



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí
School of Law

Dlíscéala Newsletter

Issue 11 | December 2024

For friends, students and alumni of the School of Law



University of Galway School of Law named Law School of the Year

University of Galway's School of Law won Law School of the Year at the Dye and Durham Irish Law Awards 2024 - the second time it has won the prestigious accolade.

This award recognises University of Galway School of Law's academic excellence and innovative teaching methods along with its commitment to provide high quality student support and engagement.

Dean of University of Galway School of Law, Professor Martin Hogg, said: "I'm thrilled at this public recognition of all the hard work that colleagues consistently put in to make our law school such a great place to work and study. It's testimony also to the quality of our students, who are a pleasure to teach and who go on as alumni to give us a real sense of pride as they establish themselves in the world."

University of Galway's School of Law was previously named Law School of the Year in 2019. In addition to taking home the top award, the School had a number of staff and students who were finalists across three different categories at the Dye and Durham Irish Law Awards 2024.

Five students made the final shortlist for Law Student of the Year: Katie Cunningham, Law (BCL) and Business; Diarmuid Kilgallen, Law (BCL); Fiachra McInerney, Law (BCL) and Human Rights; Tom O'Connor, Law (BCL) and Human Rights; and Eric Ehigie, Law (BCL) and Business.

Three staff members made the final shortlist for Legal Educator of the Year: Deirdre Callanan, Dr Conor Hanly and Dr Brian Tobin, while Dr Andrew Forde was nominated for Law Book of the Year for his book *European Human Rights Grey Zones: The Council of Europe and Areas of Conflict*."



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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 or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

Discover more at UniversityofGalway.ie/Law

Welcome from the Head of School

Dear Friends of the School of Law,

There has been much good news to celebrate within the School of Law community this past year, and much of this good news is related in the pages of this year's *Dlíscéala*. I mention a few highlights here to whet readers' appetites.

Foremost was the outstanding level of finalists from our School community represented in the Irish Law Awards 2024: five students were finalists for Law Student of the Year Award, along with four members of staff (finalists for Legal Educator of the Year or author of the Law Book of the Year); the School itself made the shortlist for Law School of the Year. This was the highest number of finalists the School has ever had in the awards, a source of great pride to all of us. With so many nominations, hopes were high for a win in at least one category, and I'm pleased to report that the trophy for Law School of the Year was triumphantly carried back by colleagues from the awards ceremony.

Other causes for celebration have included final year BCL student Tom O'Connor (Class of 24) securing another award at the annual Student Media Awards (bringing his total media awards to five), and a third prize for students Adam Carton, Courtney Heal-Powell, and Tommy Earls in the Irish Tax Institute's Fantasy Budget Competition 2024. Members of staff have also received public recognition in a number of ways noted on later pages, and additionally our colleague Dr Brian Tobin was recently promoted to Associate Professor. LLM graduate Shawan Jabarin joined us at the annual Alumni Awards for a lovely evening at which we celebrated his winning of the *Alumnus of the Year*

Award for Law, Public Policy and Society (sponsored by RDJ).

The Law School continues to take a global, outward-looking approach, and this year we signed a new memorandum of agreement to cooperate closely with Symbiosis Law School, India's top-ranked private law school. We also had a presence at this year's Law School's Global League annual summer school & conference in Colombia, with student Emma Kennelly representing us at the summer school, colleague Dr Illan Wall teaching a course, and myself as Dean also in attendance. The event included an LLM Fair, when students from a number of Colombian law schools were able to hear about opportunities for Master's study here in Galway. In addition to these international activities, a new partnership was formed by the School with BARBRI, who are now offering our students discounted access to training for the New York State Bar exams and the legal profession in England & Wales.

New colleagues have joined us, including academic staff members Dr Maria O'Brien (tax law), Dr Naporn ("Prompt" as he is known) Popattanachai (environmental & marine law), Professor Csongor Nagy (commercial law) and Dr Illan Wall (lecturer in law), each offering welcome expertise in their respective fields. We have said a semi-farewell to longstanding colleague Professor Ray Murphy, who retired in August, though this was not a complete farewell, as Ray will be staying on one day a week for two further years. We also said a grateful farewell to our temporary Director of Strategic Development and Administration, Éilis Regan, who has returned to the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics.



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

On the teaching front, a new LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice & Human Rights launched in September this year and further new LLM in Law, Technology, and Innovation launches in 2025; added to these new Master's offerings are further new micro-credentials in law and innovation, offering legal practitioners upskilling in fast-developing areas. Through these new offerings, Galway is establishing a real name for itself as a leader in educational fields of high interest and demand.

A final piece of news is that we hope in the near future to be able to share some more detailed information about the proposed design of the new School of Law Building, to be located in the redeveloped McLaughlin Building on Nuns Island. More information will follow once planning permission has been secured for this redevelopment project (shortly, we hope).

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

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Get the Edge with our New Innovative Courses

University of Galway's School of Law is excited to announce the launch of four innovative micro-credentials and four new LLM programmes designed to equip legal professionals and scholars with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in emerging areas of law.

New Law Micro-Credentials

These 12-week online micro-credentials offer flexible learning opportunities for those seeking to enhance their expertise in the areas of Law and Innovation and Entertainment Law.

Micro-credentials are short, accredited modules for professional development and are innovative in their approach to life-long learning.

Lawyering, Technology, and Innovation(Next Start Date TBC)
Understand the relationship between law and technology, including legal automation and its impact on legal practice.

Ethics and Law for Artificial Intelligence (Start Date: January 2025)
Delve into the ethical and legal considerations surrounding AI development and deployment.

Law and Analytics (Next Start Date TBC)
This course explores the use of analytics in legal practice, focusing on data management and analysis skills.

Entertainment Law (Next Start Date TBC)
Gain insights into the legal frameworks governing audiovisual media across traditional and digital platforms.



[Learn more about our Law Micro-credentials](#)



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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

New LLM Programmes

The School of Law has also introduced four specialised LLM programmes, each offering a comprehensive curriculum to ensure our graduates acquire practical and academic skills to adapt to an ever changing world.

Applications are now open for September 2025 intake.

LLM Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights

This programme bridges the disciplines of criminology and criminal justice, and law and human rights, and recognises the inescapable reality that criminal justice issues cannot be understood without also understanding underpinning human rights law norms and obligations.

Key Highlights:

- *Crime, Punishment and Rights Film Series* at Pálás cinema will showcase movies highlighting issues studied during the programme and provide students with a unique social setting to further explore important topics.
- *Specialist Methodological Skills Training* is embedded throughout the course and students can enhance their transferrable skills by taking training in graphic design and podcast production. Students will have the opportunity to use University of Galway CELT studio, a state-of-the-art digital recording space.

LLM Law and Digital Innovation

The use of technology, software tools and artificial intelligence are transforming legal practice and creating new career opportunities. Employers are keen to hire individuals with skills in both law and technology. The LLM in Law and Digital Innovation responds to this through the provision of high quality, research-led teaching that



bridges the disciplines of law, information systems, and data analytics.

Key Highlights:

- *Applied Design Thinking Project*, address a real-life problem under the supervision of a specific supervisor.
- **Field trips* to important sites of practice, such as the Courts Service.

LLM in Gender and Human Rights: Law and Policy

The LLM in Gender and Human Rights: Law and Policy analyses international human rights law and gender, engaging with the UN and regional human rights systems, concepts of gender equality, gender, peace and conflict, and gender, law and religion. It is the only programme of its kind offered in Ireland and the UK.

Key Highlights:

- The programme is delivered by staff from the *Irish Centre for Human Rights*, one of the world's premier university-based institutions for the study and promotion of human rights.
- **Field trips* to the International Criminal Court in The Hague and to military barracks of the Irish Defence Forces.

LLM Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Conflict

The LLM in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Conflict examines the complex legal, policy and practical questions of justice and peacebuilding in societies emerging from conflict, authoritarianism or situations of mass human rights violations.

Key Highlights:

- *Research cluster in Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding*: LM students will have the unique opportunity to participate in the activities of the cluster and collaborate with team members on research projects that will have a lasting impact.
- The *Human Rights Law Clinic* provides students with unique practical training on mobilising human rights standards to secure reform, engaging human rights bodies, at UN and regional levels.

**Field trips are not included in the programme fee structure and will incur additional costs. Understanding the impact of these trips, attendance is not mandatory, and where possible a contribution will be made towards funding.*

[Learn more about our LLM Programmes](#)

Student activities

Grace O'Brien accepted onto 1st Circuit Court of Appeals internship programme

Grace O'Brien, a final year student in the BCL (Criminology and Criminal Justice) degree programme, completed a prestigious internship with the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She was assigned to Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, who was appointed to the federal appellate bench by President Barack Obama in 2010 and assumed senior status on the court in 2022.



Grace O'Brien

Ms O'Brien obtained the internship through the summer exchange programme between the School of Law and Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts, which is directed in Galway by Larry Donnelly and Dr Conor Hanly and by Professor Sara Dillon in Boston. Dozens of students have obtained invaluable legal and cross-cultural experience on both sides of the Atlantic since the programme was founded. The partnership agreement between the two law schools also includes a popular annual summer school on University of Galway's campus.

Ms O'Brien is the first student in the exchange programme's history to be awarded an internship at the federal appellate level. During June and July, she divided her time between Judge Thompson's offices in Boston and Providence, Rhode Island.

Here is what Grace had to say about her experience:

"During my time in Judge Thompson's Chambers, I worked preparing bench memorandums for oral hearings. This work was interesting due to the great variety of cases before the Court of Appeals. In preparing these

memorandums I would thoroughly read and review the record and briefs before researching the issues on appeal. Following this, I would conduct a legal analysis of the issues, ultimately asserting my legal opinion on how the case should be decided. The most exciting part of the externship was getting to see these cases play out at trial at oral hearings. It was amazing seeing a case come to life before you, having worked on it in-depth for the past two months. I was also extremely privileged to have the opportunity to discuss these cases with Judge after the hearings and to get an insight into how she reached her decisions on the issues. Aside from working on bench memorandums, I also assisted the law clerks with record checks and reviews of opinions for release.

While the Court of Appeals is based in Boston, we also worked in the Providence office in Rhode Island one day a week. It was such a great opportunity to get to know another American city and state, and us interns bonded quickly carpooling down to Rhode Island together! I found that working with American law students really helped my cultural immersion in the United States and its legal system.

It gave me a great insight into their legal education and training, and they were all so kind and helpful to me in adapting to a new country and working in a new legal system!

It was such an incredible honour to work for Judge Thompson. She can only be described as a trailblazer. She is the first African-American and second woman to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeal for the First Circuit and was confirmed unanimously. Judge Thompson has extensive experience as a state court judge and above all is a woman with deep integrity, compassion, and respect for the law. It was such a privilege to work for such an inspiring woman, she will forever remain a role model of mine. Aside from her powerful legal presence though, she also happens to be a huge fan of river dance and has even visited Galway before!

Overall, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The insight I gained into not only the American legal system, but American politics and culture was second to none. I am very grateful to Larry and Conor in the law school for organising this opportunity and would strongly recommend this experience!"

Hannah Cannon Selected for 2024 Summer Externship Program with Los Angeles Federal District Court

Congratulations to Hannah Cannon, our Law (BCL) and Business student, on her selection for the 2024 Summer Externship Program with the Los Angeles Federal District Court! Organised by the Irish American Bar Association, this prestigious placement saw Hannah work directly in the judge's chambers and participate in the preparation of legal memorandums.

"This summer I had the honour of participating in the Los Angeles Federal District Court 2024 Summer Externship Program, organised by the Irish American Bar Association. I was one of six students from each participating Irish Law School and it was a privilege to represent University of Galway School of Law.

The externship consisted of eight weeks in the Los Angeles Federal District Court working in the Judge's chambers and two weeks in the Superior Court. In the Federal Court, I spent four weeks working for the Honourable Judge Aenlle-Roache, and the remaining four weeks with the Honourable Judge Scarsi. I had the unique opportunity to hear different perspectives from a multitude of judges, not only from the judges I assisted but also from judges throughout both courts.

In Federal Court, I worked alongside American externs and law clerks. I conducted legal research, prepared legal memoranda, and drafted orders. I also presented appellate reports to the Judge. I prepared orders on a wide variety of civil and criminal law matters like maritime law, sentencing reductions, consumer law and more. I also observed essential aspects of trials such as sentencing hearings, change of plea hearings, motions in limine, voir dire and pre-trial conferences. After hearings, the law clerks and Judge discussed the reasoning behind his decision and



how he got there. This was especially interesting after sentencing hearings. We were encouraged to ask questions and give our opinions. These discussions were one of my favourite parts of the experience as I gained an insight into how a Judge thinks.

The remaining two weeks were spent in the Superior Court with the Honourable Judge Murphy. We watched a range of trials such as family, probate, complex, labour and criminal. One trial involved a silicosis case, the first one to be litigated. We also visited the Family Court and the Criminal Court and observed interesting trials.

The other externs and I were encouraged to make the most of our summer in California, which we did! We went to Universal, Warner Brothers Studios, the Getty, the Huntington Library, La Brea Tar Pits, the Griffith Observatory, the Grove, and more. We visited surrounding areas like San Diego, Big Bear Lake, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Santa Monica and Venice Beach.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I gained a unique insight into the American Legal system, but I also made incredible friends, connections and lifelong memories."



CÉIM Law leaders

CÉIM peer learning in the School of Law



The CÉIM peer learning programme has now been running for nine years in the School of Law, where it continues to support students with their transition to higher education, academic success, health and wellbeing, transferable skills development and progression. The programme is based on the well-established global Supplemental Instruction/Peer Assisted Learning model and is delivered via a partnership between Law students, the School of Law and University of Galway Students' Union.

Offered to all 1st year students in the School of Law, CÉIM provides students an inclusive space to meet weekly with fellow students and student leaders from higher years of the same degree programme to discuss coursework, ask questions and have some fun.

It was very encouraging to see CÉIM student engagement and average weekly attendance increase quite considerably in the majority of Law disciplines this year.

2023/24 saw continued focus in CÉIM sessions on small group work, building academic confidence and higher order learning. With AI in the spotlight, there has also been increased attention in CÉIM sessions on questioning skills, critical thinking, and academic integrity.

The 24 School of Law CÉIM leaders demonstrated excellent collaboration and creative problem-solving skills this year, which resulted in many new innovative peer learning session activities being developed, some of which were showcased at the annual CÉIM celebration event in the Aula Maxima in March 2024.

A big thank you to all the leaders and staff who have contributed to the School of Law CÉIM programme this year, in particular Ursula Connolly, Dr Rónán Kennedy and Carmel Flynn.

A recent graduate of the School of Law joined the CÉIM team as a staff member for the 2023/24 academic year while undertaking their FE-1 exams, which supported the great working relationship between the School of Law, Law students and the Students' Union.

<https://ceim.su.universityofgalway.ie/>

1st year student quotes

"Really relaxed, focused environment. The CÉIM leaders were great at keeping the group engaged and made it really easy to learn in an interactive way."

"Discussing, in an engaging manner, contents of the course. This made course material easier to understand. We also did a moot court, which was fun."

"The CÉIM leaders were incredibly helpful. They made everyone feel welcome and comfortable. CÉIM helped gain a better understanding of university life, the workload, the assignments and so on."

"I liked how they made a big effort to cover topics we were struggling with and always listened to our needs."

Leader quotes

"It is a fun environment and you get the opportunity to meet new people, both in your own year and first years."

"I liked the cooperation that students were willing to have with each other even though they didn't know each other."

"It's important to have that link between years which can be difficult to form otherwise."



Weekly Peer Learning Sessions



Coursework Support



Group Chat

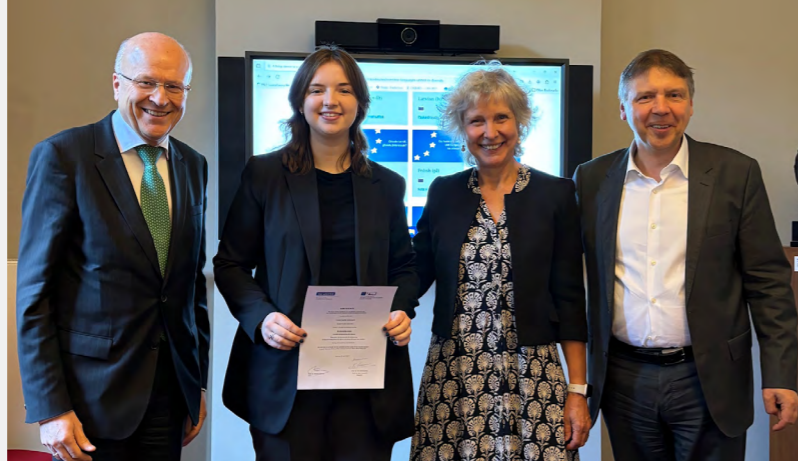


Digital Badge

University of Galway Law (BCL) and Human Rights Student Creates Educational Video-Clip on EU Citizenship 'as Gaeilge'

Clare Imbusch, a 3rd-year Law (BCL) and Human Rights student at University of Galway, has created an [educational video-clip](#) in Irish about EU citizenship as part of the Case4EU project by KU Leuven. Currently studying in Belgium on an Erasmus year, Clare is working with the project to promote the importance of EU citizenship and encourage secondary school students to understand and engage with European values.

The [video-clip](#), "Saoránach AE, an bhfuil sé tábhachtach?" provides a clear understanding of the EU's role in our lives, emphasising the benefits, rights, and obligations of EU membership. Clare also contributed an explanatory note in Irish to accompany the video, providing further insights into the project's aims and purpose.



The project seeks to foster meaningful discussions around the European Union in secondary schools and beyond, especially with the upcoming European elections. The President of the Court of Justice of the European

Union, Professor Koen Lenaerts, has validated the content of the educational materials, ensuring their accuracy and importance. The project is supported by the Lenaerts-Grimonprez Fund and the European Commission.

Tom O'Connor

Tom O'Connor, a final-year Law (BCL) and Human Rights student, achieved remarkable success at the recent National Student Media Awards. O'Connor, who has been an active voice on the university's radio station FlirtFM, was recognised for his outstanding contributions to student media.

O'Connor's show, 'Panoramica', which explores critical global issues, has been a staple of FlirtFM programming since 2020. His compelling documentary on Uganda clinched the 'Documentary of the Year' award, demonstrating his ability to engage with complex topics in a thoughtful and provocative manner. This year's accolades bring his total to five SMEDIAs, with previous recognitions including last year's 'Podcast of the Year' for a piece on Kevin Boyle, a former head of the School of Law and co-founder of the Irish Centre for Human Rights.



Tom O'Connor, Sharon Tobin, and Conor McMahon

The celebrated student shared the spotlight with his uncle Conor McMahon and RTÉ newsreader Sharon Tobin, as he received the awards for Radio Journalist of the Year, Radio Documentary of the Year, and Radio Production of the Year in News & Current Affairs.

In other news, Tom was also awarded a George Moore Scholarship to pursue a MSc in Journalism, specialising in Social Justice and Solutions Journalism at Northwestern University.

2023 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 2023 Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholars Hayley Toher, Law (BCL) and Business student, and Victoria Ralph, 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/business-public-policy-law/school-of-law/students/terenceomalleydlapiperscholarship/



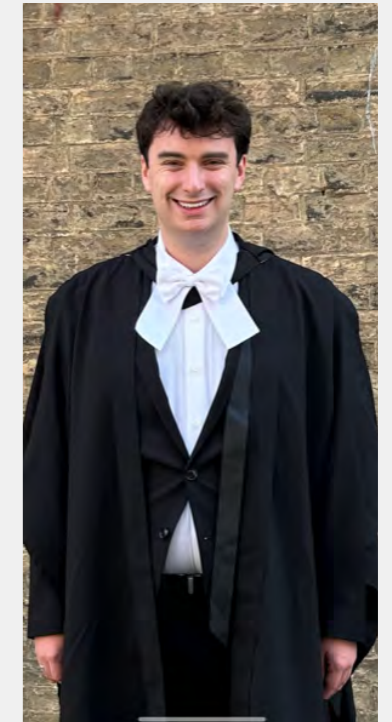
Hayley Toher



Victoria Ralph

2022/23 Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Bursary Prize Winners

In addition to the Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Scholarship, a separate annual Terence O'Malley DLA Piper Bursary is awarded to the students achieving the highest grade in the School of Law's 'Law and Innovation' module. Congratulations to our latest winners Laoise Kelly, Law (BCL) and Human Rights graduate, and Adam Connolly, Law (BCL) and Business, graduate.



Adam Connolly



Laoise Kelly

Irish Tax Institute Fantasy Budget Competition 2024

Congratulations to our students Adam Carton, Courtney Heal-Powell and Tommy Earls who secured 3rd place at the Irish Tax Institute's Fantasy Budget Competition 2024. The judges were impressed with their submission which considered the new Mortgage Interest Tax Credit. The team was supported by Dr Charles O'Mahony.



Irish Tax Institute Fantasy Budget Competition 2024 Team

Student Field Trip to Irish Defence Forces

Our LLM students visited the Irish Defence Forces during the academic year. The Field Trip involved a lecture on operating in a multi-dimensional UN peacekeeping mission, and another on contemporary challenges to applying principles of international humanitarian law. There was also a demonstration and informal discussion by members of the Defence Forces on the types of weapons that may be encountered when working in the field.



Field Trip

Start Right Podcast

Start Right is a podcast made in Galway by law students, for law students! You'll get to listen to the host, Emily Donnellan, chat to students, lecturers and other experts from the School of Law at University of Galway. Whether you're just starting college or looking for tips to make the most of your time here, we've got you covered.

Tune in to get practical advice, insider tips, and all the info you need to hit the ground running in Galway!

You can find us and subscribe on:

- [SoundCloud](#)
- [Apple Podcasts](#)
- [Spotify](#)



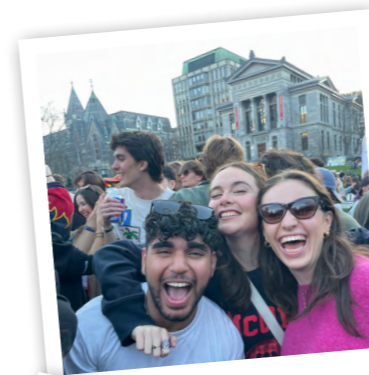
Emily Donnellan

Internationalisation

Study Abroad

The School of Law has expanded its study abroad programme with several universities. Two new MOUs were signed, one with the University of Manitoba in Canada and the other with the University of Case Western Reserve in the US.

Additionally, the school has established a partnership with Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), a top-ranked institute and renowned think tank in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



"I am a fourth year Law and Business student who studied abroad at McGill University in Montreal, Canada and I couldn't recommend the experience more. Without doubt, my year at McGill was one of the best, if not the best experience of my life. Initially, when deciding between a study abroad year or work placement, I leaned towards the latter. Work Placement seemed like the more practical choice, offering long-term benefits such as the potential for traineeship offers and valuable networking opportunities in an industry often known for being dependent on connections for success.

However, after much consideration, I realised that a study abroad year was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I would regret not taking. Many also assured me that there are other ways of entering the legal field and securing traineeships outside of doing a year of work placement. I chose McGill specifically because of its prestigious reputation, ranking as the 28th best law school in the world. It is also well known for its vibrant student life, something I found to be absolutely true. Montreal itself is a city centred around students with McGill being located right in the heart of downtown, surrounded by shops, cafes and restaurants. The city seemed to have so much going on all the time between different festivals, sporting events and concerts.

Academically, I enjoyed the challenge of studying a different legal system at a higher standard. As an undergraduate, I was entering a law school that operates at post graduate level, which I initially found daunting. I was studying a different legal system, alongside students not only more familiar with the Canadian legal system but who were also older, with more life experiences who already had degrees. However, over time, I realised that I was just as capable as my peers and I learned to appreciate the opportunity I was given to study more specialised areas of the law.

As the class sizes were a lot smaller than I was used to, I was able to form greater relationships with my lecturers and peers and form many professional connections that will undoubtedly benefit me in the future.

It is worth noting that the law school is bilingual and oftentimes lecturers would switch between English and French when teaching or assign French readings for class. This was rather challenging as someone has just a basic level of French. Despite this, I found that I was still able to adapt quite well and even managed to learn some French along the way.

Of course, the experience wasn't without its challenges. The visa process in particular was tedious and time consuming so my biggest advice to anyone applying to McGill is to start the visa application process as soon as you receive your acceptance letter. On the other hand, finding accommodation was surprisingly easy in contrast to Ireland with many options for different price ranges located close to the university.

In terms of meeting people, McGill organised many events for us international exchange students which helped us all to find each other. Additionally, every Thursday, each faculty in McGill hosts a drinks evening which is where I met most of my now great friends. Other events like Frosh, OAP, Hype Week and Carnival were also fantastic ways to get involved in student life.

My time at McGill was filled with unforgettable experiences, academic growth and I met so many incredible people along the way. I now have friends all over the world, some of whom I have already visited since finishing my time there. If you are considering a study abroad year, I highly recommend McGill university for your unforgettable experience!"

-Millicent Curtin

University of Galway School of Law Signs MOU with Symbiosis Law School Pune

University of Galway School of Law, Ireland, and Symbiosis Law School of Pune, India, have renewed their existing partnership at a signing ceremony held at Symbiosis's campus on 12th April 2024.

The Dean of University of Galway School of Law, Professor Martin Hogg, visited Symbiosis Law School for a ceremony to sign a renewed memorandum of understanding, which commits the two institutions to work together to develop mutual teaching and research opportunities. Dean Hogg was welcomed by the Director of Symbiosis Law School, Professor Shashikala Gurpur, and her colleagues, joining him in signing the new memorandum of understanding. Dean Hogg also met with Symbiosis Law School faculty members to discuss potential research collaborations and with Symbiosis students to discuss opportunities for them to pursue Master's and doctoral studies at University of Galway. Both law schools are well-matched, being highly ranked institutions: University of Galway is ranked in the QS World University Rankings as a top 150 law school, and Symbiosis is the top-ranked private law school in India.



The Dean of University of Galway School of Law, Professor Martin Hogg visiting Symbiosis Law School, Pune, India

Speaking of the renewed partnership, Professor Gurpur said, "The synergy of SIU and University of Galway and the past collaborations in faculty and student mobility are institutionalised with this MOU. SIU's pioneer role in global and EU Legal Studies and all-round internationalisation of legal education, get new booster hereby. We look forward to joint research, publications, collaborative online learning and exchange of best practices to strengthen our global competencies further."

Dean Hogg added: "I am very excited and honoured to have visited

Symbiosis Law School to mark the renewal of our strong and fruitful partnership. Ireland is the leading common law jurisdiction in the European Union and India one of the most prominent common law jurisdictions of the world, and our renewed commitment to work together builds upon the strong foundations of our legal jurisdictions and the excellence of our faculty members and students. I am looking forward to welcoming Symbiosis graduates to University of Galway and to the mutual learning experiences which such visits will afford."

NEW Partnership between University of Galway School of Law and BARBRI

University of Galway School of Law and BARBRI have formed a partnership arrangement which will give our law students discounted access to BARBRI training for the [New York State Bar Exam](#) and the [Solicitors Qualifying Exam for England and Wales](#). Students registering for BARBRI's training course for either of these exams will be entitled to a discount of 20% off the published price.

In addition to these guaranteed discounts on BARBRI training, BARBRI will also be offering our law students access to a number of online training events throughout the academic year, on topics such as SQE taster sessions, SQE and US Bar information sessions, and employability skills sessions.

BARBRI have online resources that you can use to learn more about the SQE, the US bar and legal careers more generally. See their [student landing page](#) for some English law-related resources, such as 'SQE Edge', a bank of 100 taster SQE MCQs, as well as 'SQE Head Start', a platform with various legal careers resources. You can also read about the US bar exam [here](#).

Commenting on the new partnership, Dean of University of Galway School of Law, Professor Martin Hogg, said: "This new partnership is an exciting one for the Law School, as it will ensure that Galway Law students have access to the expert training provided by BARBRI, which is a world leader in training for the SQE and NY Bar



exams. As a number of our law graduates seek to enter the legal profession in England and Wales and in New York each year, they will now benefit directly from discounted training for professional bar exams as well as legal skills training during their time as students. This is great news for our students and we're looking forward to working closely with BARBRI over the coming years to ensure that those students who choose to do so will have the best chance of following a successful career path in England & Wales or in the USA.



Emma Kennelly attending the 12th LSGL Summer School at University de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, in July

Law Schools Global League 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 12th LSGL Summer School took place at University de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, in July, and Emma Kennelly, a Law (BCL) student at University of Galway School of Law, was selected to attend.

Emma, said: "My time at the 12th Law Schools Global League Summer School was an experience that I will never forget. The factors involved in this life-changing experience were the incredible friends I made, the kindness of the professors, the beauty of Colombian culture, and the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of University de los Andes.

Not only did I forge bonds that I am sure will last a lifetime with my peers from all across the globe, but I also had the chance to engage in meaningful and insightful discussions with those who, I am certain, are the future of the law. Both inside and outside the classroom, I heard various different perspectives on law and life, which I will take home with me and which have expanded my own views. Over the span of two short weeks, I feel like I learned many life skills that will stick to me both in my professional and personal life.

The professors were just as kind and thoughtful as my peers; I could really sense their unfailing enthusiasm and commitment to the topics they taught, which in turn fuelled my own desire to learn. The teaching methods were engaging and collaborative, and I truly appreciated the emphasis on interactions in the classroom – no opinion was left unheard or unexplored. Once again I felt my own values expanded and developed in a relatively short amount of time.



Moreover, University de los Andes and the city of Bogotá itself have left a lasting impact on me. I watched the final of the Copa America in a crowd of 10,000 Colombian people, all of whom I talked to were warm-hearted, welcoming, and encouraging about me practicing speaking Spanish. The teaching assistants, who attend University de los Andes, were extremely caring, looking out for everyone, and I am grateful to now call them my friends. I have also tried many amazing new foods, dances and sports typical of Colombia. Without a doubt would I recommend the LSGL Summer School in order to truly immerse oneself in a different culture.

Overall, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I am truly grateful to have been afforded the chance to take."

[Learn more about LSGL Summer School](#)

Annual Distinguished Lecture 2024

Mary Robinson in conversation with Professor Donncha O'Connell

We were honoured to have Mary Robinson as guest speaker for our Annual Distinguished Lecture in October 2024.

The event was attended by students, staff, alumni, and friends of our School community. The fireside chat with Professor Donncha O'Connell covered Mary Robinson's astounding career, from President of Ireland to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to her focus on Climate Justice. The event was opened by Dean of the School of Law, Professor Martin Hogg, with a formal introduction of Mrs Robinson by the Interim President of University of Galway, Professor Peter McHugh.

[Watch the Recording here](#)

All photographs by Aengus McMahon



Mary Robinson



Mary Robinson speaking with some of our students



Mary Robinson signing a book for one of her admirers



Professor Donncha O'Connell



Professor Martin Hogg, Dean of the School of Law, Professor Peter McHugh, Interim President of University of Galway, Mary Robinson, and Ms. Stella Carty, Director of Strategic Development and Administration at University of Galway School of Law.

Professor Roja Fazaeli, Professor Geraint Howells, Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, Mary Robinson, Dr Maeve O'Rourke, and Professor Donncha O'Connell



Doctoral Programme

Dr Maria Manuela De Almeida Silva

Congratulations to Dr Maria Manuela De Almeida Silva, who successfully defended her PhD dissertation on 12th December 2023. The title of the dissertation is "Silence in Court: Limited English Proficiency Defendants in Irish Criminal District Courts".

Pictured are Maria with Dr Conor Hanly (supervisor) and Dr Ciara Smyth (internal examiner). The external examiner, Prof. Paulo Pinto de Alburquerque, of the Catholic University of Lisbon and former judge of the European Court of Human Rights, participated remotely. Dr Charles O'Mahony chaired the viva.



Hassan Abu Omar

PhD School of Law Fellow Hassan Abu Omar has engaged widely with the media, talking about the current legal cases of the ICC and the ICJ on the situation of Palestine

Media outlets:

1. One Al Jazeera Eng Op-ed: The ICC can no longer ignore the genocide in Gaza: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/4/21/the-icc-can-no-longer-ignore-the-genocide-in-gaza>
2. What I learned reading between the lines of the ICJ's ruling against Israel: <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/what-i-learned-reading-between-the-lines-of-the-icjs-ruling-against-israel-18167244>
3. Turning ink into action: Enforcing ICJ's landmark ruling against Israel: <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/turning-ink-into-action-enforcing-icjs-landmark-ruling-against-israel-18186707>



As one of the Chief Editors and main legal experts of the organisation Law for Palestine, Hassan Abu Omar has contributed to the following submissions:

1. ICC Submission demanding the issuance of Arrest Warrants against Israeli leaders on the basis of genocide at: <https://law4palestine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Joint-Communication-to-the-Office-of-the-Prosecutor-of-the-International-Criminal-Court-Regarding-the-Perpetration-of-the-Crime-of-Genocide-by-Members-of-the-Israeli-War-Cabinet-Law-for-Palestine.pdf>
2. ICC Amicus Brief Submission. Amicus Curiae Observations by Law for Palestine Pursuant to Rule 103. The OTP response to the Pre-Trial Chamber cites the brief several times. It is available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/0902ebd1809233af.pdf>



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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

PhD Researcher 'Professional Visitor' at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Our PhD Researcher and Irish Research Council Scholar at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Beatrice Canosi, concluded her three months as 'professional visitor' at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Beatrice worked alongside practitioners expanding her knowledge on the jurisprudence and functioning of this key regional human rights body. She had the chance to participate in the court's hearings, deepening her understanding of the Inter-American system and working on court cases. She is grateful for this excellent opportunity and to all the staff of the Court which have welcomed her with professionalism, creating an exciting and fulfilling work environment. During her time at the Court Beatrice had the possibility to witness the pivotal role played by the Court at a regional and international level. She was particularly impressed by its work



interpreting the American Convention on Human Rights as a living instrument to fulfil the Court's important role in protecting human rights within the region.

[Watch this video of Beatrice talking about her experience](#)

Clara Bosch March

Congratulations to Clara Bosch March, PhD student at the Irish Centre for Human Rights under the supervision of Dr Ciara Smyth, who was awarded a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship for her research on collective expulsions. Her thesis is titled 'The protection of irregular migrants in immediate return cases: the judicial dialogue around Article 4 of Protocol No. 4 ECHR between the European Court of Human Rights, Spain and Italy'.



Clara Bosch March

Maria Portuondo Awarded PhD

Maria Portuondo was awarded with her PhD in 2024 having successfully defended her thesis in November 2023. The title of her thesis was The Role of Domestic and International Law in Enabling and Containing Internment: A Case Study of Northern Ireland during 'The Troubles' and Guantanamo Bay during 'The War on Terror'. She was co-supervised by Dr. Ciara Smyth and Dr. Conor Hanly.



Maria Portuondo

Sachin Yadav Publishing Success

We're pleased to share the recent publishing successes of Sachin Yadav, PhD Scholar at University of Galway's School of Law.

His journal article, "Patent Pools: Opportunities for Innovation and Access to Essential Medicines for Under-Served Populations in the 21st Century," was published in the prestigious Scopus-indexed Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research, Volume 13, Issue 1, 2024.

Sachin contributed a chapter titled "Legal Aid Clinic: An Initiative to Public Assistance" in the book "Legal Pedagogy and Research Methodology" by Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Ahuja & Debasis Poddar, published in 2023. He also had the honour of presenting a research paper titled "Cross-Cultural Examination of



Sachin Yadav

Ageing: Evaluating Elderly Rights in India and Western Nations" at the "Protection of Rights of Elderly People" conference at

NLU Delhi on 6th November 2023. This paper has also recently been selected for publication.

University of Galway's Irish Centre for Human Rights Hosts 23rd Annual Doctoral Seminar

University of Galway's Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR) successfully hosted its 23rd annual doctoral seminar in April 2024, bringing together PhD students and distinguished experts in the field of human rights. The seminar, a cornerstone event for the ICHR, featured presentations from the Centre's doctoral candidates, who shared their ongoing research and received valuable feedback.

This year, the event was enhanced by the participation of several renowned external experts,

including Professor Cathryn Costello from University College Dublin, Professor Ardi Imseis from Queen's University Canada, and Dr. Hasret Cetinkaya, an alumnus of the ICHR PhD programme and current faculty member at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The seminar offered a platform for students to engage in intellectual exchange and refine their research approaches through discussions with these experienced scholars.

The attendees also had the opportunity to hear research presentations from the visiting experts, further enriching the academic environment.

The Irish Centre for Human Rights expressed its gratitude to all participants and contributors, whose collaborative efforts made the seminar a success. The Centre looks forward to continuing its tradition of fostering rigorous academic inquiry and dialogue in the field of human rights.



Staff News

Dr Brian Tobin Promoted to Associate Professor

Dr Brian Tobin was promoted to Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Law in April 2024. Dr Tobin lectures in Family and Child Law and Equity I, and he previously lectured in Tort Law. He was awarded the CBPPL Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (2023), the Dean's Award for Inclusive Teaching (2021), and he has been shortlisted as a national finalist for the Legal Educator of the Year award at the Dye and Durham Irish Law Awards each consecutive year since the introduction of the award in 2023.

In 2023, Dr Tobin's first book, *The Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging Families in Ireland and Beyond* (Oxford: Hart, 2023) was launched at University of Galway by Mr Justice Gerard Hogan of the Supreme Court of Ireland, who described it as 'scholarship at its finest in terms of avant garde family law'. The book has been shortlisted for the SLS Margaret Brazier Prize for Outstanding Scholarship. Dr Tobin has also published chapters in edited collections and numerous peer-reviewed articles in the leading academic journals in his field, and he has received funding for research and scholarly activity from, among others, the Department of Justice, the Royal Irish Academy, the IRC, and the Society of Legal Scholars.

Dr Tobin has been invited to appear before parliamentary committees in Dublin and London, most notably the Oireachtas Joint Committee on International Surrogacy and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Surrogacy (U.K.), and he represented Ireland at the U.K. regional consultation on the Verona Principles, a set of international guidelines for the protection of the rights of children born through surrogacy. Dr Tobin's work has been cited in reports published by parliamentary committees/law reform bodies in Ireland, the U.K. and New Zealand, and he has contributed, as the national expert for Ireland, to an impact assessment for a proposed EU Digital Certificate of Parenthood. Dr Tobin is a frequent media contributor, having written many 'Op-Ed' articles for the Irish Examiner, Irish Times, and the Business Post. He has been quoted in national and international newspaper articles and he has appeared on numerous national and local radio shows, and national and international TV programmes.

Dr Tobin spent the academic year 2018-2019 as a Visiting Researcher at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, which at the time was ranked 1st in the U.K. for world-leading 4* legal research (REF 2014). He is also a Council Member of TREOIR (NGO), the national federation of services for unmarried parents.



Dr Brian Tobin

At University of Galway School of Law, Dr Tobin has previously acted as the Deputy Head of the School of Law, the Director of Student Career Development, and he is currently the Programme Director for the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL). Dr Tobin was a member of the University's Research Ethics Committee (2019-2024).

Recent Dr. Brian Tobin Publications:

Book

Brian Tobin (2023) *The Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging Families in Ireland and Beyond*. Oxford: Hart.

Book Chapter

Brian Tobin and Maebh Harding (2023) 'Children and Parents' In: *Family Law in Context*. Dublin: Clarus Press.

Professor O'Connell Delivers Citation for the John B. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award for President Michael D. Higgins

Professor Donncha O'Connell of University of Galway School of Law delivered a citation at the presentation of the John B. Keane Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to Arts & Culture' to President Michael D. Higgins at the opening of Listowel Writers' Week 2024. The citation can be viewed in full [here](#).



President Michael D Higgins
Photo credit: Ger Holland



Professor Donncha O'Connell
Photo credit: Ger Holland

University of Galway School of Law Welcomes New Academic Staff Members

University of Galway School of Law is delighted to announce the addition of four new academic staff members.

Professor Csongor Nagy will serve as our new Professor in Commercial Law, and Dr Naporn 'Prompt' Popattanachai will serve as our new Lecturer in Environmental and Marine Law. Dr Maria O'Brien joins us as our new Lecturer in Taxation while Dr Illan Wall joins us as a Lecturer in Law.

A warm welcome to Professor Nagy, Dr Popattanachai, Dr O'Brien, and Dr Wall!



Professor Csongor Nagy



Dr Maria O'Brien



Dr Naporn Popattanachai



Dr Illan Wall

Professor Roja Fazaeli Appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Directors at Frontline Defenders

We are pleased to announce that our colleague in the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Professor Roja Fazaeli, has been appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Directors at [Frontline Defenders](#), (the international human rights organisation).

For more information, please visit [Frontline Defenders Board of Directors](#).



Professor Roja Fazaeli

Dr Anita Ferrara

In May 2024, Dr Ferrara was invited to speak at the Annual Summer School of the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights in Italy. Dr Ferrara discussed International Law, decoloniality, and alternative approaches to criminal justice.



Annual Summer School of the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights

In June 2024, Dr Ferrara was invited to speak at the "Training on Comparative Perspective in Transitional Justice", organized by the Nuremberg Academy and the Asser Institute for the Judges and Professionals of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. This special tribunal is currently investigating crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Colombia during the civil war.

Dr Maria O'Brien Establishes Irish Chapter of Global Digital Games Research Association

Our new Lecturer in Taxation, Dr Maria O'Brien (J.E Cairnes School of Business & Economics/School of Law), has recently established an Irish chapter on digital games research. This research chapter is a network of academic and non-academic scholars who commit to developing research on games in Ireland. For further information on the research chapter, please contact Dr Maria O'Brien (maria.m.obrien@universityofgalway.ie)



Dr Conor Hanly Appointed to the Board of Cuan by the Minister for Justice

Dr Conor Hanly has been appointed to the board of Cuan, Ireland's new Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency. Dr Hanly, whose research primarily focuses on criminal law with a particular emphasis on sexual and domestic violence, will serve on the board for a three-year term.

The agency is the statutory agency under the remit of the Department of Justice dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.



Dr Conor Hanly

Professor Siobhán Mullally Elected First Chairperson of Platform of Independent Experts on Refugee Rights

Professor Siobhán Mullally, Director of University of Galway Irish Centre for Human Rights, was elected as the first Chairperson of the newly established [Platform of Independent Experts on Refugee Rights](#). The Platform brings together United Nations Special Procedures, Treaty bodies, and regional human rights mechanisms to advocate for protection of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers globally.

Commenting on the launch of the Platform, Professor Siobhán Mullally said:

"The Platform is being launched at a time when persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations, have resulted in record numbers of people displaced and forced to seek protection. At the same time, the rights of refugees and asylum

seekers are increasingly threatened by a denial of the right to seek asylum. We are witnessing increasingly punitive measures adopted by states, collective expulsions, deprivation of liberty, limited access to asylum procedures, as well as hostility and xenophobia worldwide.

Against this background, it is urgent that we work together across international and regional human rights bodies, to mobilise the full potential of international law and the promised universality of human rights protections. I hope that this global platform will be an effective advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, recognising the fundamental right to seek asylum, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a foundation of our shared responsibility to provide

a place of refuge." The Platform is currently composed of the mandates of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on [trafficking in persons, especially women and children](#) (Professor Siobhán Mullally), and on the [human rights of migrants](#), the Working Group on arbitrary detention, the [UN Committee against torture](#), the [Special Rapporteur on refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and migrants in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) and the [Rapporteurship on the rights of migrants of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#). The Platform is supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

Dr Abigail Rekas

Dr Abigail Rekas has been doing a lot of work on Generative AI and the Arts including a Masterclass for the Centre for Creative Technologies on 9th April 2024 called "Copyright-AI-bility". Dr Rekas was invited to sit on a panel for the Fís Television Summit (<https://ardan.ie/events/fis-tv-summit/>) on 1st February 2024 titled 'The Good, the Bad & the AI' chaired by Michael Gubbins (SampoMedia, MCG Film & Media), along with Anthony Nilan (Virgin Media television), Jennifer Davidson (Chair, Writers Guild Ireland), and Remie Michelle-Clark (Actor).

She was also invited to provide a workshop to the staff of the Arts Council Ireland (the national body, not the local) (<https://www.arts council.ie/home/>) titled 'AI in the Arts - Copyright & IP' on 10 July.



Dr Abigail Rekas

The workshop was delivered online and covered a range of discussion around generative AI in the arts, with the different arts teams and staff at the Arts Council.

Staff in the Media



Selected Publications and Research

Dr Brian Tobin Launches New Book on Same-Sex Relationships – Shortlisted for Outstanding Scholarship

Congratulations to our colleague, Dr Brian Tobin, whose book, 'The Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging Families in Ireland and Beyond' (Oxford: Hart, 2023) was launched by Mr Justice Gerard Hogan at the Aula Maxima, The Quadrangle, in October 2023. In the foreword to the book, Justice Hogan describes it as

'scholarship at its finest in terms of avant garde family law'. The book has received very favourable reviews in the leading peer-reviewed journals in Dr Tobin's field of expertise, and it was 1 of only 3 monographs shortlisted for the 2024 SLS Margaret Brazier Prize for Outstanding Scholarship.



Dr Brian Tobin & Mr Justice Gerard Hogan

Dr Rónán Kennedy Co-Authors Report On An 'Ethics by Design Approach for AI'

Dr Rónán Kennedy is a co-author of the AI4People Institute's new report, 'Towards an Ethics by Design Approach for AI.'

The report outlines in actionable detail an "Ethics by Design" approach, which guides organisations, public or private, small, or large enterprises, in proactively designing, developing and maintaining Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems in accordance with the laws, ethical, moral principles and public values that underpin the European Union.

Read the full report here: <https://ai4people.org/the-new-ai4people-institutes-report/>



Dr Rónán Kennedy

Dr Maeve O'Rourke Publishes New Open Access Book with Oxford University Press

The Irish Centre for Human Rights at University of Galway is pleased to announce the publication of a new book by Dr Maeve O'Rourke.

'Human Rights and the Care of Older People', published open access by Oxford University Press, explores the potential for the rule against torture and ill-treatment in international human rights law to better protect older people from care-related mistreatment.

The book can be ordered in hardback or read for free as an Open Access title [here](#).

Dr O'Rourke also discusses the key arguments of her book in [her blog post](#).



Dr Maeve O'Rourke

Dr Conor Hanly Presents Papers on Flipped Class Method and Student Engagement

Dr Conor Hanly, a member of the Council of the Irish Association of Law Teachers, presented a paper on the flipped class method at the IALT Annual Conference in November 2023. Dr. Hanly also presented a peer-reviewed paper on student engagement in a large flipped class at the PHELC 2024 (Pedagogy for Higher Education in Large Classes) in June 2024.



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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

LLM Students Collaborate with Special Rapporteur on Groundbreaking Human Rights Research

In an exemplary demonstration of academic engagement with global human rights issues, students from the Irish Centre for Human Rights at University of Galway have had the distinct honour of assisting Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, in her vital research. This collaboration contributed to the preparation of Albanese's fourth report, titled "Anatomy of Genocide," which was presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 26th March 2024.

The report illuminates the ongoing human rights challenges in Palestinian territories and is crucial for international human rights advocacy and policy-making. It explores the systemic structures affecting the human rights situation in the region and proposes actionable recommendations for the global community.

The team of students from the Irish Centre for Human Rights at University of Galway who assisted the Special Rapporteur is comprised of Debora Lacerda (LLM International Human Rights Law), Domenica Altamirano (LLM International Human Rights Law), Nadeen Yousef (LLM International Human Rights Law),



Visit to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Kevin Clarke (LLM Peace Operations Humanitarian Law and Conflict), and Ramez Hayek (LLM Peace Operations Humanitarian Law and Conflict).

The involvement of our LLM students in this significant project underscores the Centre's commitment to hands-on learning and direct engagement in international human rights work. The Special Rapporteur invited the students specialising in International Human Rights Law and Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law, and Conflict to attend the report's presentation at the United Nations in Geneva. This unique opportunity extended beyond the presentation, allowing them to participate in

meetings with civil society organisations and events with universities in Geneva, fostering a deeper understanding of international human rights advocacy.

This collaboration reflects the Centre's dedication to impactful human rights education and highlights the critical role academic institutions can play in addressing global challenges. The Centre is proud of its students' contributions to this landmark report and remains committed to supporting their development as future human rights leaders.

For more details on the "Anatomy of Genocide" report, [click here](#).

Professor Siobhán Mullally Submits Amicus Brief to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights

Professor Siobhán Mullally, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, submitted an Amicus Brief to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights in early 2024 in a case concerning migrant domestic workers and diplomatic immunity, *Siti Aisah and others v. United States of America*.

[Read the Amicus Submission](#)

Professor Mullally worked with the legal teams at Hogan Lovells LLP and Doughty Street Chambers on the Amicus Brief, [read more](#).

Professor Siobhán Mullally presents Report to UN Human Rights Council on Mixed Migration, Trafficking and Protection at Sea

Professor Siobhán Mullally presented a significant report to the UN Human Rights Council on 26th June 2024 in Geneva. Professor Mullally serves as the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and her report addressed some of the most pressing issues in the fight against human trafficking.

The report, 'Trafficking in persons, mixed migration and protection at sea', can be accessed in full [here](#).

The presentation of two Country Reports on Colombia and the Central African Republic, have also been published and can be viewed [here](#).



Professor Siobhán Mullally

Royal Irish Academy conference, Archives, Access and Human Rights: proceedings published

On 13 June 2024, the Historical Studies Committee of the Royal Irish Academy held a one-day conference, *Archives, Access and Human Rights*, to explore questions of access to and preservation of Irish historical records and archives. Dr Maeve O'Rourke, a member of the Royal Irish Academy's Young Academy Ireland, was one of the conference organising committee. The event was supported by the Irish Centre for Human Rights as well as by Boston College, the ARINS Project, Justice for Magdalenes Research, the Irish Committee for Historical Sciences, and the Archives and Records Association.

Speakers included archivists, historians, civil servants from Ireland and Northern Ireland, and human rights experts. One half of the day focused on access to the publicly and privately held records and archives of Ireland's institutional and family separation abuses.

The conference proceedings can now be viewed [here](#). A post-event report will be published later this year.

Dr Maeve O'Rourke gave an invited lecture entitled 'Institutional archives and human rights implications of lack of access to them'. Her presentation not only addressed current barriers to information access; it also explored the international and European human rights law, and EU GDPR, norms that should underpin the ongoing management of historical abuse information and the future operations of the National Centre for Research and Remembrance at Sean McDermott Street in Dublin 1. Dr O'Rourke's lecture was covered by Fintan O'Toole, 'Failure to prevent destruction of records is a further insult to those whose identities were stolen' *The Irish Times* (18 June 2024).



Dr Maria O'Brien

Dr Maria O'Brien - Editor of IJAMCP Special Issue

Dr Maria O'Brien edited a special issue of the open access journal IJAMCP (Irish Journal of Arts Management and Cultural Policy) on audiovisual cultural policy in Ireland.

Her contributions include the Special Issue Foreword: Audiovisual cultural policy in Ireland, Irish Journal of Arts Management and Cultural Policy, 10 (2), 1-7, and The new tax credit regime for digital games production in Ireland, Irish Journal of Arts Management and Cultural Policy, 10(2), 100-113.

The submissions in this special issue cover key issues across audiovisual policy in Ireland, looking at public service media, taxation policy for film and for digital games, research on funding bodies, Irish-language film policy, music policy, neurodiversity policy and archiving policies. In keeping with the remit and scope of the journal, the scholarship is drawn from a broad range of disciplines and interdisciplinary research, including perspectives on practice.

Speaking on the special issue, Dr Maria O'Brien says 'the articles in this special issue illustrate the breadth and nuance

of research on the audiovisual industries in Ireland. It makes a statement about the study of policies that shape Irish society's engagement with audiovisual works. It has been a fantastic experience to work with so many wonderful academics on shaping this special issue'.

The special issue is available open access at <https://www.culturalpolicy.ie/index.php/ijamcp/issue/view/113>

The Irish Journal of Arts Management and Cultural Policy is a peer reviewed, open access e-journal publishing original research on the arts and cultural sector in Ireland/Northern Ireland. In 2023, IJAMCP reached its 10th edition and 10th year and relaunched on a new OJS platform. Initiated at the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin (UCD), IJAMCP has operated since 2013 as an all-island multi-institutional partnership. The editorial board currently has members from Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Galway and University College Dublin. The Journal has an open submissions policy and welcomes work from multiple disciplines. It is also open to proposals for Special Issues. More information on the Journal's scope, policies and submission guidelines and all past issues can be found on its website: www.culturalpolicy.ie

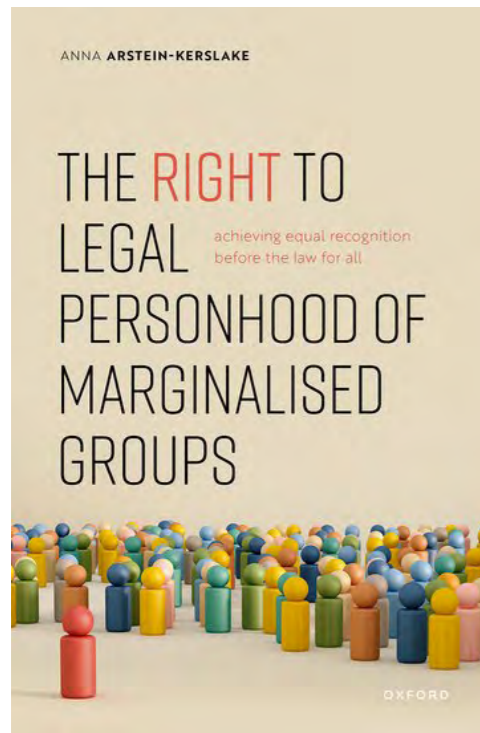
Professor Anna Arstein-Kerslake Publishes New Book 'The Right to Legal Personhood of Marginalised Groups'

Professor Anna Arstein-Kerslake, Professor in Human Rights at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, recently published her new book *The Right to Legal Personhood of Marginalised Groups*. Released by Oxford University Press, this work is a significant contribution to the field of human rights law, addressing the

critical issue of legal personhood for those often left out of legal protections.

In this book, Professor Arstein-Kerslake explores the rights to legal capacity and personhood through the unique lens of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She provides one of the first analyses of the UN Convention's Article 12 as it applies to marginalised groups beyond disabled people and offers vital clarity on the meaning and application of legal capacity and personhood as human rights.



The Right to Legal Personhood of Marginalised Groups



Professor Anna Arstein-Kerslake

Dr Abigail Rekas Authors Accessibility Report for European Audiovisual Observatory

Dr. Abigail Rekas authored a report for the European Audiovisual Observatory titled 'Accessibility measures as implemented by AVMS providers for persons with disabilities.' It is an in-depth analysis of the measures taken by member states and media service providers to implement the Article 7 of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (2018). The report was funded by the European Audiovisual Observatory and the European Commission. More info: <https://www.obs.coe.int/en/web/observatoire/-/new-mapping-report-accessibility-measures-as-implemented-by-avms-providers-for-persons-with-disabilities>

Department of Justice Publishes Report Co-Authored by Dr Conor Hanly

The Department of Justice published a report coauthored by Dr. Conor Hanly (with Tamara Cassidy, B.L.), 'A Rapid Review of Evidence on Delays in Processing Criminal Adult Sexual Cases' in June 2024. The report examined strategies from around the

world to reduce delays in the investigation, prosecution and trial of sexual offences. The report is accessible here: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/296098/d339b050-7829-4fb3-a5fb-a675e45d01a9.pdf#page=null>



Dr Conor Hanly with Tamara Cassidy, B.L. at the launch of the Department of Justice Report

News from the Centres

Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy



Gabrielle Leleu EMI, Professor Padraic Kenna and Dr Charles O Mahony at the EUAct2 Debate


CHLRP hosts EUACT 2 Debate, 'Housing and Healthcare in Ireland and the EU' with European Movement Ireland

The Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy were delighted to host a debate on 'Housing and Healthcare in Ireland and the EU' with European Movement Ireland on Wednesday, 8th November, in the Moore Institute Seminar Room, Hardiman Building, University of Galway.

This event was part of the EUAct2 pan-European programme, aimed at building democratic engagement with people who don't always feel

heard in the EU. We brought together people living in Ireland, Austria, Greece and Slovakia, giving them a platform to influence policies and share their ideas on a truly international level.

Professor Padraic Kenna gave a presentation on 'Housing and the EU'. The other speakers were Dr Charles O'Mahony (School of Law, University of Galway), Dean Kenny (President of the Students Union, University of Galway), Gabrielle Leleu (Engagement Officer, European Movement Ireland) and Rory Harte (Head of Strategy, European Movement Ireland).

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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/



European universities spearhead new housing studies

Universities in Ireland, Poland and Spain have come together to create new studies on all aspects of housing in Europe.

The online programmes are designed for national housing and European policymakers, housing and property professionals, housing managers, students, housing providers, NGOs and others.

Key European housing issues - from rights, to tenure, to homelessness, to roles of professionals and stakeholders - are explained by top European housing experts, in 48 short, accessible sections, with national examples, and up to date references.

The Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy at University of Galway developed the new Online Course on EU Housing Studies - available at <https://www.housingstudies.eu/about-us> - along with University of Silesia in Poland, the UNESCO

Housing Chair at University Rovira I Virgili in Spain, and others.

Professor Padraic Kenna, Director of the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy at University of Galway, said: "Housing is now recognised as a European Union issue by President Ursula von der Leyen. However, almost all housing and associated professional training, research and policymaking is focussed on national level issues. What we are aiming to achieve with this new approach is to bridge the knowledge gap which currently exists - identifying and relating the housing issues which are impacted by the EU, its policy making, and which affect its 450 million citizens.

"This will become an essential part of all progressive housing-related training and policymaking in the years ahead and will be invaluable for national housing and European policymakers, housing and property professionals, housing managers,

students in housing and housing related professions, housing providers, NGOs and others. It provides an invaluable introduction to the area for those building a career and specialisation in housing anywhere in the EU."

The Course is fully-funded and was developed through EU Erasmus funding and provides accurate up to date information on all aspects of housing in Europe. Participants may proceed from the initial fully-funded course to accredited certification on paying a registration fee.

It addresses such issues as: Access and tenure of housing; Housing as market; Transactions with homes and funding; Roles and functions of Housing and Property Professionals and Stakeholders in Europe; Housing, city, territory and environment; Housing and New Technologies; Theory of housing studies; The right to housing; Development of housing; Forced loss and lack of housing.

Irish Centre for Human Rights

Advocating for Justice and Freedom for Palestine' with Shawan Jabarin, Director-General of AI-Haq

University of Galway Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted a public event titled 'Advocating for Justice and Freedom for Palestine' in May 2024 with Shawan Jabarin, the Director-General of AI-Haq, a leading Palestinian human rights organisation based in Ramallah and one of the oldest human rights organisations in the Middle East.

Shawan is a graduate of the LLM in International Human Rights at the Irish Centre for Human Rights and is the 2024 Alumni Award Winner for Law, Public Policy and Society - Sponsored by RDJ.



Shawan Jarabin

The Irish Centre for Human Rights welcomes Professor Elin Skaar

The Irish Centre for Human Rights welcomed Professor Elin Skaar in September 2023 to present a two volume book *Beyond Words: Implementing Truth Commission Recommendations in Latin America Vol I and II*, co-authored with Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm and Jemima Garcia-Godos and published by Internsentia/Cambridge University Press.



Professor Elin Skaar

Beyond Words Vol. I examines the variations in truth commission recommendations across 13 Latin American cases. Insights are provided regarding how the internal dynamics of truth commissions, as well as the political, social and economic context in which they operate, influence how recommendations are formulated. The authors then explore how the nature of these recommendations themselves, along with the aforementioned factors, influence which recommendations are actually implemented. The conclusion considers the findings' relevance for the crafting of future truth commission recommendations and reflects upon how the formulation and implementation of these recommendations shape the impact of truth commissions on societies emerging from periods of violence and repression.

Beyond Words Vol. II is a unique collection of 11 Latin American country studies covering all 13 formal truth commissions established in this region that submitted their final reports between 1984 and 2014. Based on qualitative original data and a common analytical framework, the main focus of each of the country chapters is threefold: (1) to provide a brief background to

the truth commission(s); (2) to provide a detailed account of the formulation of the truth commission's recommendations; and (3) to analyze the implementation record of the recommendations, taking into account the actors and factors that have aided – or obstructed – the implementation process.

ELIN SKAAR (Research Professor, Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Bergen, Norway) works in the intersection between law and politics and has published widely on transitional justice, human rights, and courts.

ERIC WIEBELHAUS-BRAHM (Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, University of Arkansas at Little Rock) is the author of three books and over two dozen articles and book chapters on transitional justice, human rights, and peacebuilding.

JEMIMA GARCÍA-GODOS (Professor, Dept. Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo) is a human geographer working and publishing on transitional justice, human rights, victims' rights, and state-society relations.

Centre for Disability Law and Policy

LLM (International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy) News

Ceile Philips Varley and Yuliia Sachuk were selected from the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy for a UNCRPD Internship Geneva in September 2023

Congratulations to Ceile Varley, winner of the Centre for Disability Law & Policy Gold Medal for Excellence.

First in Class - LL.M International and Comparative Disability Law & Policy 2023.



International Disability Law Summer School

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) at University of Galway hosted the 15th International Disability Law Summer School in June.

The theme this year was 'Gender and Disability Justice,' and as always, speakers and delegates shared their expertise and lived experience perspectives on a wide array of current disability rights issues, from access to justice to legal capacity, independent living to health care and reproductive rights, gender-based violence to marginalisation in public debate. This year's summer school was once again delivered both in-person and online, with a world-class faculty and participants from around the globe, including representatives from civil society groups, advocates for disability law reform, lawyers, policy-makers, policy analysts, researchers and academics, many of whom are themselves also people with disabilities.

The keynote speaker was Dr Rosaleen McDonagh, playwright, IHREC commissioner and proud disabled Traveller woman. Rosaleen presented an excerpt from her forthcoming book in which she writes letters full of wisdom and



International Disability Law Summer School

guidance to two younger people in her life, a young disabled woman and a young Traveller woman. Amy Hassett – the young disabled woman – was present to deliver the response to Rosaleen's keynote. Their powerful dialogue contained reflections on ableism, sexuality, liberation, relationships and community that threaded through the rest of the week's activities. Attendees discussed the global pushback against the rights of women, girls, and gender minority people and the intersections and parallels of those experiences with the oppressions faced by disabled and multiply marginalised people.

Attendees once more took part in the moot court competition, while both activists and academics displayed their work for the poster competition. The craftivism space provided opportunities for creativity and connection, along with quieter conversations about shared challenges and disability justice-informed practices that offer potential for change. Summer School co-directors this year were Professor Eilionóir Flynn, Emma Burns and Amanie Issa.

Marginalisation, Disability and Candidature in the 2024 Elections

This research focuses on the experiences of disabled candidates who stood in the Irish local and European elections (2024) who hold multiple marginalised identities, including those protected under the nine grounds of The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 (e.g. disabled women, disabled migrants, disabled travellers, disabled LGBTQ+ candidates). The research is comprised of 1-to-1 qualitative interviews with multiply marginalised disabled people who stood in the 2024 elections, utilising a case study approach detailing a small number of cases. The study aims to understand the intersection of barriers facing these candidates and how Ireland's compliance with Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) could be better achieved using an intersectional lens.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie

Representative Advocacy for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland

This research will work with an advisory group of young people, aged 18 – 24 years old, with intellectual disabilities to finalise the research materials, complete the data collection and data analysis. Focus groups will be conducted with children with intellectual disabilities, aged 9 – 17 and their parents or guardians to document their experiences and what sort of advocacy support they require. The project will also interview key stakeholders in the area including representatives of government departments, advocacy services and children's rights organisations to ascertain their views. This information will be used to determine if there is a need for a representative advocacy service for children with intellectual disabilities and their families in Ireland and what form such a service should take.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie

Young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking or communicate differently and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015

This project sets out to learn how young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking, or communicate differently can access and use the support agreements under the Assisted Decision - Making (Capacity) Act 2015. It will research international experiences in this area to learn about best practice. It will then work with a small group of young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking, or communicate differently and their families to learn about their experience of using or transitioning to Ireland's new system. Finally, the project will survey professionals, who might be assessing decision making ability, to establish their understanding of new law and how it applies to young people who communicate differently.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: cliona.debhailis@universityofgalway.ie

CDLP Korean Visit

CDLP was delighted to welcome Judge Hyung Kwoan Kweon and Seung-Uk Yang from the Judicial Policy Research Institute in Korea to the University of Galway. Judge Kweon's research explores methods for writing easy read judgments with the aim of improving access to justice for persons with disabilities.

During his visit discussions focused on the importance of accessible judgements for the parties to the case but also as a tool for broader legal education and the key principles and barriers in creating such documents.

Judge HyungKwoan Kweon, Judge and Researcher Judicial Policy Research Institute, Professor Eilionóir Flynn, Director of the Centre for Disability Law, Maria Walls PhD Candidate at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, Seung-Uk Yang, Assistant Researcher Judicial Policy Research Institute and Dr. Cliona de Bhailís, Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Fellow, Centre for Disability Law and Policy



Korean Judge Visit

CDLP Training

CDLP hold bi-annual ADM training programme primarily designed for those working with and supporting people affected by the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act, including professionals working with people with disabilities, older people and people with mental health experience. The training is designed to focus on practical challenges in implementing the Act, with examples of promising practice from other countries.



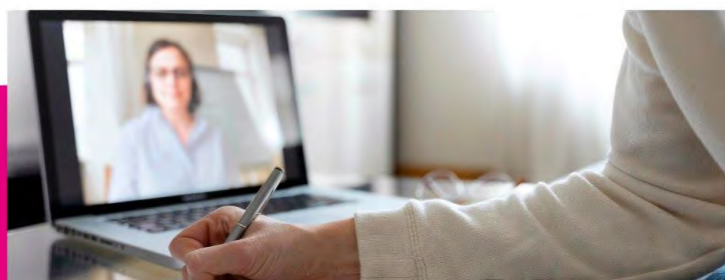
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OF GALWAY

An tIonad Dlí & Beartais Míchumais
Centre for Disability Law & Policy

Online training

Implementing the Assisted Decision - Making (Capacity) Act

October 2023



Getting to Grips with the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act

Training for self-advocates

November 2023
Online

Getting to Grips with the UNCRPD: What does it mean for Ireland?

This is a one-day seminar for people with disabilities, families and allies, to learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It covers the history of the Convention, core rights in the Convention, and the reporting process to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



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Centre for Disability Law & Policy

Craftivism

The Craftivism piece from the 15th International Disability Law Summer School #15thDSS. Craftivism is a visual, handmade form of activism that usually includes elements of anti-capitalism, environmentalism and feminism. Craftivism includes any visual art or design work including but not limited to drawing, painting, street art, collage, embroidery, crochet, knitting, posters and digital art. Anyone can take part. You do not need knowledge or skills, only a willingness to try and an openness to each other.



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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

Mooting Round-up

Mooting activities are a vital part of the School of Law's skills development program, providing students with invaluable opportunities to improve legal research and writing, advocacy, and public speaking skills.

We offer almost all law students a compulsory undergraduate Moot module and an optional postgraduate Vis Moot module. Engaging in extracurricular moot competitions is also strongly encouraged. This investment in students and their future careers has led to a consistent growth in student participation in moot competitions and an increasing success rate. In the past academic year, teams have competed in three international moot competitions and six national competitions, winning four of these and winning best advocate in two. We are delighted to see our students doing so well. Read more about some of those competitions and the students and coaches who participated in them, below.

Corn Adomnáin 2024 International Humanitarian Law Competition

Debora Lira de Lacerda, Doménica Altamirano, and Kevin Clarke clinched victory in the Mini Moot category at the prestigious Corn Adomnáin 2024 International Humanitarian Law Competition.

This remarkable achievement not only showcases their exceptional understanding of international humanitarian law but also their ability to articulate and defend complex legal arguments under pressure.

The team are completing LLM programmes at our Irish Centre for Human Rights.



International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition

Irish Centre for Human Rights LLM Students Shine at International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition

LLM students from University of Galway's Irish Centre for Human Rights participated in the prestigious International Criminal Court (ICC) moot court competition held in The Hague. Under the guidance of their coach, Dr. Paul Bradfield, the students showcased their advocacy skills and legal knowledge on an international platform, competing against teams from around the world.

The ICC moot court competition is a significant event that brings together aspiring legal professionals to simulate proceedings of the International Criminal Court. It provides a unique

opportunity for students to engage with international criminal law, practice their litigation skills, and gain invaluable experience in a real-world context.

The event was not just an academic exercise but also a chance for students to network with peers, legal practitioners, and academics from different parts of the globe. The competition fostered a spirit of camaraderie and intellectual exchange among the participants.



Corn Adomnáin 2024 International Humanitarian Law Competition

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 a Vis Moot module. During the course of the academic year students prepare written submissions and participate in a series of pre-moots against Universities from all over the world. The culmination of the module is participation in the competition that takes place annually in Vienna, Austria. In addition to building important research, writing and advocacy skills, the competition provides an invaluable opportunity for students to network and meet with students and practitioners from across the globe. We were delighted with our performance this year, coming in the top 30% of the 384 teams, and improving our ranking significantly from the previous year.



Dr Connie Healy, Desirée Balsler (LLM General), David Crawford (LLM International and Comparative Business Law), Ashleigh Potterill-Veltman (LLM International Human Rights), Róisín Elizabeth Cowan (LLM General), Sandra Shogbaiké (LLM General), Bethlehem S Gebeyaw (LLM General), and Ms Ursula Connolly.

The module is delivered by Ursula Connolly and Dr Connie Healy. The team is also grateful to our alumnus James Roche, Senior Associate with Fieldfisher, who met with the team to offer some valuable advice; and

to our colleagues in the School and College, Professor Martin Hogg, Professor Csongor István, and Professor Geraint Howells who also supported the team.

Galway Wins National Moot Competition

Two teams from University of Galway joined teams from across Ireland and the UK to compete in the National Moot Competition that takes place annually at the Criminal Courts of Justice. After a brilliant performance against UCD in the final, the Galway team of third year students, Francis Quinn, Jenna Smyth and Colman Monaghan, took the top prize. Our second team, of Alexandrina Luca, Lara Nada Atia and Anita Halloran, also received very positive feedback from the judges. Congratulations to all and many thanks to Dr Abigail Rekas for supporting the teams!

Galway Wins Aoife King Memorial Moot

As mooting goes from strength to strength in the School of Law we were delighted to congratulate third year students Jenna Smyth, Francis Quinn and Colman Monaghan on winning

the Aoife King Memorial Moot at DCU in March 2024. Particular congratulations to Jenna Smyth on winning Best Speaker overall. Maith sibh!



Silken Thomas Moot Court Competition

The Silken Thomas Moot Court competition is organised annually by the Law Society at Maynooth University, and attracts teams from both national and international law schools. The team from Galway, Colman Monaghan and Dorian Jaros, came third overall, with Colman also coming away with the Best Speaker award. Many thanks to Dr Conor Hanly supported the team with their submission.



Frances Kyle Moot Competition

Congratulations to Zoya McCrann and Grace O'Neill, who made it to the semi-finals of the Frances Kyle Moot Competition. This competition is organised and hosted by ELSA TCD. In commenting on her experience, Grace said 'Presenting my arguments in front of judges and opposing counsel really helped me build my confidence in my abilities as a law student'. Comhghairdeas libh!

Tom O'Malley Moot

This year, our winners were a formidable team from Maynooth, comprised of Adam O'Carroll and Brian McMahon. Adam also clinched the coveted Best Speaker Award, a well-deserved recognition of his talent. University of Galway Law Soc treasurer, Dorian Jaros, and Colman Monaghan performed admirably as the competition runners-up.



Negotiation Competitions

In recognition of the growing importance of negotiation as a legal tool, we are delighted to see our students continuing to engage in negotiation competitions. Aodhan O'Meara and Krystian Bachan competed in the ELSA Maynooth International Negotiation Competition this year.

Congratulations to Dorian Jaros and Rupert McCauley for coming third overall and first among the Irish Universities in the National Negotiation Competition. Particular congratulations to Dorian for winning the title of Best Individual Speaker. Maith sibh!

Matheson Moot Competition Success!

University of Galway School of Law recorded another mooting success during the year, with the team of Francis Quinn and Colman Monaghan winning the UCC Law

Society Matheson Moot Competition. Colman also won the Best Individual Orator award

Comhghairdeas libh!



Professional Work Placements

Erin Murphy, KPMG:

Hello, my name is Erin Murphy, and I am currently participating in professional work placement in the KPMG Law department. From the beginning of my onboarding process, everyone here has been extremely welcoming and helpful. On my first day, I was assigned a buddy who is a recently qualified solicitor and a performance manager, both have been there to assist me in any matters. Currently I am working with the Corporate Restructuring team and the Intellectual Property, Technology and Commercial Contracts team, I am extremely lucky that both teams have involved me in many different types of work, allowing me to learn and develop my legal knowledge. I cannot recommend KPMG Law enough, and I could not have asked for a better team to help me confirm my desire to pursue a career in law. I am looking forward to the next few months of working alongside the KPMG Law team and furthering my knowledge.

We greatly value our partnership with University of Galway and find it highly beneficial in fostering talent and collaboration



for mutual success. The KPMG Work Placement Programme offers an incredible opportunity to experience life at KPMG and explore the range of services we provide to clients. As a market leader in technology, financial services, property, manufacturing, and distribution, we aim to prepare students for a successful career by providing insight into our business, clients, people, and culture.

With dedicated training professionals, we ensure you receive top-quality training to excel both in your exams and through client experiences. We've been recognized for our commitment to talent development, winning



Gradireland training awards for two consecutive years. Diversity of thought and inclusive collaboration are core to our culture, enhancing problem-solving and innovation. Our placements and graduates are the future of KPMG. We're committed to investing in their growth and take pride in watching them thrive and succeed in their careers.

Learn more about our opportunities at [KPMG Careers](#).

Damien Tansey, Solicitors LLP

Our firm is delighted to be partnering with the School of Law at University of Galway. We are a leading litigation firm with offices in Sligo and Dublin. We have acted for clients in some of the most high profile litigation cases in the country in recent years, and we have achieved standout result for clients. Students from University of Galway have played their part in those results through hard work and clear thinking.



But it also cuts both ways – those students gained invaluable experience and learning, both of which will stand to them throughout their careers - be those in law or otherwise. This is the true nature of our university partnership, and we hope it continues for many years to come.



Law Awards



Border Violence Monitoring Network

Meleanna Sunderland, BVMN

My name is Meleanna Sunderland, and I did my placement remotely through the NGO BVMN. At the beginning of my placement process, I was quite happy with the amount of support that the placement coordinators and university gave me. I attended all the seminars regarding building out a CV, preparing for interviews, and the expectations of students on placement. I highly encourage prospective placement students to attend these as well. Also, do not be afraid to ask for help!

My main responsibilities during my placement were focused on legal research, analysis of EU, UN, and Member State policies and actions, and drafting correspondence to these international institutions when required. I wrote many articles, notices, legal discussions, and statistical and data analyses, as well as contributed to monthly publications on the BVMN website which updated legal professionals and laypeople alike on developing news in the areas of asylum and immigration mostly. I also volunteered to cover the graphic design work for the organisation, making sure the publications adhered to brand standards, though this was

purely of my own volition. Most of my work was remote, but there were hard deadlines imposed by the governing bodies who expected out submissions, so there was very little opportunity to slack off.

My placement enhanced my understanding of the law by making me dive headfirst into cases and areas of the law without handholding by professors. I was expected to carry out my own legal research on topics such as maritime search and rescue obligations on Member States and the implementation of AI in the security sector to present worthwhile legal commentary to the European Union, the Court of Justice of the European Union, to various Ombudspersons, and the United Nations.

My placement influenced my career goals by showing me what it is like to work in an NGO. Over the course of my placement, I also got the opportunity to talk to many of my coworkers, many of whom were practising lawyers in the human rights and immigration sectors or academic scholars such as PhD recipients. It gave me the clarity to see that my interests lay elsewhere other than human rights law practise, and that

the work of an NGO is often rigorous and overlooked by both institutions and citizens, requiring an intense amount of vigour and passion, as does being a legal academic. Being remote also gave me an idea as to what at-home work is like, and while it was quite convenient, I realised that I would prefer to have a career where I can meet and speak to my coworkers in person.

My biggest takeaway from my work experience is that communication and teamwork are key skills for the working world whether someone works in a law office, an NGO, or outside the field of law completely. I found projects went their smoothest when there was a clear line of communication between all parties and everyone's role had been clearly defined. I also found that work placement stresses accountability, punctuality and professionalism, as students are expected to produce work of an acceptable standard to present to colleagues and to the final recipients, whether that be the EU itself, a court, or a client, on time and in its completed form.

Antoinette Vahey, Partner in RDJ's Galway Office

RDJ enjoys a long-standing partnership with the School of Law at University of Galway on a number of initiatives including the School of Law Work Placement Programme. As part of this annual programme, law students have the opportunity to work alongside our lawyers across a wide range of practice areas experiencing first-hand daily life in a leading Irish corporate law firm. Placement students work as part of our teams and dive deep into project-based legal assignments serving large multinationals, small and medium enterprises and innovative start-ups.

"The University of Galway School of Law Work Placement Programme is important to us for a number of reasons. Not only does it provide us with access to a highly educated and talented pool of law students, but it also provides those students with an opportunity to apply their academic learnings in a commercial



team-based setting. The programme has become a key platform for identifying future RDJ trainee solicitors. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with University of Galway to further promote and enhance the programme leading to greater access, diversity and inclusion within the legal sector."

Applications for RDJ's annual trainee solicitor programme will open in the coming weeks. For more information contact recruit@rdj.ie or apply through your university programme administrator.



WILLIAM FRY

William Fry, LLP

William Fry are proud to reflect on our longstanding and positive relationship with University of Galway's placement programme. Over the years, we have welcomed numerous students from the University into our practice, benefiting greatly from their fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and academic prowess.

Our collaboration with University of Galway has consistently brought us some of the brightest minds, keen to apply their knowledge and develop their skills in the legal world. These placements have not only allowed students to gain invaluable experience but have also enriched our firm with their innovative ideas and dedication.

Several students who have joined us through this programme have demonstrated exceptional potential, leading to their transition into traineeships within William Fry. It is a testament to the quality of education and preparation provided by University of Galway that so many of these students have either become integral members of our team or secured traineeships for their future career paths.

We appreciate University of Galway's commitment to fostering the next generation of legal professionals and look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come.

Edward Molloy, Blake & Kenny LLP Solicitors

As an employer participating in the School of Law School Work Placement Programme, I was impressed by the students' dedication, hard working principles and their commitment to learning. Most importantly the students experience the professional environment and have shown us a positive attitude towards delegated tasks with an ability to work within a team. The programme provides students with exposure to real-life legal scenarios, allowing them to experience firsthand what day-to-day working life is for a solicitor.

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Eversheds Sutherland, LLP

Eversheds Sutherland LLP are delighted to continue their partnership with University of Galway School of Law's Placement programme. Each year we receive feedback from across the business that the students are consistently performing to a high standard.

During their time with us placement students are provided with the opportunity to attend team and client meetings, presented with interesting and challenging work, have the opportunity to attend the courts and take part in our social activities. The placement students quickly become an integral part of the team they are assigned to and are heavily relied upon. They also have the opportunity to work in two departments during their placement to give them a rounded experience. We have a structured training programme for our placement students to help develop their skills in areas such as drafting, research and communication skills.

The Law School have always been very easy to work with and keep you informed early on of the timelines for the placement programme which helps us plan ahead. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with University of Galway and their placement programme.

It has been a pleasure mentoring such bright and promising future legal professionals. This programme has proven to be an excellent way for students to apply their studies with practical experience and we are able to identify future talent for our firm.

We look forward to continuing our involvement in this valuable initiative.



Careers in Law

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 2023. The highlight of the week was the Law Fair which took place in the Bailey Allen Hall. The Law Fair provided an opportunity for students to network with representatives from Ireland's major law firms, local firms, government bodies and other organisations and to explore exciting career opportunities both in and beyond the legal professions. Some of the employers and organisations that attended the Law Fair included A&L Goodbody, Arthur Cox, BARBRI Global, the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland, Courts Service of Ireland, Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh, Dechert, Deloitte, Eversheds Sutherland, EY (Ireland), Flynn O'Driscoll Business Lawyers, Galway Solicitor's Bar Association (representing Galway Law firms), Kennedys - Dublin, KPMG, the Law Society of Ireland, the Legal Aid Board, LK Shields, Maples Group, Matheson, McCann FitzGerald LLP, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Philip Lee, Pinsent Masons LLP, RDJ LLP, Walkers and William Fry.

Other events that took place included Qualifying as a Barrister by the King's Inns, the Law Library and Law Society, and an alumni panel on Alternative Careers for Law Students.

Law Fair 2024 will take place on Tuesday 15th 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 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 for the School of Law at maureen.osullivan@universityofgalway.ie or Aisling Conroy, Career Development Adviser to students in the School of Law on aisling.conroy@universityofgalway.ie

Conferences and Events

Honorary Degrees

Congratulations to Miriam Hand, Lourda McHugh, Neil Johnson, Hugh Logue and Mary Warde Moriarty, who were all awarded Doctor of Laws (LLD) honorary degrees in November 2023.

Mary Warde Moriarty, a traveller, human rights activist and author, has worked tirelessly for nearly 50 years to advance Traveller human rights and build bridges between the settled and Traveller communities in Ireland. Co-founder of the first Tuam Traveller Support Group established in 1984. Mary was President of the European Centre for Irish Travellers and led the development of a library dedicated to the history and origins of Irish Travellers. Co-founder of the National Council for the Travelling People, the National Federation of Irish Travellers and the National Association of Travellers' Centres, she was a co-founder of INVOLVE, the largest provider of Youth Services to young Travellers.

Hugh Logue first came to prominence as a Civil rights leader in the late 60s, serving as a member of the executive of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and as Vice-chair of the North Derry Civil Rights Association. A founder member of the SDLP, he was elected to the Stormont Assembly for that party in 1973, 1975 and 1981. He joined the European Commission and served in Brussels for the following 20 years as a senior Commission official. In this capacity he played a crucial role in the European Union's contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process and to the Good Friday Agreement.

Neil Johnson, CEO of Croí (Galway's charity for cardiovascular health).



Lourda McHugh & Miriam Hand



Mary Warde



Hugh Logue



Neil Johnson

Graduate of University of Galway, Honorary Clinical Fellow in the School of Medicine since 2015 and recipient of both Galway and Rehab 'People of the Year' awards. Neil has overseen foundation, growth and development of significant projects in cardiovascular health promotion, executed several multi-million euro fundraising initiatives and the construction of the Croí Heart and Stroke Centre Building in Newcastle.

Miriam Hand and Lourda McHugh are recognised for their advocacy, leadership, and steadfast commitment to raising funds for breast cancer research through community partnerships and sporting organisations. Long-time board members of the National Breast Cancer Research Institute supporting the development of research facilities at University of Galway, established research and academic appointments, and graduate scholarships resulting in academic impact and cancer research advances.



Visit of Minister Roderic O'Gorman to University of Galway

Minister Roderic O'Gorman visited University of Galway on Tuesday, 20th February 2024, where he was greeted by Dr Brian Tobin, School of Law, and Dr Helen Maher, Vice-President for EDI. The Minister mingled with students and staff at a reception in the Orbsen Building before a discussion in IT250 on the merits of the referendums on 'Family' and 'Care' that took place on March 8th. When departing, the Minister was delighted to be presented with a copy of Dr Brian Tobin's book, *The Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships: Emerging Families in Ireland and Beyond* (Oxford: Hart, 2023).



International Criminal Court Summer School 2024

The annual International Criminal Court (ICC) Summer School at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, held from 10-13 June 2024, once again provided an in-depth exploration of the workings of the ICC. The online event, which has been running for over two decades, brought together leading legal professionals, scholars, and postgraduate students from around the world. The Summer School offered participants the chance to gain expert knowledge on the Court's operations, jurisdiction, applicable laws, and ongoing global challenges related to international justice.

The four-day programme was filled with dynamic and thought-provoking lectures delivered by prominent experts in international law. This year's programme covered a range of topics, focusing on core ICC competencies like genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The course also included discussions on more contemporary concerns, such as the crime of aggression and the future of international criminal justice.

The Summer School kicked off on Monday, 10th June, with a welcome address by Professor Siobhan Mullally, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, and an introduction to the ICC by Professor Shane Darcy. This was followed by a session on "Jurisdiction and Admissibility" led by Dr. Rod Rastan from the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICC. The day concluded with a lecture by Professor Sergey Vasiliev on the crime of aggression.

On Tuesday, the participants delved into key ICC-related crimes, starting with a session on genocide by Professor William A. Schabas, followed by lectures on crimes against humanity, presented by Professor Chantal Meloni, and war crimes, covered by Professor Ray Murphy. These lectures provided a deep dive into the complexities of prosecuting such crimes on an international scale.

Wednesday's programme included a highly anticipated panel discussion on "Expectations and Realities of Justice at the ICC," with contributions from a diverse group of international legal practitioners and scholars, including Judge Vahe Grigoryan and Maria Elena Vignoli from Human Rights Watch. The day concluded with a detailed examination of evidence in international criminal trials, led by Judge Beti Hohler from the ICC, ensuring participants had a clear understanding of the procedural complexities involved in criminal trials at the international level.

The final day of the programme focused on defending cases before the ICC, with Kate Gibson, Defence Counsel at the ICC, sharing her expertise. This was followed by a session on penalties and enforcement of sentences, presented by Dr. Roisin Mulgrew from University of Galway.

The Summer School concluded with a forward-looking session on "The Future of International Criminal Justice," chaired by Judge Guénaél Mettraux.

The online format allowed for a truly global gathering of participants, offering them the opportunity to interact with some of the foremost figures in the field while also gaining critical insights into the current and future state of international justice.

For more updates on future ICC Summer Schools, follow the Summer School on X/Twitter at @ICCSummerSchool



Beti Hohler



Guénaél Mettraux



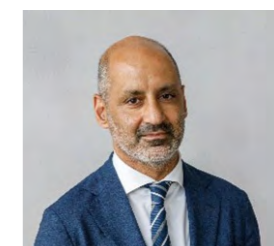
Chantal Meloni



William A. Schabas



Ahmed Aboufou



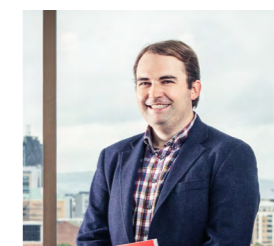
Rod Rastan



Owiso Owiso



Sergey Vasiliev



Luke Moffett



Kate Gibson

Implications of South Africa's Genocide Case at the International Court of Justice

The annual Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR) Distinguished Lecture at University of Galway was a highlight of the 2024 Nelson Mandela Anti-Racism Week. The lecture, delivered on 22nd March, featured Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, alongside Maha Abdallah, a prominent Palestinian PhD scholar from the University of Antwerp.

Their presentation delved into the implications of South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Albanese, known for her profound work on the human rights abuses in Gaza, and Abdallah, who researches the legal dimensions of Zionism, settler colonialism, and genocide, provided a sobering



Francesca Albanese

analysis of the ongoing crisis in Palestine. The speakers emphasised the severe humanitarian toll in Gaza, exacerbated by Israel's blockade, and highlighted South Africa's legal challenge as a critical step in addressing the systematic violence against Palestinians.

The event, held at the Human Biology Building during Nelson Mandela Anti-Racism Week, drew



Maha Abdallah

attention to the broader themes of justice and accountability in international law, resonating with the enduring legacy of Nelson Mandela's anti-apartheid struggle. The university's active role in promoting anti-racism was underscored by these discussions, which were organised by the Palestine Solidarity Society and supported by the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Project Fund and the ICHR.

Galway International Arts Festival 2024

As part of the First Thought Talks series curated by Catriona Crowe for Galway International Arts Festival, Professor Donncha O'Connell interviewed the internationally renowned human rights lawyer, Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh KC, at an event attended by over 200 people on Saturday 27th July in University of Galway.

Ms Ní Ghrálaigh, who is acting for the Government of South Africa in a case against Israel before the International Court of Justice arising from the war in Gaza, spoke about her Irish background and family roots in Mayo, what prompted her to become a lawyer and her work on a range of other cases.

At the end of her interview she received a rapturous standing ovation. A recording of this event is now available to view on Galway International Arts Festival's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaLT13TXjY0>



Dr Mulgrew presents at the University of Nottingham's International Criminal Justice Conference

On 8 July 2024, [Dr Róisín Mulgrew](#) presented her research at the inaugural [International Criminal Justice Conference](#) at the University of Nottingham.

Her presentation based on findings from her forthcoming book, *Early Release in International Criminal Law* (Elgar, 2025) focused on changes to the forms of release in international criminal law, the factors considered in release decision-making, and the impact of victim participation.

The conference, hosted by the Human Rights Law Centre's International Criminal Justice Unit took place at University Campus from 8-9 July 2024.



Enlight Workshop

In July, the School of Law hosted a workshop with participants from the universities of Göttingen, Groningen, and the Basque Country as part of the ENLIGHT '3G4P' project. This aims to create a suite of cross-disciplinary open educational materials on data analytics and artificial intelligence which will be both offered as a course across the ENLIGHT network and available for re-use in other courses.



Dr Mulgrew participates in the Office of the Inspector of Prisons' international conference

On 6 December 2023, Dr Mulgrew attended the timely international conference hosted by the Office of the Inspector of Prisons on Developing a Criminal Justice National Preventive Mechanism in Ireland.

Dr Mulgrew, along with LLM students from the Irish Centre for Human Rights, participated in roundtable discussions about the challenges and opportunities for developing a criminal justice National Preventive Mechanism in Ireland under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture.

The key note speech was delivered by Judge Mykola Gnatovskyy (ECTHR). Insights and views were also shared by panellists from the UK's NPM, the UN Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Irish Penal Reform Trust, the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Council of Europe.

Dr Mulgrew is an Expert Panel Member for the [Office of the Inspector of Prisons](#).

Latin America Studies Association Annual Conference

In June 2024, Dr. Anita Ferrara attended the Latin America Studies Association Annual Conference at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia with PhD student Beatrice Canossi. During the conference, Dr. Ferrara and other transitional justice experts participated in a panel discussion on the consequences and the "afterlife" of Truth Commissions.

IRC PhD scholar **Beatrice Canossi** also presented at LASA 2024, joining a panel with Judges from the Colombian Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SJP) and Academics. Beatrice presented with SJP Deputy Judge, Hugo Escobar Fernández de Castro with a paper on "The Case of Dabeiba 'Las Mercedes' Cemetery: Examining Contributions and Innovations of Colombian Transitional Justice."



In the accompanying picture, Dr. Ferrara (on the right) and Beatrice Canossi (on the left) are at Javeriana University in Bogota.

Conference on Contemporary Parent-Child Relationships and the Law

Dr Brian Tobin hosted a successful conference, Contemporary Parent-Child Relationships and the Law, at University of Galway on Saturday, 25th November. The conference included a range of Irish, U.K. and European experts, and a presentation from Senator Mary Seery Kearney on the recently-enacted legislation to regulate international surrogacy. Other contemporary themes covered included trans parentage, children conceived through home-insemination with a known donor, hearing the voice of the surrogate-born child in surrogacy law reform initiatives, and guardianship for unmarried fathers. Professor Conor O'Mahony (UCC) gave the keynote address, and spoke of the potential of the forthcoming referendum on 'The Family' in March 2024 to fill any remaining gaps in constitutional and legislative protection for all families. The conference was co-funded by the Society of Legal Scholars and the College of Business, Public Policy and Law.



Senator Mary Seery-Kearney, Professor Conor O'Mahony, and Dr Brian Tobin

Aisling McNally and Dr Róisín Mulgrew present at the North/South Criminology Conference

The Irish North/South Criminology Conference was hosted by both Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University in Belfast from 17-19 June 2024.

The Conference's theme was Criminology in Times of Conflict: Rights, Harms and Responsibilities.

Two members of the Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster presented their research.

Aisling McNally gave a paper entitled 'Perusing the Perspectives of Domestic Violence Support Organisations using Structural Role Theory on a panel 'Exploring Victimisation'.

Dr Róisín Mulgrew presented her research on 'Implementing Punishment in the Context of Atrocity Crimes: Factors and Voices Influencing International Release Decisions' on a panel focusing on 'Criminology, conflict and war'

The programme for the event can be viewed here: [Irish North-South Conference Programme \(June '24\)](#)



Aisling McNally & Dr Róisín Mulgrew

Conference on Repealing Offences Against the State Acts

Last February Professor Donncha O'Connell co-organised with Dr Alan Greene of Birmingham Law School a two-day conference on repealing the Offences Against the State Acts that was attended by over 100 people and featured 15 speakers. The conference chairs were Professor Caroline Fennell, formerly of UCC, and Ms Justice Iseult O'Malley of the Irish Supreme Court. A keynote address was delivered by Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin MRIA KC, the former UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism & Human Rights and Regents Professor & Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy & Society at the University of Minnesota and Professor of Law at Queen's University Belfast, which was reported extensively in The Irish Times: <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/02/16/state-urged-to-resist-use-of-exceptional-measures-to-tackle-terror-and-extremism/>. The conference also heard from leading criminal barrister and Galway law graduate, Mr Brendan Grehan SC, whose paper also received prominent media coverage: <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/02/19/top-barrister-criticises-scandalous-use-of-emergency-law-to-prop-up-special-criminal-court/>.



Brendan Grehan SC



Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin

The conference was organised by way of follow-up to the Independent Review of the Offences Against the State Acts, published by Government in June 2023, in which Professor O'Connell and Dr Greene participated and wrote a minority report (accessible via this link): <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/1d784-offences-against-the-state-review-report/>.

A report of the conference edited by Professor O'Connell and Dr Greene, with video recordings all sessions, will be published online this autumn.

Dr Mulgrew and Professor Darcy provide training at the Military College of the Irish Defence Forces

On 11 March 2024, Dr Róisín Mulgrew and Professor Shane Darcy provided training on the Land Command and Staff Course.

The course is designed to prepare students to become Senior Officers within the Defence Forces.

The lectures were delivered at the Military College in The Curragh Camp.

Lectures covered the history, law and principles of international human rights law, the law of armed conflict/international humanitarian law and international criminal law.



School of Law Research Day

On 30 May 2024, the School of Law came together to share their research. The Crime, Punishment and Rights Cluster members shared findings, and updates on publications and projects.


Dr Róisín Mulgrew discussed findings from her forthcoming monograph, 'Early Release in International Criminal Law'.

Dr Conor Hanly discussed his recent project, 'A rapid review of delay in Irish rape cases'. Professor Shane Darcy presented a paper entitled 'Internal wars and International Laws: Ireland 1916-1923'.

Dr Charles O'Mahony shared findings from a recent 'Baseline Study on the Right to Access to Justice for Disabled People in Ireland'.

And finally, Dr Rory Kelly presented on 'Retrospective Legislation and the Safeguard Deficit'.





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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

Experts in Responding to Child Sexual Abuse from Barnahus and An Garda Síochána share insights with Victimology Students

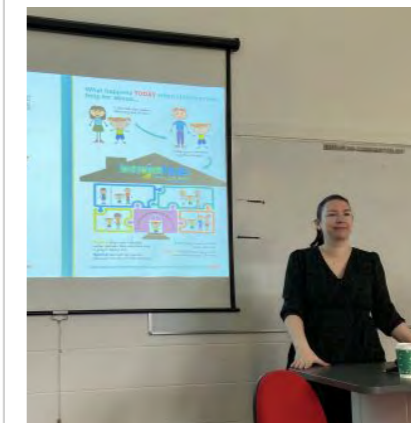
Final year Law, Criminology and Criminal Justice students benefited from the wealth of experience of recent guest lecturers who talked about a child sensitive and victimological centred approach to dealing with reports and prosecutions of child sexual abuse.

Dr. Mulgrew, module convenor of the Victimology module, was delighted to welcome two experts that advocate for, and help to operationalise, a child-sensitive approach to process and procedures in Ireland to talk to the class on 28 February 2024.

Niamh O'Loughlin, social worker team leader and specialist interviewer from Tusla, explained the Barnahus multi-agency and child-centred approach to working with children affected by sexual violence.

The Barnahus model enables children to meet with police, medical personnel, social workers and therapists under the same roof.

Garda Ken Murphy, an expert in Specialist Interviewing techniques from the Crime Specialist and Operational Skills Unit in the Garda College, shared information about and insights from his experience in interviewing children and persons with intellectual disabilities.

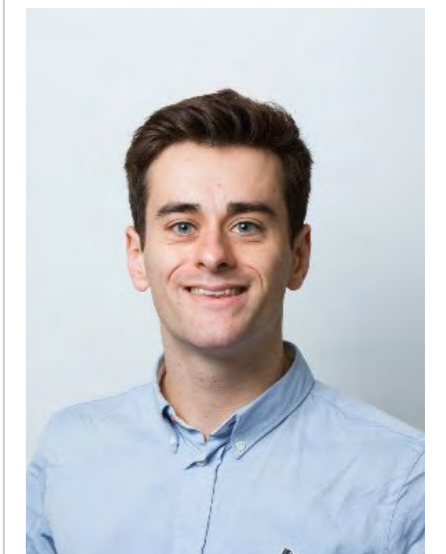


Niamh O'Loughlin

Dr Rory Kelly speaks on Prison Labour

On 2 November 2023 Dr Rory Kelly presented a paper on Prison Labour to colleagues at the Staff Research Seminar Series. Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit Acted as a respondent. Professor Van Zyl Smit is Emeritus Professor of Criminology and Senior Research Scholar, University of Cape Town and Emeritus Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law, University of Nottingham.

The presentation queried whether prison labour ought to be considered part of an offender's punishment. At present in England and Wales prison labour is not so classed. The sentence is the years to be served in prison and on licence in the community. The argument for reclassification drew on comparison to general features of punishment and to the role of labour in other sentences - the community order and suspended sentences. The paper also engaged with the difficulties that would follow from reclassification. Would proportionality dictate that sentences of imprisonment should be reduced and, if so, by how much? The paper finished by engaging with the alternative: that prison labour could be reformed to make it non-punitive through giving the offender a choice of whether to work and wider labour protections. The paper concluded prison labour is lost when classed as neither punishment nor as employment.



Dr Rory Kelly

Alumni News

Shawan Jabarin Receives University of Galway Alumni Award

We are pleased to announce that Shawan Jabarin, a distinguished alumnus of University of Galway, has been honoured with the prestigious Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy and Society, sponsored by RDJ. This accolade recognises Shawan's unwavering dedication and impactful contributions to human rights advocacy.

Shawan is a Palestinian human rights defender, General Director of the Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq, and a member of Human Rights Watch Middle East Advisory Board. He was Amnesty International's first Palestinian Prisoner of Conscience, and he has worked for years promoting human rights in the face of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. From 2005 to 2009, Shawan was a member of the Board of Directors of Défense for Children International - Palestine, the national section of the Geneva-based Défense for Children International, and was elected vice president of the International Federation for Human Rights in May 2013.

He is the recipient of many honours and awards for his human rights advocacy work, and leadership of Al-Haq.

Congratulations Shawan!



Photos credit: Aengus McMahon & Mike Shaughnessy

Shawan Jabarin with Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Professor Siobhán Mullally, and Minister of State, Hildegard Naughton TD



University of Galway President Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh and JP Gilmartin of RDJ (sponsors of the Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy and Society) presenting Shawan with his award

Eric Ehigie and Tom O'Connor Awarded George Moore Scholarships

Congratulations to Eric Ehigie, Law (BCL) and Business graduate, and Tom O'Connor, Law (BCL) and Human Rights graduate, who were both awarded George Moore Scholarships. The George Moore Scholarship is an all-Ireland scholarship programme which supports academically talented students who wish to undertake a Master's degree in the US, Canada, Europe or the UK. Eric is now studying for a Master of Public Policy at University of Oxford, while Tom is studying for an MSc in Journalism, specialising in Social Justice and Solutions Journalism at Northwestern University.



Eric Ehigie



Tom O'Connor

Galway graduate Julie O'Farrell, Head of the Irish Translation Unit at the Court of Justice of the European Union

I graduated from the first BCL class in 2003 and decided to focus on legal translation after Irish was made an official language of the EU in 2007. In 2010 I did my master's with Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge (MA san Aistriúchán Reachtáíochta agus Dlí) and combining my both degrees I worked as a researcher on a legal dictionary and then with Rannóg an Aistriúcháin, the translation section of the Houses of the Oireachtas. I moved to the Irish unit at the Court of Justice of the European Union in 2018, joining the Court as a lawyer-linguist and became head of unit in June of this year.

We still have vacancies in my unit and I would love to hear from Galway graduates interested in applying. My particular degrees from Galway really helped me with my career (I also have a diploma in Italian) but the only requirement to work as a lawyer-linguist is a law degree (along with EU citizenship). No formal qualifications in languages are required but applicants do sit translation tests. The work is challenging but my team is dedicated and enthusiastic which makes it a great place to work. Bigí linn! Déan teagmháil liom: Julie.O_Farrell@curia.europa.eu



Julie O'Farrell

BA and LLB Graduate Called to the Inner Bar

Congratulations and best wishes to our alumnus, Alan Keating SC, who was called to the Inner Bar during the year. Alan, who is a graduate of our BA and LLB courses, was originally called to the Bar of Ireland in 2002.

Alan practices in several areas including professional liability; medical negligence; media and defamation; planning and environmental law; legal costs; commercial litigation, banking, finance, and insurance; human rights and tribunals & ADR.



Alan Keating SC

School of Law Alumnus Elected Junior Vice President of the Law Society of New South Wales

Congratulations to our alumnus Ronan MacSweeney, who was elected Junior Vice President of the Law Society of New South Wales, the representative body, and co-regulator of 40,000 solicitors in Australia.



Ronan MacSweeney



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

To submit your class note, email alumni@universityofgalway.ie or visit universityofgalway.ie/alumni-friends/

Autumn Conferring 2024



Annie Lovisetto from Kerry, Sam McCallum from Dublin and Isabella Gannon from Galway all graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Civil Law and Human Rights.



Daisy Nabasitu from Uganda graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy (Phd) (Law).



Marie Keogh from Laois graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Civil Law, Criminology and Criminal Justice.



Daniel O'Grady from Kildare and Paris Ediagbonya both graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Civil Law and Human Rights.



Niamh McManus from Athlone and Valerie Hughes from Clare both graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Civil Law and Business.

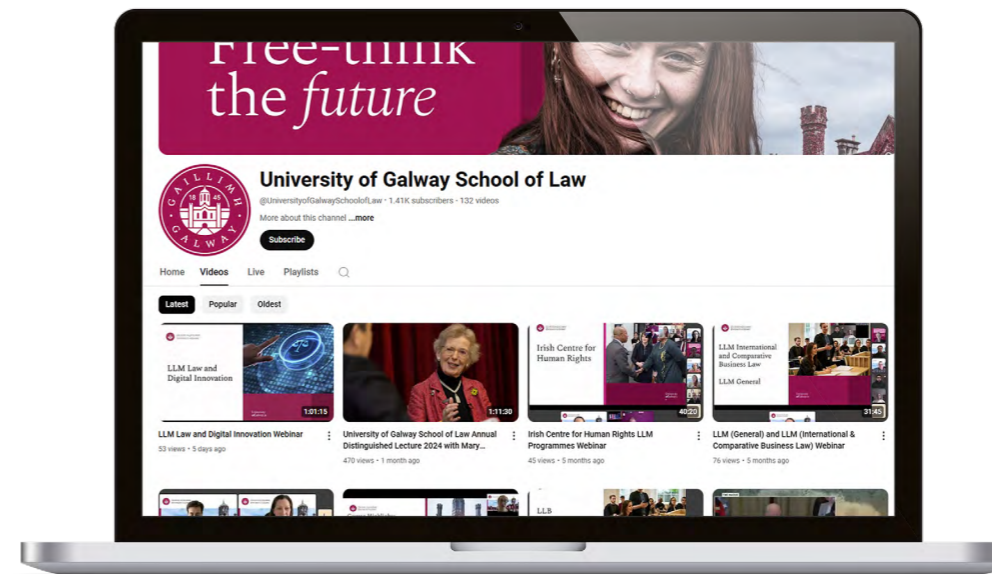


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Scoil an Dlí
School of Law

Dlísceála Newsletter

For friends, students and alumni of the School of Law



You can find videos of some of our events on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/c/UniversityofGalwaySchoolofLaw



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Discover more at
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