 35.
- Henrik Skaug Sætra, Mark Coeckelbergh and John Danaher, 'The AI Ethicist's Dirty Hands Problem' (2022) 66(1) *Communications of the ACM* 39. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3529751>
- John Danaher and Henrik Skaug Sætra, 'Mechanisms of Techno-Moral Change: A Taxonomy and Overview' (2023) *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-023-10397-x>
- Lawrence Donnelly, 'Measuring the Impact of Clinic Participation on Law Graduates: A (Small) Case Study' (2022) 29 *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education* 112.
- János Fiala-Butora, 'Linguistic Discrimination as a Social, Legal

- and Human Rights Phenomenon' (2022) 3 *Jazykovedny Casopis* 31. <https://www.doi.org/10.2478/jazcas-2023-0010>
- Margaret Hodgins, Pat O'Connor and Lucy-Ann Buckley, 'Institutional Change and Organisational Resistance to Gender Equality in Higher Education: An Irish Case Study' (2022) 12(2) *Administrative Sciences* 59. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/admsci12020059>
  - Cristina Inversi, Tony Dundon and Lucy-Ann Buckley, 'Work in the Gig-Economy: The Role of the State and Non-State Actors Ceding and Seizing Regulatory Space' (2022) *Work, Employment and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09500170221080387>
  - Padraic Kenna, 'EU Law Developments in Non-Performing Loans – the New Directive on Secondary Mortgage Markets' (2023) *European Law Journal*.
  - Padraic Kenna, 'Clare CC v Bernard and Helen McDonagh and IHREC [2022] IESC 2.' (2023) 1 *Irish Supreme Court Review* 145.
  - Padraic Kenna, 'Situating Social Justice: Housing and Distributive justice – Post TD TD Case' (2022) 6(3) *Irish Judicial Studies Journal* 55.
  - Roisin Mulgrew, 'Terminal Illness and Compassionate Release: Lessons for the ICC from the UN Tribunals and National Jurisdictions' (2023) 21(1) *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 61. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jicj/mqad013>
  - Róisín Mulgrew, 'Prisoner Lives Cut Short: The Need to Address Structural, Societal and Environmental Factors to Reduce Preventable Prisoner Deaths' (2023) 23(2) *Human Rights Law Review* 1. <https://doi.org/10.1093/hrlr/ngad006>
  - Philippa Tomczak and Róisín Mulgrew, 'Making prisoner deaths visible: Towards a New Epistemological Approach' (2023) 4 *Incarceration*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/263266632311603>
  - Ray Murphy, 'Annotation, Defence (Amendment) Act 2021 (2021 No. 33)' (2022) *Irish Current Law Statutes Annotated*, R. 194.
  - Ray Murphy, 'Justice and Accountability for the Crimes Committed in Ukraine' (2022) *Defence Forces Review* 21.
  - Shivaun Quinlivan, 'TD v. Minister for Education: A Chilling Effect on Would-be Litigants?' (2022) *Judicial Studies Institute Journal* 47.
  - Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Brian D. Earp, Sven Nyholm, John Danaher, Nikolaj Møller, Hilary Bowman-Smart, Joshua Hatherley, Julian Koplin, Monika Plozza, Daniel Rodger, Peter V. Treit, Gregory Renard, John McMillan and Julian Savulescu, 'Generative AI entails a credit-blame asymmetry' (2023) 5(5) *Nature Machine Intelligence* 472. <https://www.doi.org/10.1038/s42256-023-00653-1>
  - Ciara Smyth, 'The Dublin Regulation, mutual trust and fundamental rights: No exceptionality for children?' 28(4-6) *European Law Journal* 242. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eulj.12469>
  - Padraic Kenna, 'The Right to Housing' in *Elgar Encyclopaedia of Human Rights* (Elgar 2022).
  - Rónán Kennedy, 'Integrating Innovation into a Law School Curriculum: The Galway Experience' in Ann Thanaraj and Kris Gledhill (eds) *Teaching Legal Education in the Digital Age* (Routledge 2022).
  - Róisín Mulgrew, 'Temporary Transfer of Persons in Custody' in Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Procedural Law (Oxford University Press, 2022)
  - Ray Murphy and Anita Ferrara, 'The Occupation of Palestine from a TWAIL Lens', in Nada Kiswanson and Susan Power (eds) *Prolonged Occupation and International Law: Israel and Palestine* (Brill Nijhoff International Humanitarian Law Series 2023).
  - Brian Tobin and Maebh Harding, 'Children and Parents' in Maebh Harding and Deirdre McGowan (eds), *Family Law in Context* (Clarus Press 2023).

## Chapters

- Colin Caughey and Hanxu Liu, 'The Role of National Human Rights Institutions and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the National Monitoring of the CRPD' in Marcia H. Rioux, Jose Viera, Alexis Buettgen and Ezra Zubrow (eds) *Handbook of Disability: Critical Thought, Human Rights and Social Change in a Globalizing World* (Springer 2022).
- János Fiala-Butora, 'Disabled identity and the ability to make decisions, in Jill Marshall (ed) *Personal Identity and the European Court of Human Rights* (Routledge 2022).
- Padraic Kenna and Maria Jose Aldanas, 'Proportionality and Evictions in Europe' in Padraic Kenna (ed) *The European contribution to the right to housing: Standards, litigation and advocacy* (Brussels 2023).
- Padraic Kenna, 'Ireland' in Christoph U. Schmid (ed) *Ways out of the European Housing Crisis - Tenure Innovation and Diversification in Comparative Perspective* (Elgar 2022).
- Padraic Kenna, 'Housing and Rights' in Lorcan Surr (ed) *Housing in Ireland: Beyond the Markets*. (IPA 2022).

## Reports

- Eilíonóir Flynn, Suzanne Doyle-Guilloud, Eilís Ní Chaoimh and Maria Ní Fhlatharta, *Access to Rights for People Detained in Secure Forensic Mental Health Facilities in Ireland* (Irish Penal Reform Trust, 2022).
- Eilíonóir Flynn, Anna Arstein-Kerslake, April Parker and E, o; u Williams, *Closing the Justice Gap for Women with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific* (UN Women, 2023)
- Eilíonóir Flynn, Jenny Dagg, Áine Sperrin, Maria Ní Fhlatharta and Emma Burns, *Re(al) Productive Justice: Gender and Disability Perspectives – Final Project Report* (University of Galway, 2023).
- Donncha O'Connell and Alan Greene, *Offences Against the State Acts Independent Review Group: Report of the Minority* (Department of Justice, 2023).

# Annual Distinguished Lecture 2023

Mr Tom O'Malley, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Galway, a Senior Counsel and a member of the Inner Bar of Ireland, gave the 2023 Annual Distinguished Lecture in Law in May 2023. The title of the lecture was "From practical wisdom to guidelines: The future of sentencing and regulation in Ireland".

You can watch the lecture on [YouTube](#) and view photographs from [Martina Regan Photography](#) on [Flickr](#). Tom's full lecture can also be [downloaded in PDF format](#). The lecture was covered in [The Irish Times](#) and other print media, and Tom was interviewed in relation to his thoughts on sentencing on [RTÉ Radio 1's The Claire Byrne Show](#).

Now in its eleventh year, previous speakers of the Lecture have included: Prof Christopher McCrudden of Oxford University; Judge John T Noonan of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; Prof Neil Walker of Edinburgh University; Baroness Brenda Hale of the UK Supreme Court with Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness of the Irish Supreme Court; Mr Justice Nial Fennelly of the Irish Supreme Court; Sir Declan Morgan, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland; Judge Síofra O'Leary of the European Court of Human Rights; Justice Leona Theron of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and the Hon. Mr. Justice Gerard Hogan, Advocate General of the European Court of Justice.

All photographs by Martina Regan



Mr Justice Peter Charleton of the Supreme Court, Tom O'Malley and Prof Martin Hogg, Dean of the School of Law



Mr Justice Peter Charleton introducing the 2023 Annual Distinguished Lecture



Tom O'Malley in full flow



Ursula Connolly asking a question from the floor



Prof Martin Hogg, Dean of the School of Law

(L-R) Lorna Cormican, Tara Elwood, Stella Carty, Tom O'Malley, Carmel Flynn and Dr Maeve O'Rourke



# News from the Centres

## Centre for Disability Law and Policy



Nayia Christodoulou

### Student News

Congratulations to Nayia Christodoulou on her achievement in winning the Centre for Disability Law & Policy Gold Medal for Excellence 2022.

Aoife Donovan and Avery Horne were selected from the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy class for an internship with Rosemary Kayess, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva. The interns supported the Committee's work during its 27th session.



**We would like to hear from you, wherever you are in the world.**

To submit your class note, email [alumni@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alumni@universityofgalway.ie) or visit [universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/](http://universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/)



### UN WOMEN Project

The Closing the Justice Gap for Women with Intellectual and/or Psychosocial Disabilities in Asia Pacific research project finished on the 30th of June 2023. The key goal of this project was to gather evidence that illustrates the justice gap faced by women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. The project took place from 2022-2023 and was funded by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia—Pacific. The legal needs survey and associated knowledge products were generously supported by the Government of Sweden and the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



### Re(al) Productive Justice: Gender and Disability Closing Conference

The Re(al) closing conference took place in January 2023 in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) building and online. The full day event included discussion panels on topics such as fertility and contraception, abortion, pregnancy and birth, and parenting. The day concluded with a panel discussion of health and social care professionals about ways in which health and social care practices can address the barriers experienced by disabled people in Ireland to have their reproductive choices respected.



### ResPoNCE Conference

The final ResPoNCE online conference was held in May 2023. The event communicated the findings of ResPoNCE, a two-year research project which examined the impact of the pandemic, and State reactions to it, on the health and wellbeing of disabled people. The project undertook qualitative research with disabled people, disabled persons organisations (DPOs), legislators and policymakers, health and social care professionals and researchers in seven countries – Ireland, the UK, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, and Sweden.

The conference brought together persons with disabilities from a number of jurisdictions, as well as legislators/policymakers, health and social care professionals, and researchers to discuss the processes which were (and continue to be) undertaken during the pandemic, as well as what can be learned from the experiences of all stakeholders. The critical importance of the voice and lived experience of persons with disabilities will be the core principle throughout the event.

# Irish Centre for Human Rights

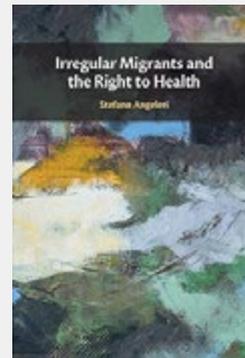


Participants and staff at the 22nd annual doctoral seminar

## Doctoral Seminar

The annual doctoral seminar at the Irish Centre for Human Rights took place at the University of Galway in April 2023. Participating experts this year were Prof Sumi Mahdok of the London School of Economics, Dr Mark Kersten from the University of the Fraser Valley, and Dr Noemi Magugliani of Kent Law School, and a recent graduate of the PhD programme at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. In addition to

participating in the research seminars delivered by the visiting experts, PhD students each presented on their own research, and gained valuable feedback from the visitors, staff and fellow students. Prof Geraint Howells welcomed all the participants on the opening day, emphasising the importance and value of such events for PhD students at the University of Galway.



## Book Launch: Irregular Migrants and the Right to Health, by Stefano Angeleri

Congratulations to Dr Stefano Angeleri on the publication of his book 'Irregular Migrants and the Right to Health' (Cambridge University Press, 2022), based on his PhD thesis conducted at the Irish Centre for Human Rights. The book launch took place in the ICHR Seminar Room and online in May 2023.

## Queer Seminar Series at the Irish Centre for Human Rights

The Irish Centre for Human Rights launched a new Queer Human Rights Seminar series in April 2022, organised by Prof Anna Arstein-Kerslake. In the 2022/23 academic year, the second such seminar was held in October 2022 when Prof Dean Spade presented on 'Queer Rights and Mutual Aid Across Social Movements'. Prof Spade is an American lawyer, writer, trans activist, and Associate Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law.

The third seminar, on 'Masculinities and (in)vulnerability: Queering

constructions of victimhood in anti-trafficking action', was presented by Dr Noemi Magugliani (they/them), a Lecturer at Kent Law School and a Research Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, in November 2022.

The fourth seminar, 'Queering Tyrannicide' by guest speaker Prof Aoife O'Donoghue, took place in March 2023. Prof O'Donoghue's research encompasses feminism, utopia, tyranny, law and literature as well as constitutionalism and

international law. She joined QUB in May having previously worked at Durham University, and University of Galway.

The fifth seminar, on 'Queering AI: the effects of artificial intelligence on the LGBTQ+ community', was presented by Masuma Shahid in April 2023. Masuma Shahid is a lecturer in European Union law, a PhD candidate in the field of LGBTQ+ rights and one of the co-coordinators of the LGBTQI Working Group of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law.

## NUI Post-doctoral fellowship in the Humanities awarded to Dr Aphrodite Papachristodoulou



Aphrodite Papachristodoulou

Dr Aphrodite Papachristodoulou is a National University of Ireland (NUI) Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Humanities at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway, since November 1st 2022.

Dr Papachristodoulou holds a PhD in Law from University College Dublin, awarded without corrections, with the generous support from the NUI E J Phelan Fellowship in International Law and from the A.G. Leventis Foundation scholarship. She also holds a Master of Laws in Maritime Law from University College London, awarded with distinction, and an LLB from University of Southampton, awarded with a high 2:1. Dr Papachristodoulou is a licensed lawyer having been called to the Cyprus Bar in 2016. Her principal research topics

include the extraterritorial application of human rights, border technologies, migration by sea as well as philosophical and ethical underpinnings of AI. Dr Papachristodoulou is writing a monograph based on her PhD thesis entitled 'European Migration Crisis and the Protection of Human Life at Sea'. She has published various peer-reviewed articles, including her most recent paper in 2022 in the Leiden Journal of International Law, and has several publications in progress, in particular, on the intersection between technologies of control used at sea borders and the human rights of migrants. Dr Papachristodoulou has been actively engaging with the international community of scholars through her presentations at conferences in Ireland, the UK, and the Netherlands. She has experience in teaching modules pertaining to international human rights law at undergraduate and graduate levels.

## Judit Villena Rodó, Irish Research Council Government of Ireland PhD scholar

Congratulations to Judit Villena Rodó, Irish Research Council Government of Ireland PhD scholar, who was accepted as a Visiting Researcher with the Graduate Program at Harvard School of Law for the Spring semester 2023. Judit continued to work on her doctoral research project titled Migrant Women, Coercive Control and Intimate Partner Violence: Access to remedies in Ireland and Spain. During her stay at Cambridge, she worked under the supervision of Prof Diane Rosenfeld, Lecturer in Law and Director of the Gender Violence Program at Harvard Law School.

Judit's publications and research profile can be accessed [here](#).



Judit Villena Rodó

# Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy

## Conference on Modernising LifeTime Contracts

The School of Law hosted a conference on Modernising LifeTime Contracts in April 2023. The conference was organised by Prof Padraic Kenna and was addressed by the creators of the LifeTime Contract Principles, Prof Luca Nogler and Prof Udo Reifner. The presentations are available on the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy [website](#).

The Principles of Life Time Contracts apply to contracts for the essentials of life, food, housing, employment, energy and credit, essential for the self-realisation of people and their participation in society, guaranteeing a minimum of social dignity and moral values. Some of these Principles are informing the development of EU consumer law and being advanced within the CJEU application of consumer rights in relation to energy and employment as well respect for home and mortgage consumer rights. The Principles of Life Time Contracts are relevant for private, contract, consumer, labour, housing and other lawyers as well, as EU and public policy researchers.



Presenters at Life Time Contracts Conference, University of Galway, 20th April 2023, (L-R) Prof Geraint Howells, Dean of College of Business, Public Policy and Law, University of Galway, Dr Connie Healy, School of Law, University of Galway, Prof Chiara Cristofolini, University of Trento, Italy, Prof Udo Reifner, University of Hamburg, Prof Irene Visser, University of Groningen, Prof Elena Bargelli, University of Pisa, Prof Luca Nogler, University of Trento, Prof Padraic Kenna, University of Galway

## The European and International Contribution to the Right to Housing – Standards, Litigation and Advocacy

A timely new book was produced in May 2023 under the direction of Prof Padraic Kenna of University of Galway and Noria Derdek – Foundation Abbé Pierre (France), in association with Housing Rights Watch (Brussels). This publication contains a contemporary review of the “state of the art” of housing rights in Europe. The expert contributions are remarkable for their diversity of functions, points of view and the different origins of their legitimacy: judges and European monitoring bodies, lawyers, academics, legal officers of national and international non-governmental organizations and other experts. Key topics addressed include housing rights,

European Union law and obligations of European States, social and environmental rights, strategic litigation, the requirements of “proportionality” in evictions, rent control, housing standards, social housing, fuel poverty and regulation.

This book outlines and evaluates key developments on housing rights in Europe in 2023, and will inform policy makers, legislators, housing rights advocates, adjudicators and decision-makers, on how the fundamental right to housing can be protected and promoted in Europe. The complete publication is available for free online, in English and French.



# Mooting Round-up

Mooting activities have continued apace at the School of Law during the 2022-23 academic year. In addition to the compulsory undergraduate Moot Module the School was delighted to deliver for the first time a postgraduate Vis Moot module. This module prepares students to compete in the prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot and is a very welcome addition to our moot offerings in Galway.

Outside of these curricular offerings, students were busy competing in a number of extracurricular mooting and legal skills activities both on campus in our state-of-the-art Kevin Boyle Moot Courtroom, and externally. The events took place across the academic year and include: the DCU National Moot Court Competition, Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh, the Internal School of Law Competition, the Novice Moot Competition, the Tom O'Malley Moot, the National Negotiation Competition, the Client Interview Competition, the Mediation Competition, the Justice Week Debate, the Intervarsity Moot and Mock Trial, the Irish Red Cross Corn Adomnáin, the ELSA Negotiation Competition and the Vis International Commercial Arbitration moot.



Back row (L-R): Tom O'Malley SC, Oisín Dwyer O'Neill (Law Society), Adam Connolly and Adam O'Carroll; Front row (L-R): Claudia Clifford and Bevin Murphy

## Law Society Mooting and Clinical Skills Events

The Tom O'Malley moot is an annual criminal law moot competition organised by the student Law Society in honour of recently retired School of Law senior lecturer and Senior Counsel, Tom O'Malley. This year teams from five Irish Universities battled it out for the top spot before an adjudicating panel of Dr Conor Hanly and Tom O'Malley SC.

Congratulations to the ultimate winners, the University of Galway team of Adam O'Carroll (2nd BComm) and Adam Connolly (Final Law and Business), and to the second placed team from the University of Limerick, Bevin Murphy and Claudia Clifford.

## Clinical Legal Education

Once again in semester two of the 2022-2023 academic year, a large cohort of final year undergraduate students from across the various law degree programmes undertook part-time, credit-bearing clinical placements throughout Ireland under the supervision of Larry Donnelly, the director of clinical legal education in the School of Law. For ten weeks, they worked with a wide range of government bodies, non-governmental organisations, corporations, law firms, barristers and academics. In the placements, they were exposed to an equally wide range of legal issues. The number of placements available to students had been

slashed in recent years due to the pandemic, but thanks to the commitment of partners of the School of Law, who frequently cite the myriad benefits they derive from having our students working alongside them, this has rebounded to near pre-Covid 19 levels.

Moreover, with placements increasingly being carried out in a hybrid format – part remotely, part in person – students are becoming acquainted with the fundamentally changing nature of working in law and gaining a sense of what awaits them in the “real world” of law practice. As one student commented in a reflective essay:

“My placement was a hugely rewarding experience. It has allowed me to employ my legal skillset to a variety of previously unfamiliar tasks and has fuelled my imagination as to my future career options.”

Graduates and friends of the School of Law who would like to offer a student an opportunity to supplement their on-campus learning with practical understanding are encouraged to contact Larry Donnelly ([larry.donnelly@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:larry.donnelly@universityofgalway.ie)) to find out more.

## Client Interview Competitions

In February 2023, students had an opportunity to participate in the Client Interview Competition. This innovative competition challenges students to take on the role of a solicitor in a mock client consultation. The competition took place this year in the Dublin offices of leading law firm, Matheson, sponsors of the Law Society. Students had to question their client on a legal problem on trespass (for first years) and occupiers' liability (2nd year and up). The competitions was adjudicated by partners from Matheson. Congratulations to winner of the first-year competition Elijah Burke (1st Arts) and runner-up Eoin Noonan (1st Law and Business), and to second-year and up winner, Isha Apte (Final Law and Business) and runner-up Colman Monaghan (2nd Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice).



(L-R) Dr John Danaher, Irina Schurmanns, Oisín Dwyer-O'Neill, James O'Leary, Nicola Murphy and Dr Connie Healy

## Mediation Competition

Given the growing importance of mediation, the Law Society added a Mediation Competition to the list of competitions this year. It required students to use mediation to resolve a complex dispute involving a charge by a bank over assets held by a married couple. Many thanks to Dr Connie Healy (lecturer in the School of Law and an expert in mediation) and colleagues Dr John Danaher and Nicola Murphy for adjudicating the competition. Congratulations to James O'Leary (2nd Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice), winner of the competition, and to Irina Schurmanns, an Erasmus student from the University of Toulouse in France, who was a runner-up. Comhghairdeas libh!



Pictured in the Kevin Boyle Moot Courtroom are (L-R) Cormac Casey, Eoin Noonan, Oisín Dwyer O'Neill, Ursula Connolly, Roisin Cunningham and Elijah Burke

## Novice Moot Competition

The Novice Moot Competition is open to all first-time mooters and is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get a gentle introduction to moot competitions. Competing this year and overall winners were Cormac Casey and Eoin Noonan (both 1st Law and Business), runners-up Elijah Burke and Roisin Cunningham (1st Law (BCL) and Human Rights), and

third-place competitors Karen McManus (1st BA (Global Media)) and Tonya O'Brien (1st BA (Global Experience)). Well done to the Law Society and in particular Oisín Dwyer O'Neill (2nd Law (BCL) and Taxation), Conventions Convenor of the University of Galway Law Society, for organising this great event. Ursula Connolly, Director of Mooting at the School of Law, adjudicated.



(L-R) are the winning team of Robert O'Sullivan (UCD), David Rattigan (University of Maynooth), Katie Ward (University of Galway), and Glen Jordan (TUD)

## Justice Week Intersvarsity Debate Win!

The School of Law was delighted to participate in the Justice Week Intersvarsity Debate again this year. This innovative event, organised by the Law Library, sees student representatives from the participating universities combine to form opposing teams in a debate on a given topic. After a competitive application process, Katie Ward

(Final Law (BCL)), was chosen to represent the School of Law in the competition. We were absolutely delighted to see her and her team-mates from TUD, MU and UCD take away the winning cup. This is the second year in a row that a team with a member from the University of Galway has won the competition. Comhghairdeas libh!



Pictured outside the Moot Courtroom are the competitors in the 2022-23 Internal School of Law Moot Competition with Ms Justice Mary Faherty and Ursula Connolly, Director of Mooting at the School of Law



Winners of the 2022-23 Internal School of Law Moot Competition Jennifer Burke and Megan Cannon pictured with Ms Justice Mary Faherty and the Ross O'Driscoll Cup



Best speaker Jenna Smyth being presented with her medal by Ms Justice Mary Faherty



Runner-up in the 2022-23 Internal School of Law competition Megan Greally being presented with her medal



Runner-up in the 2022-23 Internal School of Law competition Jamie Grace being presented with his medal

## Internal Moot Court Competition

The Internal School of Law Moot Court competition took place this year in November 2022. Adjudicated by our alumna, Ms Justice Mary Faherty, judge of the Court of Appeal, the competition sees the top eight teams from the Moot Court module battle it out for the Ross O'Driscoll Cup, so named after the late Ross O'Driscoll, an alumnus of the School and a former member of the Bar of Ireland.

Ms Justice Faherty commended the high standard of written submissions and robust arguments, before ultimately declaring the team of Jennifer Burke (2nd Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice) and Hannah Cannon (2nd Law and Business) victorious, with Megan Greally and Jamie Grace (both 2nd Law and Business) awarded second place. The best speaker was Jenna

Smyth (2nd Law (BCL) and Human Rights). The competition is a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their mooting talent, and as always, we are indebted to Ms Justice Mary Faherty for her continued support of mooting at the School of Law.

For more information on mooting generally, visit [our mooting page](#).

## National Moot Court Competition

The DCU National Moot Competition takes place annually at the Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin. Two teams from the University of Galway joined teams from ten other Universities from Ireland and the UK to compete for the top prize in October 2022. We were delighted to see the team of Michaela Roche, Blathnaid Ní Fhátharta and Alyssa Ryan (all 3rd Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice) progress to the semi-finals, who unfortunately just lost out against a strong team from DCU.



Our competing teams (L to R) Francis Quinn, Jenna Smyth & Colman Monaghan, and Blathnaid Ní Fhátharta, Michaela Roche & Alyssa Ryan

## Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh

Bhí ríméad orainne ar an gcampas dátheangach seo go raibh foireann as Ollscoil na Gaillimhe páirteach san imeacht bliantúil ar a dtugtar Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh. Gael-Linn a eagraíonn an bhréagchúirt agus is é an t-aon chomórtas bréagchúirte Gaeilge tríú leibhéal é dá bhfuil ann. Tá an triúr mac léinn a bhí san iomaíocht ar fhoireann Ollscoil na Gaillimhe i mbliana tar éis leas a bhaint as an deis atá ar fáil do mhic léinn dlí na Gaillimhe staidéar a dhéanamh ar an nGaeilge agus iad i mbun a gcéimeanna. Tá na mic léinn a bhí ag iomaíocht i gcomórtas na bliana seo, Cian Moore, Maisie Hall, agus Leah Talty faoi chomaoín ag ár n-alumna, an t-abhcóide Cillian McGovern, a chuir comhairle mhaith ar an bhfoireann agus iad i mbun ullmhúcháin don chomórtas!

As a bilingual campus we were delighted to have a team from the University of Galway compete in the annual Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh. Organised by Gael Linn, it is the only third-level Irish language moot competition. Each of the three competing students for this year's Galway team have taken advantage of the opportunity available to Galway law students to study Irish with their degrees. This year's competing students, second years Cian Moore (2nd Law (BCL)), Maisie Hall (2nd Law (BCL) and Human Rights), and Leah Talty (2nd Law (BCL) and Human Rights) are indebted to the assistance of our alumna and barrister, Cillian McGovern (BA 2006, LLB 2007), who gave the team some invaluable advice in preparation for the competition!

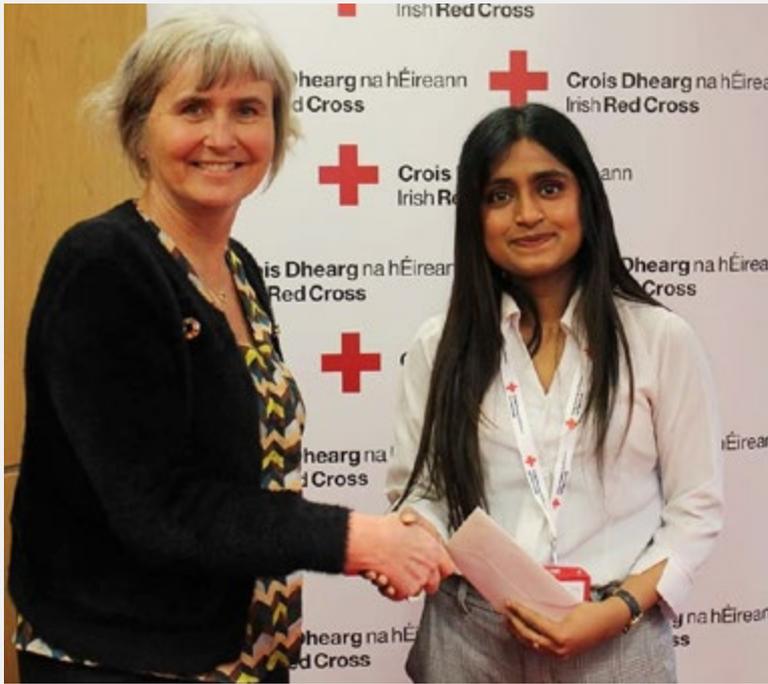


Pictured are attendees from the University of Galway with Dean of the School of Law, Prof Martin Hogg (back right) and Ursula Connolly, Director of Mooting (front left). Photo courtesy of the University of Galway Law Society

## Intersersity Law Summit

The second Intersersity Law Summit took place this year in Dublin. The event is a collaboration between the student law societies of UCC, Trinity, UCD, University of Galway, UL, Maynooth University, and DCU and comprises of keynote addresses, a series of talks, a Mock Trial and a Moot Court competition. This year the event was fortunate to have two of the most respected legal minds of their generation deliver the keynotes, with Mary Robinson speaking on Friday, and Lady Hale delivering the keynote on Saturday. The School of Law

competed in both the mock trial and the moot competition with Michaela Roche, Blathnaid Ní Fhátharta and Alyssa Ryan Ryan (all 3rd Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice) representing Galway in the moot court competition and Jenna Smyth (2nd Law (BCL) and Human Rights) and Colman Monaghan (2nd Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice) comprising the team for the mock trial with Ruth Collins (2nd Arts Government (Politics, Economics and Law) and Francis Quinn (2nd Law (BCL) and Taxation) acting as mock trial witnesses.



Pratiksha Ravindra Shetty receiving her award for Best Speaker from Deirdre Garvey, Secretary General, Irish Red Cross



(L-R) Monica Namanya, and Pratiksha Ravindra Shetty and Giulia Dedej

## Irish Red Cross Corn Adomnáin Moot Court Competition

The Irish Centre for Human Rights has continued its involvement in the annual Irish Red Cross Corn Adomnáin Moot Court Competition. Following on from a win in the competition last year, this year's team of Monica Namanya (LLM in International Migration & Refugee Law & Policy), Giulia Dedej (LLM in International Migration & Refugee Law & Policy), and Pratiksha Ravindra Shetty (LLM in

International Criminal Law), came 2nd out of 10 competing Universities in March 2023. We were also delighted that Pratiksha was named Best Speaker overall, a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to the team and to their coach, Prof Ray Murphy of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, for the teams continued success in this prestigious competition.



Caoilinn Devins and Eric Ehigie

## National Negotiation Competition

Well done to Caoilinn Devins (Final Law (BCL)) and Eric Ehigie (Final Law and Business) who competed on behalf of the School of Law in the Law Society of Ireland National Negotiation Competition in February 2023. They were unlucky to be defeated by the eventual finalists from the Law Society of Ireland. Sincere thanks to Adam Connolly (Final Law and Business) and Katie Ward (Final Law (BCL)), Galway students and former National Mediation Competition winners, who helped the team to prepare for the competition.



We would like to hear from you, wherever you are in the world.

To submit your class note, email [alumni@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alumni@universityofgalway.ie) or visit [universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/](http://universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/)



Vis Galway team with James Roche, Galway graduate and senior associate with Fieldfisher, at an Arbitration Ireland event in Dublin



Vis Galway team at a brainstorming session with the UCD Vis team at the offices of A&L Goodbody, Dublin, hosted by external coach, Paula Gibbs, senior associate with A&L Goodbody



Dr Connie Healy (coach), Lisa-Marie Bez, Maria Rey de la Fe, Gloria Malandra, Viviane Kohl, and Ursula Connolly (coach) at the Congress Center, Vienna following the Vis Moot final



Vis Moot team at the Four Courts for their meeting with the President of the High Court, Mr Justice David Barniville

## Willem C. Vis Moot International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot)

The Vis Moot is a highly competitive, international commercial arbitration competition, with more than 380 teams from over 80 countries participating annually. As part of the strategic development of mooting within the School of Law we now offer our postgraduate students the option to take the Vis Moot module. Students on the module prepare for and compete in the Vis Moot competition, building important skills in commercial arbitration, research, writing, and oral advocacy. The competition is also a great

opportunity to network, with students on the module participating in several pre-moots in advance of the competition. Our students competed against Universities from all over the world during the in-person Dublin Pre-Moot, and in the online Bodeheimer Pre-Moot. The students travelled to Vienna in April 2023, where they competed over the course of a week in the Vis Moot Competition. Although not progressing beyond the preliminary rounds this year, the performance of the Galway team was very strong, as was reflected in

some very high scores for our competitors.

The module is delivered by Ursula Connolly and Dr Connie Healy, with support this year from School of Law lecturer and expert in international sales contracts, Dr Caterina Gardiner, and external coach, Paula Gibbs, senior associate with A&L Goodbody. The team is also grateful to our alumnus James Roche (BCL 2009), Senior Associate with Fieldfisher, who also met with the team to offer some valuable advice.



Pictured with some of the other competitors are Rupert McCauley front row, third from right, and Dorian Janos, front row, fourth from right

## ELSA International Negotiation Competition

Two of our students, Rupert McCauley (Final Arts) and Dorian Jaros (Final Arts), competed in the ELSA International Negotiation Competition held at the University of Maynooth in April 2023.

This year's competition attracted teams from 10 Universities from India, the US, and Ireland. Our team did very well, winning both their rounds against Georgetown Law School and the Student Judicial Association Kolkata. Rupert has written this short report on their experience:

"We were very excited to test our negotiation and legal abilities in the annual International Negotiation Competition held by Elsa Ireland in Maynooth. The competition consists of two teams of two negotiating a deal between two hypothetical clients to the best of their ability in an hour-long meeting. The goal is to get the best outcome for your client over the opposing teams conflicting interests. The previous year we had competed and learned a lot about what was required to perform well and gained invaluable insight from the people and judges we met that will doubtlessly be useful to us in our career

pursuits. This year we were eager to use our insight from last year's competition. We competed in two rounds, winning both, the first against Student Judicial Association Kolkata and the second against Georgetown Law School Washington DC. Unfortunately however, the scores were not high enough to see us progress to the semi-final. It was an amazing opportunity for us and has given us an even greater drive in our legal education. We would like to thank Ursula Connolly and the School of Law for helping us as well as Adam Connolly and Katie Ward who generously helped us prepare for the competition."

# Careers in Law

## Law Careers Fair

The Careers Development Centre, in collaboration with the School of Law and the University of Galway Law Society hosted 'Careers in Law Week' on campus in September 2022.

The highlight of the week was the Law Fair which took place in the Bailey Allen Hall. The Law Fair gave students an opportunity to network with representatives from Ireland's major law firms and other organisations and to explore exciting career opportunities both in and beyond the legal profession. Some of the employers and organisations that attended the Law Fair included A&L Goodbody, Arthur Cox, BDO, Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh, Deloitte, Eversheds Sutherland, EY (Ireland), Flynn O'Driscoll Business Lawyers, Galway Solicitors Bar Association (representing Galway Law firms), Holmes Law LLP, Kennedys - Dublin, Maples Group, the Law Society, LK Shields, Matheson,



McCann FitzGerald LLP, Philip Lee, Pinsent Masons LLP, PwC, RDJ LLP and William Fry. Other events that took place included Qualifying as a Barrister by the King's Inns and Law Society, alumni panel events on Alternative Careers for Law Students and Galway Solicitors Bar Association. The week also featured presentations by RDJ on "A day in the life of a trainee solicitor"; BDO on CV Presentation; William Fry on Interview Preparation and Techniques; and McCann Fitzgerald on Application Tips. Law Fair 2023 will take place on Tuesday 10th October in Bailey Allen

Hall. Watch out for more details of the fair and other events planned during this week. Students will find full details on Careers Connect over the coming weeks and will receive emails and notifications through the Law School and Law Society.

Further information on future careers events can be obtained by contacting Dr Maureen O'Sullivan, Director of Student Career Development, directly at [maureen.osullivan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:maureen.osullivan@nuigalway.ie) or Aisling Conroy, Career Development Adviser for students in the School of Law through **Careers Connect**.

## Professional Work Placement Programme

We are now in our 4th year of the professional work placement programme for 3rd year students in Law (BCL); Law (BCL) and Business; Law (BCL) and Taxation; Law (BCL), Criminology and Criminal Justice and Law (BCL) and Human Rights. 68 students are excited to begin placements in September 2023 with reputable employers in Galway, Mayo, Clare, Sligo, Monaghan, Carlow, Cork, Dublin and Germany. We are extremely thankful to all of the employers who supported the placement programme this year. We look forward to building and strengthening our relationship with employers locally, nationally and internationally over the coming years as the program develops.

Students are delighted to be working with the following organisations for the next academic year: Berwick Solicitors, Galway, Blake and Kenny Solicitors, Galway, MacSweeney & Company Solicitors, Galway, Ronan

Daly Jermyn (RDJ), Galway, Tom O'Regan Solicitors, Galway, ISPC, Galway, Barnabus, Galway, Acorn Life, Galway, DHKN, Galway, McLoughlin Solicitors, Galway, Ciara Lennon Solicitors, Galway, Patrick Hogan & Company Solicitors, Galway, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, Galway, Catherine Heneghan Solicitors, Mayo, Callan Tansey Solicitors, Mayo, Teagasc, Carlow, Ann McGarry & Co Solicitors, Monaghan, MHP Sellors LLP, Ennis, Damien Tansey Solicitors, Sligo/ Dublin, Healy Crowley Solicitors, Cork, the Defence Forces and the Border Violence Monitoring Network, Germany.

In Dublin, A&L Goodbody, Philip Lee, Matheson, Eversheds Sutherland, AMOSS Solicitors, CIE, Department of Health, the Irish Refugee Council, PwC, KPMG, McCann Fitzgerald, William Fry, Arthur Cox, Walkers Global, Grant Thornton, Clark Hill,

James Watters Solicitors, Kevin Tunney & Company Solicitors, Transparency International Ireland.

The success of the 4th year of the Professional Work Placement programme would not have been possible without the support of many staff across the School of Law, particularly Deirdre Callanan, the PWP Academic Co-Ordinator. Many of our alumni from the School of Law have offered support by way of placements, advice and mentoring to our students and we look forward to working closely with students, staff, alumni and employers as we build this programme over the coming years.

For further information or to discuss how to get involved in law placements please contact Fiona Keane or Maria Gilligan, Placement Officers via [placement@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:placement@universityofgalway.ie).

# Professional Work Placements

## A&L Goodbody

**Brian O'Malley,**  
Graduate Talent Partner,  
A&L Goodbody

"At A&L Goodbody, we hire exceptional students who have a strong work ethic, a genuine passion for building a career in the legal profession, who are also bright and affable. The students we have engaged with through the University of Galway work placement programme have consistently met and exceeded our expectations, embodying the qualities we seek in future Trainees.

The placement programme equips students with a comprehensive understanding of the legal landscape and prepares them to thrive in a professional setting. This hands-on experience has been invaluable in shaping their abilities to analyse complex legal issues, think critically, and communicate effectively, which are all qualities we value greatly at A&L Goodbody.

In addition to their academic achievements and practical skills, the University of Galway students we have worked with have consistently exhibited professionalism, integrity, and a strong sense of teamwork. They have seamlessly integrated into our firm's culture and have proven to be valuable contributors to our diverse and collaborative work environment.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the University of Galway and witnessing the continued success of their graduates."



**Katie Mannion,**  
Irish Refugee Council

"The Irish Refugee Council Independent Law Centre has benefited from the commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn of University of Galway Placement students through the Placement Programme. Students have played an important role in supporting the Law Centre to meet the needs of international protection applicants and refugees. This has included

casework research, drafting submissions, meeting clients to take their instructions and complete paperwork, and family reunification applications. Students have also assisted in humanitarian applications following the Taliban take-over of Afghanistan, responding to queries from Ukrainians seeking to flee after the Russian invasion, and sought accommodation for international protection applicants who experienced homelessness on arrival in Ireland, including supporting High Court litigation. Over the past number of years, the demands on our charity have been significant due to the extremely challenging circumstances of our client base, and it has been enormously beneficial to us to have a Placement student as part of our small, dedicated team to meet those demands."



**Aisling Shiels,**  
(3rd Law and Business), University  
of Galway Placement Student 2023

"The Irish Refugee Council Independent Law Centre has benefited from the commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn of University of Galway Placement students through the Placement Programme. Students have played an important role in supporting the Law Centre to meet the needs of international protection applicants and refugees. This has included casework research, drafting submissions, meeting clients to take their instructions and complete paperwork, and family reunification applications. Students have also assisted in humanitarian applications following the Taliban take-over of Afghanistan, responding to queries from Ukrainians seeking to flee after the Russian invasion, and sought accommodation for international protection applicants who experienced homelessness on arrival in Ireland, including supporting High Court litigation. Over the past number of years, the demands on

our charity have been significant due to the extremely challenging circumstances of our client base, and it has been enormously beneficial to us to have a Placement student as part of our small, dedicated team to meet those demands."



**Cian Mac Gearailt,**  
(3rd Law (BCL) and Human Rights),  
University of Galway Placement  
Student 2023

"I had the privilege of working as a legal intern in the Criminal Justice Legislation Division at the Department of Justice. It was an incredible experience that brought about personal and professional growth. In this blog post, I'll share the highlights of my internship and the valuable skills and knowledge I gained during my time at the Department. Throughout my internship, I had the opportunity to take on a diverse range of tasks and responsibilities. Each day presented new challenges and learning experiences. Some of my primary responsibilities included conducting legal research, answering Legicoop inquiries, creating informative Legal Updates, and drafting comprehensive research reports on various legal issues and legislation.

Additionally, I was fortunate enough to assist the legislative team in their work on specific legislation and bills related to a wide range of legal issues, such as Garda Powers, European Arrest Warrants, Europol, and more. This involved attending briefings in the Oireachtas and working with the Minister for Justice. I also had the chance to attend committee stage meetings, which provided valuable insights into the scrutiny involved in the legislative process.

During my internship, I expanded my skill set and deepened my legal knowledge. I focused on honing my legal research skills, navigating vast

databases and discovering the differences between academic writing and legal work. Regular interactions with colleagues, attending meetings, and participating in group tasks improved my communication skills and my ability to understand and articulate complex legal concepts. The internship also exposed me to various information and communication technologies (ICT) used in the legal profession. Through daily use of digital tools and technologies, I became proficient in leveraging technology to enhance my legal research, document management, and communication processes.

One of the standout moments during my internship was attending a briefing on a legislative proposal at the Oireachtas. Meeting the Minister for Justice and witnessing the legislative process in action was a unique opportunity that I am grateful for. Additionally, observing committee stage meetings provided me with a deeper understanding of the intricacies and challenges involved in shaping legislation. These experiences solidified my understanding of criminal justice and motivated me to make a meaningful impact in the legal field. I was also fortunate enough to work with a fantastic team that was always willing to share their knowledge.

Looking back on my internship, I am incredibly grateful for the invaluable experiences and opportunities I had at the Department of Justice. Working with an excellent team and supportive colleagues allowed me to excel and test myself in various tasks. The skills I acquired have enhanced my professional capabilities, and this internship has influenced my career goals and aspirations. The comprehensive understanding I gained of the legislative process and the role of civil servants within the department has sparked my interest in criminal justice legislation. The knowledge I gained during this internship will undoubtedly shape my future career path and contribute to any success I may have in the legal field."



**Maebh Áine Ní Dhufaigh,  
(3rd Law (BCL), University of  
Galway Placement Student 2023**

"I recently completed my Professional Work Placement at Philip Lee LLP for the 2022/2023 Academic Year. In September, I joined the employment law department. My tasks comprised of attending and taking notes during client calls, preparing briefs for council, and filing these documents at the Central Office. Furthermore, I was provided with a consistent flow of research-based tasks, in particular the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023. I dissected this Act from as early as the first draft and monitored the amendments made as time went on. Through these exercises I learned how to cut deftly and forensically to the nub of the relevant legal issues. My capacity for hard and sustained research has also increased exponentially.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the employment team. The fast-paced environment and consistent flow of deadlines, appeal to my nature and has cemented my ambition to pursue a career in corporate law. The opportunity to work with experts in the field, such as Patrick Walshe, has been an invaluable experience. I received great exposure and was immediately entrusted with client-based responsibility. The contentious nature of the work was inspiring and captivating. A lot of the cases I was involved with were dismissal cases, which is something I had learned about in the previous academic year when I completed the Labour Law module.

From January, I joined the property team. Two very different fields, the latter being predominantly advisory and transactional. In this role, I drafted letters to clients and other firms, assisted in the sale of residential homes and commercial buildings, researched property law developments such as green leasing, and the significance the energy

sector plays in this field of work and informed the team of these recent property updates. I was also regularly in contact with clients. I enjoyed the structure of the work carried out by the property team. This improved my organisational skills when following certain steps. Again, it was great to work so closely with the partners and associates on this team. The non-hierarchical nature of the firm was conducive to the development of my legal knowledge in the field and softer communication skills; no partner or associate was un-approachable or unwilling to help.

During my time at Philip Lee LLP, I gained an immense range of skills, such as drafting high-level letters, improvement of communication skills (both internal and external), and the development of my own self-confidence. I am sure that the skills I have gained will stand to me as I enter the final year of my degree and as I progress further into my career.

Personally, I think I maximised my placement experience. I worked long hours (when needed, without hesitation) and was always willing to help those that were under pressure. This was then reciprocated when I was similarly constrained. It instilled within me the importance of developing relationships with colleagues. At the end of the day, the best client service will be provided when the team works collaboratively and harmoniously.

Imposter syndrome is normal when entering the workplace for the first time. If I was to give advice to anyone starting placement, I would say: "Remind yourself that it is a learning experience, you cannot be expected to deliver straight from the off, no question is a silly one, and finally always bring a notebook and pen with you to meetings!"

As I reflect on my placement journey, I have become sure on the career route I would like to pursue. Once I finish my degree, I intend to complete my FE-1 Examinations, complete a traineeship, and qualify as a solicitor. It is my eventual aspiration to continue exploring property and commercial law, however, I am open-minded and excited at the prospect of discovering other equally interesting fields."

**Aisling Flynn,  
(3rd Law (BCL), University of  
Galway Placement Student 2023**

“As part of my third year I completed a 9 month Professional Work Placement in Alastair Purdy and Company Solicitors. They are a leading Irish Law firm specialising in the areas of Employment and Civil Law, comprised of five solicitors working in the areas of conveyancing, litigation, employment, probate, data protection and personal injuries.

It wasn't long after my introduction to the office that I began to have tasks assigned to me. As the firm specialises in Employment law a lot of my work revolved around preparing documents for the Workplace Relations Commission (“WRC”). This consisted of preparing factual backgrounds for cases to be included in the submission going before the WRC along with corresponding appendices. I was also entrusted with dealing with client documents such as wills and title deeds. I

organised all the documents in an orderly fashion where they could easily be located when needed. I also regularly prepared guidance notes/ articles on new pieces of legislation. I worked on a number of pieces regarding new laws and legislation and this was a great way to keep up to date with the recent developments in Law.

I was invited to attend court with the solicitors on occasion. This was a great opportunity that showed me the workings of the court and the work of barristers and solicitors. I also attended virtual call-overs on behalf of solicitors when they were unable to attend where I would call on a case for hearing. This was one of the highlights of my placement as it pushed me out of my comfort zone and gave me a first-hand account of the kind of work I could be doing in the future. At first this was a really intimidating task but by the end of my placement I had attended so many hearings I was a lot more comfortable and this was a huge achievement for me.

All the tasks and dealings in the course of my placement aided me in adapting and learning in the

environment of a law firm. I quickly adjusted to working in a fast-paced environment different from any other job I previously held. Guidance from Solicitors and support staff in the firm helped me learn the correct way to carry out my tasks which has helped me through the remainder of my placement. Prior to starting at Alastair Purdy and Company I had no experience in the legal field. My knowledge of the legal field was predominately obtained through the first two years of my course where I studied the law but did not fully understand the work of a Solicitor.

My overall experience working in the firm has reaffirmed my desire to work in the legal industry. This has led to me to sitting and passing my first FE-1 exam last March with the view of becoming a solicitor in the future. Without this placement I would not have the experience I now have which has confirmed to me that I am in the right career. My placement experience was a very positive one. I was very fortunate to be placed in such a great company and the experience I have gained throughout has been invaluable to me.

## University of Galway student, Isobel McAllen participates in Los Angeles Federal District Court Summer Externship Program

This summer I had the privilege to participate in the Los Angeles Federal District Court 2023 Summer Externship Program, organised by the Irish American Bar Association. Each year the program consists of one student from each of the six participating Irish Law Schools and I was delighted to be the student selected from University of Galway School of Law. The program consisted of eight weeks in the Los Angeles Federal District Court working in the Judge's chambers and two weeks in the Superior Court.

During my time in Federal Court, I assisted the law clerks in conducting legal research and preparing legal memorandums. I got the opportunity to observe sentencing hearings and see first-hand how a Judge will decide

the case. After each hearing, I had the opportunity to speak to the Judge and see why/how he reached his decision, which was always very fascinating and thought-provoking. During my time in Superior Court, I got to observe all different kinds of trials such as family, complex, labour and criminal (including murder trials). In one trial, we got to see how the attorneys selected a jury: I soon realised how important, and at times very tedious this job is.

Overall, this tremendous opportunity allowed my fellow externs and I to gain a unique insight into the U.S legal system and learn from highly experienced judges. The contacts, friendships, and connections you make are unforgettable.



Our recent Law and Business Graduate Isobel McAllen pictured at the Los Angeles Federal District Court Summer Externship Program

# Conferences and Events



## 14th International Disability Law Summer School

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the University of Galway hosted the 14th International Disability Law Summer School in June 2023. This year's theme was the rights of disabled children and young people and, as usual, hosted world-class faculty and participants from around the globe, including persons with disabilities, civil society groups, advocates for disability law reform, academics, lawyers, policy makers and policy analysts.

Mr Nicolas Joncour was the keynote speaker. Nicolas is an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) user and non-speaking French autistic student. He is 23 years old and uses full time assistance, communicating by typing on an iPad. In 2017 Nicolas became the first French nonspeaking autistic student to pass the Baccalauréat, an exam which is needed to go to university in France. A lot of disabled children in France – particularly nonspeaking disabled children – live in institutions and have no educational instruction.



**We would like to hear from you, wherever you are in the world.**

To submit your class note, email [alumni@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alumni@universityofgalway.ie) or visit [universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/](http://universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/)



Some of the delegates at this year's Summer School on the International Criminal Court



Kate Gibson, Defence Counsel at the International Criminal Court, and Prof Shane Darcy

## Summer School on the International Criminal Court

The Summer School on the International Criminal Court returned as an in-person event at the University of Galway in June 2023.

Over eighty attendees participated across five days in interactive sessions delivered by leading academics, officials from the International Criminal Court, defence counsel and judges. Topics covered included crimes in the context of Ukraine, the situation of Palestine, the role of victims and future prospects for the International Criminal Court. Special lectures were given by Ambassador Beth Van Schaack, the United States Ambassador at large for Global Criminal Justice and Francesca

Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967.

The Summer School also hosted the awardees of the inaugural *Megan Fairlie Scholarships* who travelled from Turkey, Morocco and Ukraine to take part. "We were delighted to be able to honour in this way Megan's long-standing contribution to the Summer School and to international criminal justice more generally", said Prof Shane Darcy, the Summer School's Director. "It was also wonderful to have the Summer School back on the University of Galway campus and to have attendees from so many different countries and cultures participate".



(L-R) Prof Donncha O'Connell, Dr Jessie Blackbourn, Lord David Anderson KC, Prof Marie Breen-Smyth, Mr Dermot Woods and Mr Michael O'Neill



In-person conference attendees listening to paper of Grant Donaldson SC, Independent National Security Legislation Monitor for Australia (on screen)

## Conference on the Oversight of National Security

To coincide with published legislation to establish an Office of Independent Examiner of Security Legislation in Ireland, as recommended in 2018 by the Commission on the Future of Policing, Prof Donncha O'Connell (who was a member of the Commission), organised a conference analysing models of security oversight in Australia and the UK in September 2022.

The conference, which was opened by the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, TD, featured the following keynote speakers: Grant Donaldson, SC, the Independent National

Security Legislation Monitor for Australia and Lord David Anderson, KC, a cross-bench peer in the House of Lords and a former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation for the United Kingdom. The other panelists were: Dr Jessie Blackbourn of Durham University, Dermot Woods of the National Security Analysis Centre (NSAC) in the Department of An Taoiseach, Prof Marie Breen-Smyth, the Independent Reviewer for Justice and Security for Northern Ireland and Michael O'Neill, Head of Legal at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). The event was very well attended, in-person and online, and received a considerable amount of media coverage, including the **Irish Times** and the **Irish Examiner**. Photographs from Aengus McMahon.



## Conference on Civil Wars and International Laws

In April 2023, the Irish Centre for Human Rights in the School of Law hosted a one-day conference exploring the Irish Civil War 1922-23 through the lens of the laws of war.

Convened by Prof Shane Darcy, the conference explored how the laws of war were frequently invoked during the Irish Civil, often in the condemnation of the execution of prisoners or other reprisal measures, notwithstanding that contemporary international law was not considered formally applicable to internal conflicts at that time. The conference explored legal, political and judicial debates concerning the application of the laws of war during the Civil War, the question of prisoner of war status for captured anti-Treaty forces, sexual and gender based-violence, and the visit and inspections of detention camps by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Speakers included Dr Mary McAuliffe, UCD, Dr John O'Callaghan, Atlantic Technological University, Dr Anthony Cullen, Middlesex University and Dr Lia Brazil, University of Oxford. Following the event, Prof Shane Darcy and Dr Lia Brazil published an article entitled 'How the laws of war shaped the Irish Civil War' on **RTÉ Brainstorm**.



(L-R) Prof Geraint Howells, Executive Dean, College of Business, Public Policy and Law, Prof Frank Pasquale, Sharon Fahy, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Medtronic, Prof Martin Hogg, Dean of School of Law

## Critical Issues in Medical AI Law and Policy: Reimbursement, Liability, and Regulation

The College of Business, Public Policy and Law was delighted to welcome Frank Pasquale, Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, for a public lecture and seminar in October 2022.

Prof Frank Pasquale delivered an evening public lecture in the Aula Maxima titled 'Critical Issues in Medical AI Law & Policy' as part of Invited Inspioráid, The Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law's Invited Inspiration series. AI can enable healthcare systems to offer better care to more people. However, only wise policy choices will assure its positive impact. How can governmental and other authorities better support the development of high-quality AI for diagnosis and clinical decision making? Do we have the systems in place to make the meaningful changes needed for doctors and hospital administrators to take genuine advantage of the potential of AI? What are the challenges they face? Frank Pasquale, Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School and former Chair of the Subcommittee on Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security of the U.S. National

Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, addressed these issues in a wide-ranging talk on critical issues in liability, licensing, and reimbursement facing doctors, researchers, and entrepreneurs. The lecture was attended by students, faculty and those in the med-tech industry.

Prof Pasquale also delivered a lunchtime seminar: 'Questioning Emotion Machines: Five Critiques of Affective Computing'. The seminar examined the rise of affective computing, which tries to enable machines to "read" persons' emotions, and to change them. Marketers, law enforcement officials, and managers have advanced forms of affective computing in educational, employment, and other settings. Prof Pasquale argued that preserving the privacy and autonomy of our emotional lives should take priority over the quest to create and perfect automated emotion machines. While academics and activists have begun to respond to the privacy threats and biases embedded in this technology, Pasquale identified three further problems with non-therapeutic affective computing, which were explored in the seminar.



## Conference on AI and Consumers

We were delighted to host a conference on AI and Consumers in September 2022 jointly with the Universities of Florida and Turin.

The local organisation was led by Prof Martin Hogg, Head of the School of Law along with Prof Cristina Poncibo of Università di Torino and Larry di Matteo of the Warrington College of Business, University of Florida. The conference included presentations on subjects such as AI and Smart Consumer Contracts, Using AI to Influence Consumer Choices, and Liability for Autonomous Systems: Motor Vehicles and Robots.

The School also welcomed Prof Frank Pasquale, Brooklyn Law School and former Chair at Security of the U.S. National Committee on Vital & Health Statistics, in October 2022, who discussed the opportunities and legal challenges of AI in medicine. The proceedings will be published in an edited volume by Cambridge University Press.



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(L-R) President of University of Galway, Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Prof Siobhán Mullally, Director of Irish Centre for Human Rights and Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe



Attendees in the Aula Maxima, University of Galway

## Lighting the Shade: Application of ECHR in Areas of Conflict

The Irish Centre for Human Rights and the School of Law at University of Galway hosted an academic conference on the topic of 'Lighting the Shade: Effective Application of ECHR in Areas of Conflict in Europe' in September 2022.

The Conference was organised within the framework of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. The event

examined the practice of the Council of Europe's human rights system in European territories where CoE mechanisms cannot function freely and effectively from both normative and operational perspectives. Speakers considered how the system might be better leveraged to improve the effectiveness of the European Convention on Human Rights throughout Europe.

A full description of the event and can be found here along with a full playback on YouTube on the **ICHR website**.



ICHR PhD student Mary Harney (centre) with LLM students from the Human Rights Law Clinic

## Teaching the Dark History of Ireland's Institutions: Engaging Secondary Educators

A conference on 'Teaching the Dark History of Ireland's Institutions: Engaging Secondary Educators' took place in October 2022. The event was organised by ICHR PhD student Mary Harney, and LLM students from the Human Rights Law Clinic. A full description of the event and can be found on the **Irish Centre for Human Rights news page** along with **full playback on YouTube**.



## Public Lecture: 'Promoting and safeguarding EU values at a time of increasing autocratisation'

As part of a series of events marking 50 years of Ireland's membership of the European Union, the School of Law hosted Prof Laurent Pech, Dean of Law and Head of the Sutherland School of Law at UCD in November 2022. Prof Pech spoke to a highly engaged audience about the pressing issue of how we can safeguard EU values at a time of increasing autocratisation. The lecture can be watched back on **YouTube**.



## International Future of Law Association Conference

The International Future of Law Association held an in-person conference in Dublin in June 2023, funded by the University of Galway School of Law.

The event was convened by Dr **Rónán Kennedy** of the Technology and Rights cluster, who has been leading on the development of IFLA since its early days.

The conference was opened by the keynote speaker and IFLA committee member, **Prof Cat Moon of Vanderbilt University** and Director of Innovation Design and the **Program on Law & Innovation** there. She presented **food for thought on the new skills and competencies which lawyers may need in a changing world of work**, and opened up the conference themes of 'Replacement or Collaboration? Imagining the Future(s) of Law, Lawyers & Justice'.

The rest of the day featured panel discussions on the future of law teaching, how lawyers can work with data, the changes that are taking place in legal practice, and how we integrate concerns regarding access to justice into legal education and lawyering. It was a hybrid event, featuring speakers from across Europe, Asia and North America.

**Video recordings from the day** are available on IFLA's **YouTube channel**.



Larry Donnelly with Summer School participants at Leinster House in May 2023

## Galway-Suffolk Summer School

The partnership between University of Galway School of Law and Suffolk University Law School—which is directed by Larry Donnelly (a Suffolk Law graduate) and Dr Conor Hanly of the School of Law, together with Prof Sara Dillon of Suffolk Law—continues to go from strength to strength.

This year, more than 30 Suffolk Law students came for a two week programme of study and field trips. They took modules in the Irish legal system (taught by Larry Donnelly and Dr Conor Hanly of the School of Law), selected topics in international commercial law (taught by Prof Geraint Howells, Dr Connie Healy, Dr Rónán Kennedy and Dennis Driscoll of the School of Law) and in global leadership for lawyers (taught by Prof Kathy Vinson of Suffolk Law). Highlights of the summer school included a seminar conducted at the office of

McCann Fitzgerald LLP with presentations from Barry Walsh of the firm and Patrick Mair BL, a panel discussion on “lawyers as leaders” featuring Dublin Rape Crisis Centre CEO Noeline Blackwell, Senator Lorraine Clifford Lee and Éamonn Conlon SC and a visit to Leinster House (pictured here) where students and academics were kindly hosted by Ciarán Cannon TD and met with the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (and then Minister for Justice), Simon Harris TD.

Following the summer school, Suffolk Law students undertook placements in Ireland with the Law Reform Commission, Community Law and Mediation and the University of Galway’s Centre for Disability Law and Policy. Galway students Tara Geraghty (Final Law (BCL)), Irene Park (Final Law and Business) and María Quinn (Final Law (BCL)) travelled to Boston for placements with the legal department at the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority,

Dorchester District Court, and Suffolk Law’s Family Advocacy Clinic, respectively. Speaking about her experience, Tara Geraghty writes:

“During my time working with the MBTA Commercial Transactions team, I had the privilege of working alongside experienced legal professionals. I learned about the practice of law in transportation, government and in-house setting. Studying at Suffolk University Law School expanded my exposure to various aspects of the American legal system. I want to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor John Martin who has supported and encouraged me throughout this incredible internship. I could not have done this without the nomination of University of Galway School of Law, in particular my professors Lawrence Donnelly and Dr Conor Hanly. I want to thank every person I met during my externship from attorneys, other interns and the faculty of Suffolk University Law School as they enhanced this unforgettable and invaluable experience.”



Judge Mykola Gnatovskyy

## Annual Human Rights Lecture— Judge Mykola Gnatovskyy of the European Court of Human Rights

The University of Galway's Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted its annual human rights lecture in October 2022 with Dr Mykola Gnatovskyy, the recently appointed Ukrainian judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

The title of the lecture was 'Accountability for crimes in Russia's War against Ukraine'. The lecture was held in memory of James Kingston, the former Legal Advisor of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and was supported by the Irish Branch of the International Law Association.

Judge Gnatovskyy, a world-renowned scholar of human rights, humanitarian law, and international criminal law, had served as President of the European

Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, prior to his appointment to the European Court of Human Rights. During his lecture, he spoke eloquently on the challenges for accountability in Ukraine and of the need to ensure that the role of international law and institutions are respected. "It was an honour to host Judge Gnatovskyy to Galway for our annual human rights lecture at such a challenging time for international law", said Prof Siobhán Mullally, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University of Galway. "The event also afforded us an opportunity to pay tribute to James Kingston, a central figure in the international law community in Ireland and a long-standing friend of the Irish Centre for Human Rights".



## Renowned Palestinian Human Rights Defender speaks at University of Galway

Shawan Jabarin, the Director General of Al-Haq, delivered a public lecture at the University of Galway in October 2022 on the current human rights and political situation in Palestine. His talk came at a time of serious Israeli repression of the activities of human rights organisations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Al-Haq.

"We are delighted to have Shawan Jabarin come to Galway and speak at the University at this challenging time for human rights work in Palestine", said Prof Ray Murphy of the Irish Centre for Human Rights. "He is a dedicated and passionate advocate and we are privileged to be able to learn from him about the ongoing oppression and human rights violations of the Palestinian people".



## International Women's Day

The School of Law celebrated International Women's Day in March 2023 with a guest lecture from our alumna Simone George, Solicitor (BCorp Law 1995, LLB 1996), who spoke with the Law (BCL) and Human Rights students about domestic violence and human rights lawyering to mark International Women's Day 2023. The lecture was also attended by two transition year students from Salerno as well as staff working with victims and survivors of domestic violence from COPE-Galway.



Larry Donnelly introducing Ambassador Claire Cronin in the Aula Maxima, University of Galway

## US Ambassador Claire Cronin visits University of Galway

In November 2023, as part of her outreach efforts to ensure that third-level students in Ireland are aware of the J-1 Visa programme and other opportunities for transatlantic travel, study and work, United States Ambassador Claire Cronin came to the University of Galway to speak to a group of law and sociology and politics students. Larry Donnelly of the School of Law—who, like Ambassador Cronin, is a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Suffolk University Law School—conducted a public interview with the

Ambassador (pictured here) in which they charted her proud Irish American heritage and upbringing, her own path as a student, her career in law and politics, her ultimate appointment by President Joe Biden to her current post and the reasons why the transatlantic relationship is so important and how exchange programmes like the J-1 Visa can bolster and preserve it. The interview was followed by an informative Q&A session. Students also had the chance to discuss the possibilities on offer in the US with embassy representatives.

## Public Lecture: 'The work of Ireland's Commercial Court: increasing international features'



Mr Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court, delivering his inaugural lecture as Adjunct Professor to the School of Law in September 2022 in the Aula Maxima, University of Galway. Seated to his left is Dr Connie Healy of the School of Law

## LLM and PhD students from the Irish Centre for Human Rights pictured at the Peace Palace in the Hague during the annual field trip in May 2023



## New England Law: Boston Summer Program on International and Comparative Human Rights



Students with Prof Ray Murphy, Irish Centre for Human Rights and Prof Vic Hansen, New England Law | Boston in June 2023



The judge's bench and defence counsel



Dr Conor Hanly with Dr Caterina Gardiner in the background

## Uni4U

The School of Law was delighted to participate for the first time in UNI4U, a primary school access programme run by the Access Office at the University of Galway. The programme is aimed at 5th and 6th class primary school pupils in the city, linking them and their teachers with academic disciplines across the University. During the law workshops, pupils from Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla,

Merlin Woods, Doughiska, and Radharc na Mara, Mervue, had to grapple with questions such as 'are you bound by a contractual term you signed up to but did not read that says you cannot eat pizza for the rest of your life', and 'is it ok to post a video of a prank played on your teacher without their consent'? Pupils then got to act as judge, jury and legal counsel, to try the infamous case

of *R v Dudley and Stephens* (1884) 14 QBD 273, all taking place in our wonderful Kevin Boyle Moot Courtroom. More information on the UNI4U programme can be **found online**.

This year's law workshops were developed and delivered by Ursula Connolly, Dr Conor Hanly, Dr Caterina Gardiner, Fiona Keane, and Dr Charles O'Mahony.

## University of Galway Law Student attends LSGL Summer School

University of Galway School of Law is proud to be a member of the Law Schools Global League and as part of this membership one student from the School is offered the opportunity to attend the annual LSGL Summer School. The LSGL Summer School offers students a cutting-edge learning experience in exploring the challenges of the legal profession in an increasingly globalised world. The courses are co-taught by professors from member institutions. This year's 11th LSGL Summer School took place in King's College London in July and Róisín McGrath, Final Law (BCL) and Human Rights student at University of Galway School of Law was selected to attend.

Róisín, said: "I had the opportunity to attend the wonderful LSGL Summer School in London this summer. The quality of teaching was second to none and I feel extremely grateful to have learnt so much from both the lecturers and

the other students, as well as having made friends for life. Having made connections and learned about the legal education systems and professions in jurisdictions all over the world, I feel very lucky to call myself Irish and to attend University of Galway. Staying in the centre of London and getting to attend class in the beautiful Dickson Poon School of Law was truly an amazing experience and all the staff in King's College London, particularly Caitlin who herself did a semester of study abroad in the University of Galway (UCG at the time), could not have been more helpful and hospitable. Thank you to University of Galway School of Law for promoting and sponsoring this opportunity, I have no doubt that it will greatly benefit my legal studies next year and well into the future and hopefully I will be able to share the wonderful insights that I got from the experience with my classmates in University of Galway."



Róisín McGrath

# Alumni News

## Alumni Awards



Mary-Ellen McGroarty pictured with her husband Stewart Hooper at the 22nd Alumni Awards Gala Banquet



Major General Maureen O'Brien. Photo by Martina Regan

Unusually, this academic year saw the presentation of two sets of alumni awards from the University of Galway. The 2022 Alumni Awards were presented in October 2022 and the 2023 Awards were presented at the 22nd Alumni Awards Gala Banquet in June 2023.

The Alumni Awards recognise individual excellence and achievements among the University's 120,000 graduates worldwide. The awardees are leaders who have demonstrated impact and excellence in their fields on a local, national and international level. The Awards boasts an impressive roll call of more than 100 outstanding University alumni. Among the distinguished recipients of awards are President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, Gráinne Seoige, Aedhmar Hynes, Eamon Gilmore and Máire Whelan, Ciarán FitzGerald, Olive Loughnane, Marie Mullen and Nicola Coughlan.

The Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy, and Society, sponsored by RDJ, was awarded to our esteemed alumna Mary-Ellen McGroarty (BA 1987, LLB 1993, LLM in Peace Operations, International Humanitarian Law and Conflict 2019), Representative Country Director for the World Food Program, Afghanistan. Mary-Ellen has led and worked with international organisations and NGOs in conflict and post-conflict settings in many parts of the world, including Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Burundi, Chad and South Sudan. She is regularly invited to contribute to international media and to address the challenges of humanitarian action. In 2022, she also received a Presidential Distinguished Service Award from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Major General Maureen O'Brien (BSc 1980) received the Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy, and Society in 2023. She made history in becoming Ireland's first female Defence Forces

General, and later, Deputy Military Adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations. She has achieved a number of 'firsts' for women in the Irish Defence Forces, becoming the first female Army Officer to be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2011, as Battalion Commander of the 27 Infantry Battalion in Aiken Barracks, and as Colonel assuming the role as Director of the CIS Corps in 2016— responsible for all communications and information technology across the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps.

Maureen has also tirelessly campaigned for an increase in the number of female personnel in peacekeeping contingents. In May 2021, she was appointed to the second highest rank in the Irish Defence Forces (Major General) and as a military advisor on United Nations peacekeeping operations to the UN Secretary General.

# Honorary Degrees



Ronan Scully



Margaretta D'Arcy

Photographs by Aengus McMahon

Congratulations to Margaretta D'Arcy, activist, actress, playwright and writer, and Ronan Scully, humanitarian, volunteer and charity fund-raiser, who were conferred with honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws (LLD), *honoris causa* from University of Galway in November 2022. Both are pictured with University of Galway President, Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh.

Margaretta D'Arcy was born in 1934. She is a playwright, film maker, actor, theatre activist and mother of five sons, two deceased. She has been a member of Aosdána, the affiliation of creative artists in Ireland, since its inauguration. Margaretta had over 50 years of partnership with the late John Arden, an eminent British playwright and novelist. They collaborated on many stage and radio plays including Non Stop Connolly Show and Whose is the Kingdom, a radio drama series. She was an original member of Bertrand Russell's Committee of 100, which was set up in the 1960's and was committed to civil disobedience against nuclear weapons. In 1967 Margaretta and John were invited by Conor Cruise O'Brien to be theatre practitioners at NYU, where they put on a 12 hour theatre spectacle entitled The Vietnam War Games. In 1969, by the invitation of

the Gandhi movement, Margaretta and her family travelled overland to India to study traditional theatre.

She was a founder member of Women in Media and Entertainment, affiliated to National Women's Council of Ireland and a member of ESCOC, UN. Margaretta was involved in Raging Grannies Galway street performances, with the late Ann O'Dea and campaigned with The Global Women's Strike for recognition of Women's Unwaged Work. She is the author of several books including Ireland's Guantanamo Granny, Galway's Pirate Women, Loose Theatre, Tell Them Everything and Awkward Corners with John Arden, her films include A Maverick Islander, winner of the Spirit of the Festival Award at the Indie Cork Festival, Achill Unhinged, Welcome To our World, Yellow Gate Women and Big Plane Small Axe, which received the Audience Award at the Galway Film Fleadh.

Ronan Scully is Irish Humanitarian Charity Self Help Africa's Regional Representative for the Midlands and the West of Ireland. He is a deeply compassionate man, with extensive experience of working as a volunteer and programme co-ordinator in developing countries, having been a GOALie in Calcutta (now Kolkata) India, Nepal, Ethiopia and Angola from 1992 until 1999. He was GOAL's representative in the West since 2000 and has been working for GOAL for over 18 years. He has also worked for the National

Youth organisation, Foróige, in Ballybane for a number of years. He has been the representative in the West and midlands for Self Help Africa for the past 10 years. He also travels frequently to Africa and has this year spent months in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Kenya and many parts of Africa working with his colleagues in Self Help Africa. Within his region, Ronan is responsible for, amongst many other things, recruitment, fundraising, education and managing all aspects of the Self Help Africa office in Galway and the west of Ireland and Midlands.

In his role as Self Help Africa's Regional Representative, he is called upon to liaise constantly with Self Help Africa's voluntary personnel throughout his area of operation, and with local, regional and national media outlets. He travels extensively throughout the West and the Midlands of Ireland and various countries in Africa meeting individuals and official bodies on behalf of Self Help Africa. He also visits schools and colleges, and youth, sporting and community groups, to raise awareness of developing world issues. In this regard, Ronan is particularly enthusiastic about developing and delivering educational programmes for young people. He is actively engaged in organising sporting and other events that encourage youngsters from diverse religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds to mix freely with one another, to build relationships and remove potential barriers between them.

## Judicial Appointments

### Fiona Brennan

Congratulations to our alumna, Fiona Brennan (BA 1988, LLB 1990), on her appointment by the Government as a judge of the District Court in August 2023. She is a self-employed sole practitioner in criminal law.

### Adrian Harris

Congratulations to our alumnus, Adrian Harris (BComm 1991, LLB 1993, LLM 1996), on his appointment by the Government as a judge of the District Court in August 2023. Adrian qualified as a solicitor in 1997. He is a senior associate solicitor at Padhraic Harris and Co Solicitors.



### Dr Geoffrey Shannon

Congratulations and best wishes to our alumnus, Dr Geoffrey Shannon (BComm 1988, LLB 1990, LLM 1995), on his appointment as a judge of the Circuit Court in March 2023. Geoffrey has worked for many years with the Law Society of Ireland. A native of Galway, he was the Special Rapporteur on Children's Rights and chair of the Adoption Authority. He has published widely on the subject of children's rights and family law and is recognised as one of the foremost authorities on those areas in Ireland.

## Alumni News



### Emer Finnegan

Congratulations to our alumna, Emer Finnegan (BA 1986, LLB 1988), who was appointed to lead the legal service for the European Council and the Council of the European Union. She took up her new position as director-general of the Council Legal Service and as legal counsel of the European Council and the Council in April 2023.

Ms Finnegan has been a director in the Council Legal Service since December 2015. Since October 2018, she has been the director responsible for legal issues in the competitiveness, environment and transport, telecom and energy councils. She joined the Legal Service in 1999 and has provided legal advice in many policy areas, including justice and home affairs and external relations.



### Frank Greaney

Huge congratulations to our alumnus Frank Greaney (BCorp Law 2004), who was the winner of the IMRO22's News Reporter of the Year in October 2022. School of Law lecturer, Larry Donnelly, went on to say of his past student "a richly deserved honour for one of our own graduates who is extraordinarily generous to our students. Frank is a superb journalist whose reporting from the courts is invariably excellent."



### Brendan Grehan SC

Congratulations to Brendan Grehan SC (BA 1983, LLB 1985), who was made a Bencher of the King's Inns in April 2023. This honour is given to senior barristers who have distinguished themselves in practice.



### Aonghus Kelly

Congratulations to Irish Centre for Human Rights alumnus Aonghus Kelly (LLM in International Human Right Law 2007), who was Irish Legal News' Lawyer of the Month in February 2023. Aonghus has been supporting the prosecution of international crimes with the **EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine** since September 2022 and recently stepped down from the role of executive director of Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) in order to remain in Ukraine to continue this valuable work.



### Michael O'Connor

Congratulations to our alumnus, Michael O'Connor, SC (BA 1992, LLB 1994), who was called to the Inner Bar in October 2022. Michael is pictured here with his wife and family after the formal ceremony in the Four Courts.



### Grace Kennedy

We are extremely proud of Grace Kennedy (BCorp Law 2016, LLB 2017), one of our School of Law graduates, who has raised over €140,000 via **GoFundMe** and organised aid, transport, accommodation and support for thousands of Ukrainians who found homes in Ireland.

Grace's fundraising and aid deliveries were featured in the **'The War at Home'**, a documentary broadcast on RTÉ in September 2022. Grace was also interviewed extensively by Galway Bay FM for a series on 'The Irish response to Ukrainian refugees a year on' in March 2023 [**Part One / Part Two**]. Her work was recognised as one of the awardees in the 22nd Irish Tatler Women of the Year Awards in November 2022 as part of a collective of the Ireland-Ukraine Response.



### Tomás Ó Síocháin

Congratulations to Tomás Ó Síocháin, a graduate of the first ever Bachelor of Corporate Law class in 1993, on his appointment as CEO of Údarás na Gaeltachta in September 2022. Tomás was previously the CEO of the Western Development Commission, who he joined from the University of Galway, where he was External Engagement Programme Manager and led the incorporation of Shannon College of Hotel Management into the University of Galway. Tomás previously spent more than 14 years as an editor and journalist with RTÉ and TG4. Gach rath ort, a Thomáís!

## Autumn Conferring 2023



Jack McBrinn, LLB (Bachelor of Laws) and Eibhlin Carey, Law (BCL) and Business



JohnJoe Mulloy, Law (BCL) and Business



Lorna Foley, Law (BCL), Louisa Byrne, Law (BCL) and Human Rights and Kaia Dorrity, Law (BCL) and Human Rights



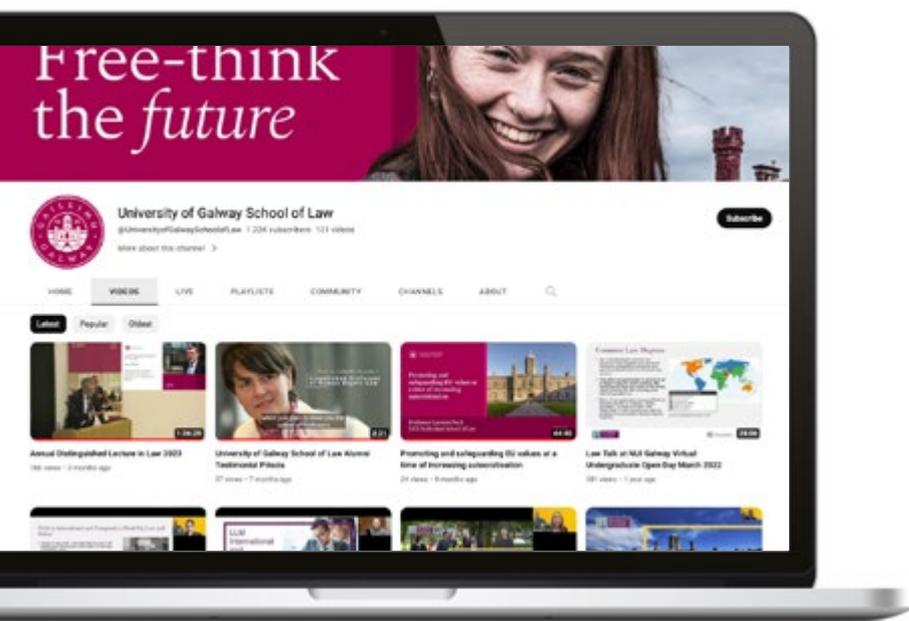
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OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí  
School of Law

# Dlíscéala Newsletter

For friends, students and alumni of the School of Law

Issue 10 | September 2023



You can find videos of some of our events on our YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/c/UniversityofGalwaySchoolofLaw](https://www.youtube.com/c/UniversityofGalwaySchoolofLaw)



We would like to hear from you, wherever you are in the world.

To submit your class note, email [alumni@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alumni@universityofgalway.ie) or visit [universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/](https://universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/)

## Get in touch

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