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The Bar Review November 2014

Lost Evidence and the Court of Trial

GARNET ORANGE SC

Introduction

There is a well-worn path leading from the various trial courts through the High Court and on to the Supreme Court made by accused persons who are applying to stop their trials because evidence has been lost. A quick review of the relevant decisions shows that the higher courts will only prohibit a trial for this reason in exceptional circumstances. In many cases the judgments comment that the accused can still raise the issue of lost evidence during his trial and note that the trial court is well equipped to deal with any difficulties that may emerge for the accused during the trial for this reason.¹

However, it does not appear that there is any great body of jurisprudence within Ireland to guide the trial courts on this issue. While it hardly seems possible that the problem of lost evidence has only arisen in Ireland within the last twenty years, the recent development of the jurisprudence may be seen to be linked to the advent of CCTV and expanded forensic testing. This suggests that in earlier cases, the trial judge was able to deal with the issue by rulings based on the existing law.² This article is intended to consider how issues arising where evidence has been lost may be dealt with by the court of trial rather than by the higher courts.

Duties and relevant evidence

The gardaí have a duty to seek out and preserve all potentially relevant evidence.³ This is evidence that may have a bearing on either the guilt or innocence of the accused. The Supreme Court has linked this duty to preserve evidence with the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial and the proper administration of justice.⁴ However, the duty is not absolute and is subject to “commonsense parameters of reasonable practicality”.⁵ The duty does not impose an obligation on the gardaí to engage in disproportionate commitment of resources in an exhaustive search for every conceivable kind of evidence, and the duty must “be interpreted in a fair and reasonable manner.”⁶ Nor does the duty oblige the gardaí “to preserve every useless exhibit or every item which has yielded no practical forensic result.”⁷ There is a corresponding

duty on the accused and his legal advisers to identify any evidence that ought to be apparent to them will be required to sustain any defence they wish to advance and to request, with reasonable expedition, that it be preserved or that they be given access to it for examination.⁸

The decided cases show that there are two ways in which evidence may be said, for present purposes, to have been lost. The evidence may have been seized, but the gardaí failed to preserve or retain it (either by mislaying it or by releasing it to a third party). Alternatively, the gardaí may not have obtained the evidence in the first place. The courts have recognised that there is no obvious distinction between cases in which the gardaí obtained evidence that has been mislaid and those in which they failed to seize (or preserve) material that might be evidentially significant.⁹ The courts tend not to concern themselves with blame as part of the consideration of an application to prohibit a trial on the basis that the courts have no role in the management or in the disciplining of the gardaí.¹⁰

Relevant and significant evidence

It is a standard defence tactic to try and expose failings in the investigation of an offence as a means of showing the paucity of evidence against the accused and thereby establishing that doubts must remain as to his guilt as a result of the failure to secure all available evidence.¹¹

It goes without saying that the judge should be satisfied that the relevant evidence comes within the duty to seek out and preserve evidence and that, taking a realistic approach to the case, it is relevant to the defence. The decisions of the higher courts tend to show that the missing evidence is central to the case. The defence must engage with the evidence as it develops to show that there is a reality in the argument that the accused has been unfairly prevented from mounting a proper defence owing to the loss of that evidence.¹² It may be that the missing evidence would have assisted the defence or that the accused has been deprived of the chance to test it in an adversarial sense. It may be asked whether the breach of the duty to preserve evidence led to the loss of relevant evidence which should be available in an “independently verifiable form” and, if so, has the accused been prejudiced in his defence as a result?¹³ Alternatively, does the loss of the

1 *McFarlane v DPP* [2007] 1 IR 134.

2 For example, the absence of a piece of evidence may have led to the exclusion of any reference to that evidence or anything arising from it on the basis of a break in the chain of evidence.

3 *Braddish v DPP* [2001] 3 IR 127 at p. 133 to 135; *Murphy v DPP* [1989] ILRM 71 at p. 76; *Dunne v DPP* [2002] 2 IR 305; *Bowes v DPP* [2003] 2 IR 25 at p. 33; *Savage v DPP* [2009] 1 IR 185 at paras. 41 (iii) and 59.

4 *Dunne v DPP* [2002] 2 IR 305 at p. 324; also *Byrne v DPP* [2011] 1 IR 346 at para. 20.

5 *Scully v DPP* [2005] 1 IR 242 at p. 256; *Bowes v DPP* [2003] 2 IR 25; and, *Murphy v DPP* [1989] ILRM 71.

6 *Bowes v DPP* [2003] 2 IR 25 at p. 33; *D(C) v DPP* [2009] IESC 70 at para 36; and *Byrne v DPP* [2011] 1 IR 346 at para 24.

7 *McCormack v Judges of the Circuit Court* [2007] IEHC 123 at para. 14.

8 *Dunne v DPP* [2002] 2 IR 305 at p. 323; *Bowes v DPP* [2003] 2 IR 25; and *Scully v DPP* [2005] 1 IR 252 at p. 251.

9 *Dunne v DPP* [2002] 2 IR 305; and *Byrne v DPP* [2011] 1 IR 346 at para. 24.

10 See *McFarlane v DPP* [2007] 1 IR 134 at para. 21.

11 See the comments of O’Donnell J in *Wall v DPP* [2013] IESC 56 at para. 39.

12 See *Bowes and McGrath v DPP* [2003] 2 IR 25; *O’Brien v DPP* [2008] IESC 67; *C (R) v DPP* [2009] IESC 32; *McHugh v DPP* [2009] IESC 15; and *Stirling v Judge Collins* [2014] IESC 13.

13 *McFarlane v DPP* [2007] 1 IR 134 at para. 31; and *D(C) v DPP* [2009]

relevant evidence mean that “the accused will be unable to advance a point material to his defence?”¹⁴

One decision that may indicate the approach to be taken by the courts is *Bowes (No. 3)*.¹⁵ Here the applicant had been convicted of possession of a substantial quantity of heroin which had been found in the boot of a car that was being driven by him. Following the imposition of sentence the usual order was made for the forfeiture and destruction of the drugs, which were destroyed shortly afterwards. The Court of Criminal Appeal quashed the conviction and ordered a retrial.¹⁶ As the retrial was about to commence, it became apparent that the drugs had been destroyed. The prosecution relied on photographs of the drugs and the certificate of analysis. The applicant raised the absence of the hard evidence at the trial and on appeal. The Court of Criminal Appeal found that there was no prejudice to the applicant in that, while he denied possession, it had never been suggested that there were no drugs in the vehicle. The issue that was identified by the Court was “whether prejudice in the conduct of the trial has been established”. The Court also rejected a suggestion that the prosecution were obliged to give a “positive explanation” for the loss of the drugs before the secondary evidence could be adduced.

The role of the trial judge

The criminal trial provides the forum in which the prosecution case is tested by the cross-examination of witnesses and the consideration of evidence. The importance of trial judges in protecting and vindicating the rights of an accused person have been noted in a number of decisions.¹⁷ The accused is protected by the trial judge having the power to exclude evidence, and give appropriate warnings in any given case, and by having the power to withdraw cases from the jury where the prosecution evidence fails to establish a sufficiently strong *prima facie* case against an accused.

It is for the trial judge to rule on the admissibility of evidence. For present purposes it may be noted that the trial judge has discretion to exclude a particular piece of evidence on the grounds that it would be unfair to admit it in evidence against an accused.¹⁸ It might be argued that this discretion should be invoked in a case in which an accused is able to show that it would be unfair to him, or that he would be prejudiced, if evidence relating to the lost evidence was adduced against him. The trial judge must also consider what warnings, if any, should be given to the jury arising from missing evidence.¹⁹ In addition, the trial judge may take missing evidence into consideration in ruling whether a

direction of not guilty should be given at the conclusion of the prosecution case.²⁰

If all else fails the trial judge also retains a discretion to stop a trial from proceeding to a final verdict. This jurisdiction is described by Denham J, for the Supreme Court, in the following terms:

“the trial court retains at all time its inherent and constitutional duty to ensure that there is due process and a fair trial. Thus, in the course of the trial matters may arise, evidence may be given, which renders a trial unfair, or the process unfair. In these circumstances the trial judge retains the jurisdiction of preventing the trial from proceeding. This jurisdiction is exercised in the course of a trial but does not enable, or relate to, a preliminary hearing at the commencement of a trial on the issue of delay.”²¹

In each case, the trial judge must assess the evidence as it develops in the case and determine whether there is unfairness to the accused which cannot be remedied by the exclusion of the contested evidence, or by an appropriate warning to the jury, and he may exercise his discretion in favour of stopping the trial if it would be unfair to the accused to proceed to a final verdict because of the lost evidence.²² However, it seems safe to assume that this discretion is one that will only be invoked in exceptional cases where clear prejudice to the accused has been demonstrated.

The burden on the accused

It remains to be seen what burden is on an accused to persuade a trial judge to exercise these discretions in the accused’s favour. The decisions of the higher courts in cases of this type appear to indicate the approach that the trial court should take. These show that each case must be considered on its own circumstances.²³ The onus on the applicant for prohibition has been described in terms by Hardiman J that might also show what is required in a trial setting:

“[T]here is obviously a need for an applicant to engage in a specific way with the evidence actually available so as to make the risk apparent.... This is not a burdensome onus of proof: what is in question, after all, is the demonstration of a real risk, as opposed to an established certainty, or even probability of an unfair trial.”²⁴

Therefore, Hardiman J appears to be stating that an accused is not required to prove prejudice on the balance of probabilities but is required to show that a reasonable doubt exists as to the fairness of the trial. This approach is in accordance with

IESC 70 at para. 27.

14 *Savage v DPP* [2009] 1 IR 185 para. 60.

15 *People (DPP) v Bowes (No. 3)* [2006] IECCA 183.

16 *People (DPP) v Bowes* [2004] 4 IR 223.

17 See, for example *Byrne v DPP* [2011] 1 IR 346 per O’Donnell J at para. 20.

18 See *D(C) v DPP* [2009] IESC 70 at para. 23; also *People (DPP) v Breen* [1995] WJSC-CCA 2054.

19 For example, see the delay warning in *People (DPP) v R.B.* Unreported, Court of Criminal Appeal, 12th February, 2003. The loss of evidence is often of feature in cases of delay. Also, *People (DPP) v PJ* [2003] 3 IR 550.

20 *People (DPP) v O’Shea* [1983] ILRM 592.

21 *People (DPP) v P O’C* [2006] 3 IR 248; also *McFarlane v DPP* [2007] 1 IR 134; and *Donnellan v Judges of the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court* [2014] IEHC 158 at para. 15.

22 *McFarlane v DPP* [2007] 1 IR 134.

23 *Byrne v DPP* [2011] 1 IR 346 at para. 9.

24 *McFarlane v DPP* [2007] 1 IR 134 at para. 23. Also, *Scully v DPP* [2005] 1 IR 242 at para. 22; *Wall v DPP* [2013] IESC 56 at para. 11 of Denham CJ’s judgment, and, also, see paras. 15 to 19 of the judgment of O’Donnell J.

the burden on an accused in other circumstances during a criminal trial.²⁵ A trial court will be unlikely to impose a higher burden on an accused person than would apply if he were trying to prohibit his trial.

European and UK jurisprudence

Further guidance might be obtained from outside Ireland. In the UK, it is recognised that trial courts have, at common law, “a residual discretion to prevent anything which savours of an abuse of process” and have “an inescapable duty to secure fair treatment for those who come or are brought before them.”²⁶ Trial courts have a discretionary power to stay proceedings for an abuse where the court concludes that the accused cannot receive a fair trial or where it would be unfair for him to be tried.²⁷ It is now accepted that this discretion may be invoked in cases where relevant evidence has been lost or destroyed and the accused can show that he has been prejudiced to the extent that a fair trial cannot be had.²⁸ It appears that this places a greater burden on an accused person than would be the case before a trial court in Ireland.²⁹

There are also two decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in which applicants claimed that their right to a fair trial, as guaranteed by Art. 6 of the Convention, was breached owing to the loss of relevant evidence. These decisions show that the Court is concerned with the fairness of the proceedings and not with the rules of evidence applied. In *Papageorgiou v Greece*³⁰ the applicant was a bank clerk who was convicted of forgery and fraud. The defence case was that the instructions for fraudulent payments had been written on the original cheques by other employees of the bank. The production of the original cheques had been vital to his defence since it would have enabled him to show that he was not guilty of fraud.

During the trial process, the applicant had requested the production of certain documents, including the original cheques, and that the prosecution’s handwriting expert should be cross-examined in the presence of the defence expert. This was refused by the Court of Appeal which relied on photocopies of the cheques after these had been destroyed by order of the Court of First Instance. At no stage of the proceedings did the courts of trial examine extracts from the log file of the bank’s computer or the original cheques, or check whether the copies submitted to them corresponded with the originals. The applicant’s conviction for fraud was therefore based to a large extent on the photocopies of the cheques in question. The Court of Human Rights held that there had been a violation of the Convention in that there had been a failure to provide the applicant with an adversarial procedure that would meet the requirements of Art. 6(3)(d).

In *Sofri v Italy*,³¹ the applicants had been arrested on suspicion of having ordered the killing of a public prosecutor who had been murdered on 17th May, 1972. On 20th July, 1988, an accomplice gave himself up to the police, claiming that he had been the gunman and that he had acted on the orders of the applicants. The applicants were arrested and charged with the murder. During the subsequent trial, it became apparent that certain evidence relating to the murder was not available. The defence argued that it would be unfair to proceed without this evidence, but the argument was rejected and the applicants were convicted.

The European Court of Human Rights found that the complaint under Art. 6 was unfounded. The destruction of items of evidence relating to the murder was regrettable but this did not give rise to any inequality of arms to the detriment of the defendants. The applicants were unable to explain how the missing evidence was relevant to their case. Whilst expert examination of the evidence was relevant to establishing the exact sequence of events and thus to challenging the credibility of the accomplice’s evidence, the defence did have access to forensic reports and photographs of the evidence that had been made shortly after the killing and were able to carry out computer analysis of the photographs. Moreover, the defence was able to challenge witness testimony on other grounds and the prosecution laboured under the same difficulties as the defence because of the destruction of the evidence.

In summary

In the absence of any clear judicial statements on the law relating to lost evidence in trial situations, the following points may represent the law:

- (i) the trial judge has a duty to ensure that an accused receives a fair trial;
- (ii) Arising from that duty, the trial judge retains a discretion to exclude items of evidence if it would be unfair to have it admitted into evidence against the accused;
- (iii) In addition, the trial judge retains jurisdiction to stop a trial if it would be unfair to the accused to proceed to a verdict;
- (iv) This jurisdiction may be invoked in cases of lost evidence and delay;
- (v) The jurisdiction to stop a trial may only be sparingly invoked and will only be invoked where the ordinary protections that are available to an accused during the trial process (i.e. exclusion of evidence and warnings) are inadequate to ensure a fair trial;
- (vi) An application to exclude evidence on this ground should be dealt with as a trial-within-a trial;
- (vii) The onus is on the accused to show that he has been prejudiced by the loss or unavailability of the evidence or that there is a real risk of the trial being unfair. ■

25 See, for example, *People (DPP) v Smyth* [2010] 3 IR 688.

26 *Connelly v DPP* [1964] AC 1254.

27 *R v Beckford* [1996] 1 Cr App R 94 per Lord Justice Neill at 100G.

28 *R v Feltham Magistrates’ Court ex p Ebrahim* [2001] All ER 831. Also, *B (Prosecution Appeal)* [2008] EWCA 1144; *R v Khalid Ali* [2007] EWCA Crim 691; and *R v Birmingham* [1992] Crim LR 117. See, Martin “Lost and Destroyed Evidence: The Search for a Principled Approach to Abuse of Process” (2007) 171 JPN 556.

29 See the comments of Hardiman J in *Wall v DPP* [2013] IESC 56 at p. 51.

30 *Papageorgiou v Greece* [2004] Crim LR 844 [2004] 38 EHRR 30.

31 *Sofri v Italy* [2004] Crim LR 846 (Application No. 37235/97).

Minding your P's and Q's – Detention, Capacity and the Law

CIARÁN DOHERTY BL

Introduction

As we await the introduction of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) legislation in this jurisdiction, which promises to overhaul our outdated laws with respect to mental capacity and the Ward of Court system, recent developments in England highlight the need for further reform.

The term 'Bournewood gap' was coined in England as a result of the *H.L. v. United Kingdom*¹ case, where the European Court of Human Rights held that the involuntary admission to hospital of a man with autism, who remained in the hospital compliantly but who was incapacitated, was unlawful and in contravention of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court held that there were no sufficient procedural review safeguards. The *H.L.* case led to substantial legal reform in England and Wales. This included the introduction of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which were introduced by the Mental Health Act 2007 so as to protect the Article 5 rights of vulnerable people. To date, this legislative lacuna has not been filled in this State.

The recent decision of the United Kingdom Supreme Court in *P (by his litigation friend the Official Solicitor) v. Cheshire West and Chester Council and P and Q (by their litigation friend, the Official Solicitor) v. Surrey County Council*², handed down on 19th March 2014, focuses on the issues surrounding the care of vulnerable persons. The case underlines the importance attached to ensuring that there are adequate procedural safeguards for persons suffering from a mental disorder who lack the capacity to consent to treatment programmes which require their placement in a hospital, home or form of supported housing.

Before the decision in *P & Q and P*, there was some uncertainty as to which cases were intended to be the subject of DoLS. Since their introduction, the safeguards had been used much less than had been envisaged. Therefore, in practical terms, the authorities and the courts had interpreted the legislation such that most cases of long or short term residential care were simply not covered. This had led to uncertainty, inconsistency and discrepancies in the protections that should have been afforded under Article 5. Indeed the reasoning of Court of Appeal in *P & Q and P* was essentially that persons suffering from a serious disability were being deprived of their liberty as a consequence of the disability itself.³

The P & Q and P case

The case of '*P & Q and P*' concerned two sisters who had learning disabilities and required support. P (referred to as MIG in the judgment) was placed with a foster mother, who provided her with intensive support. P never left the home by herself and showed no wish to do so, but if she did, the foster mother would restrain her.⁴ Q (referred to as MEG in the judgment) was in a residential home for learning disabled adults with complex needs. Her care needs were met only as a result of continuous supervision and control. She showed no wish to go out on her own and so did not need to be prevented from doing so. She was accompanied by staff whenever she left.⁵ In the case of '*P*', P was born with cerebral palsy and Down's syndrome and required 24 hour care to meet his personal needs. He was placed in a small residence with two others, where care staff were permanently present and he was monitored.⁶

The issue before the court was whether these three people were 'detained' such that the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were applicable. Lady Hale reviewed the Strasbourg jurisprudence, and concluded as follows:

"48. So is there an acid test for the deprivation of liberty in these cases? I entirely sympathise with the desire of Munby L.J. to produce such a test and thus to avoid the minute examination of the living arrangements of each mentally incapacitated person for whom the state makes arrangements which might otherwise be required. Ms. Richards is right to say that the Guzzardi test is repeated in all the cases, irrespective of context. If any of these cases went to Strasbourg, we could confidently predict that it would be repeated once more. But these cases are not about the distinction between a restriction on freedom of movement and the deprivation of liberty. P, MIG and MEG are, for perfectly understandable reasons, not free to go anywhere without permission and close supervision. So what are the particular features of their "concrete situation" on which we need to focus?"

49. The answer, as it seems to me, lies in those features which have consistently been regarded as "key" in the jurisprudence which started with *HL v United Kingdom* 40 EHRR 761: that the person concerned "was under continuous supervision and

1 *H.L. v United Kingdom* 45508/99 [2004] 40 EHRR 761.

2 *P (by his litigation friend the Official Solicitor) v. Cheshire West and Chester Council and P and Q (by their litigation friend, the Official Solicitor) v. Surrey County Council* [2014] UKSC 19.

3 "Deprivation of Liberty: Issues Following P & Q and P" Paper

presented by Lizanne Gumbel QC to Leigh Day seminar on Deprivation of Liberty and Unlawful Detention 3 June 2014.

4 [2014] UKSC 19, at para. 13.

5 *Ibid*, at para 14.

6 *Ibid*, at para 17.

control and was not free to leave” (para 91). I would not go so far as Mr Gordon, who argues that the supervision and control is relevant only insofar as it demonstrates that the person is not free to leave. A person might be under constant supervision and control but still be free to leave should he express the desire so to do. Conversely, it is possible to imagine situations in which a person is not free to leave but is not under such continuous supervision and control as to lead to the conclusion that he was deprived of his liberty. Indeed, that could be the explanation for the doubts expressed in *Haidn v Germany*.

50. The National Autistic Society and Mind, in their helpful intervention, list the factors which each of them has developed as indicators of when there is a deprivation of liberty. Each list is clearly directed towards the test indicated above. But the charities do not suggest that this court should lay down a prescriptive list of criteria. Rather, we should indicate the test and those factors which are not relevant. Thus, they suggest, the person’s compliance or lack of objection is not relevant; the relative normality of the placement (whatever the comparison made) is not relevant; and the reason or purpose behind a particular placement is also not relevant. For the reasons given above, I agree with that approach.⁷

Lady Hale concluded that all three people were detained and stressed the importance of ensuring that the rights of highly vulnerable individuals are vindicated. She stated:

57. Because of the extreme vulnerability of people like P, MIG and MEG, I believe that we should err on the side of caution in deciding what constitutes a deprivation of liberty in their case. They need a periodic independent check on whether the arrangements made for them are in their best interests. Such checks need not be as elaborate as those currently provided for in the Court of Protection or in the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (which could in due course be simplified and extended to placements outside hospitals and care homes). Nor should we regard the need for such checks as in any way stigmatising of them or of their carers. Rather, they are a recognition of their equal dignity and status as human beings like the rest of us.⁸

The Court decided that the term “deprivation of liberty” in respect of persons with a mental incapacity should be construed in line with decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. The test was whether a person was under continuous supervision and control and not free to leave. The Court held that this test should remain the same regardless of whether a person was being deprived of their liberty for benevolent motives such as providing for their needs or for other reasons. Therefore, even though P lived in an ordinary family home and neither P nor Q wished to leave their respective accommodation, the reality was that both

were in fact under the complete supervision and control of those caring for them and would have been prevented from going out without supervision. The Court thus decided by a majority of 4:3 (Lord Clarke, Lord Hodge and Lord Carnwath dissenting) that both were deprived of their liberty and that a declaration would be made to that effect.

In the second case of P, the arrangements of P’s care were considered to constitute a deprivation of his liberty, by reason of the complete control his carers had over him and that he was subject to occasional, though necessary, physical restraints and intrusive procedures.

In setting out the ethical and moral background to the Courts decision Lady Hale stated:

“36. The whole point about human rights is their universal character. The rights set out in the European Convention are to be guaranteed to “everyone” (article 1). They are premised on the inherent dignity of all human beings whatever their frailty or flaws. The same philosophy underpins the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (“CRPD”), ratified by the United Kingdom in 2009. Although not directly incorporated into our domestic law, the CRPD is recognised by the Strasbourg court as part of the international law context within which the guarantees of the European Convention are to be interpreted. Thus, for example, in *Glor v Switzerland* (Application No 13444/04) (unreported) given 30 April 2009, para 53, the court reiterated that the Convention must be interpreted in the light of present-day conditions and continued:

“It also considers that there is a European and worldwide consensus on the need to protect people with disabilities from discriminatory treatment (see, for example, Recommendation 1592 (2003) towards full inclusion of people with disabilities, adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 29 January 2003, or the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force on 3 May 2008).”⁹

UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities

In this jurisdiction, the suggestion that the UN Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities should be seen as part of the international law context within which Convention rights are to be interpreted is evident in the judgment of McMenamin J in *M.X. V Health Service Executive*¹⁰ in which it was held that:

“Although the United Nations Convention itself is not part of our law, it can form a helpful reference point for the identification of the “prevailing ideas and concepts” which are to be assessed in harmony with the constitutional requirements of what is “practicable” in mind.¹¹”

⁷ *Ibid*, at paras 48 – 51.

⁸ *Ibid*, at para 57.

⁹ *Ibid*, at para 36.

¹⁰ *M.X. V Health Service Executive* [2012] 3 I.R. 254.

¹¹ [2012] 3 I.R. 254, at 282.

The UN CRPD has not yet been ratified by Ireland. However, the Minister has indicated that she intends to ratify the Convention as soon as possible and that the passing of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Bill is one of the core elements of the remaining work to be completed to enable ratification by the State of the UN Convention.¹²

Consequences of the Decision

The most obvious implication of the UK Supreme Court decision in *P & Q and P* is that it cannot be assumed that lack of complaint or objection constitutes consent to the deprivation of one's liberty. While on the one hand, this may strengthen the hand of residents of homes or their families to complain about their situation, it may also cause difficulties in situations where the authorities and a patient/resident's family are content with a placement, even though it constitutes a deprivation of liberty.

The implications for Ireland

The UK Supreme Court decision may yet have direct implications for planned reforms in this jurisdiction. In answer to a recent Parliamentary Question in the Dáil on the matter Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald stated:

12 Dáil PQ 22239/14 answered on 27 May 2014.

"I am currently considering the implications of this case for the provisions of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill 2013. As the Deputy will be aware, the aim of the Bill is to safeguard the autonomy of individuals with capacity difficulties to the greatest extent possible. To that end, the Bill explicitly references the obligations regarding deprivation of liberty outlined in Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.¹³"

It would seem almost inevitable that at some point a statutory scheme will have to be introduced to provide for some form of independent scrutiny and some review procedure on placements in care homes, supported living or other settings. Indeed whether the decision leads to changes to the Government's planned bill or not, the decision could potentially have implications for any adult who does not have capacity to make decisions about their care and treatment, has not been detained pursuant to the Mental Health Act and is living in a supported living placement or in a domestic setting. It would seem there could be a multitude of cases in this jurisdiction where persons are in effect unlawfully detained due to their lack of capacity and the absence of procedural safeguards governing their detention. ■

13 Dáil PQ 26189/14 answered on the 18 June 2014.

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- Ubi errorem, ibi remedium?: Judge Anthony M. Collins
- Duty to give reasons in civil and criminal law: Micheál P. O'Higgins SC
- The threshold of arguability for leave to apply for judicial review: is it still fit for purpose?: Conleth Bradley SC

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Pro Bono Work and the Bar

DIANE DUGGAN BL*

Pro bono work is becoming a more prominent feature of the legal landscape in Ireland and throughout the legal world, for a variety of reasons. The cornerstone of any functioning democracy is an effective legal system to which all members of society have access. As societies develop and economies rise and fall, the obstacles experienced by those seeking access to justice can vary over time. In recent years in Ireland, our legal and administrative systems have endured profound challenges that bring the resilience and strengths, or otherwise, of our democracy into sharp focus. The plight of those who do not have access to justice is a stark measure of just how effective we are at meeting those challenges.

Pro Bono Law

The latin term *pro bono publico* means *for the public good; for the welfare of the whole*¹. In ancient Rome, the patricians, or ruling class gave legal advice without charge as part of their training for higher political position² and were often restricted from accepting money or gifts in return for their services in the name of serving the higher good. In England in 1275, the First Statute of Westminster stated that sergeants, the advocates of the day, were obliged to serve the poor for free, vowing not to covet profit over service to the King's people³. The initiation point for any lawyer of the day was clear – the client's interest was served first, and self interest or payment was a distant second.

Common law practices in England survived transition to the new world. A Virginia statute in 1645 expressly prohibited lawyers from charging any fees for their work (though it has been suggested that the ultimate motivation for this was to prohibit the practice of law entirely and to ban lawyers outright)⁴. The notion of banning lawyers outright was arguably a unique and novel interpretation of *'for the public good; for the welfare of the whole'*. However, the concept of eradicating the practice of law did not survive the 17th century.

The altruistic motivations of the practice of law for the common good was rooted in religious ideals and puritanical thought throughout the centuries that followed, towards the 20th century. While such motivations were admirable, it is arguable that the 13th century sergeants of Westminster and their American descendants had a lifestyle or source of income that was funded other than by their legal work and if such circumstances prevailed today, one would hope many

more lawyers could afford to spend a substantial amount of time championing pro bono law.

The Bar Voluntary Assistance Scheme

The Voluntary Assistance Scheme (VAS) is ten years old this year. In 2004, it seemed that there was an important role for the bar in providing legal services where there was an unmet legal need and VAS has strived to meet this need on a growing basis in the decade that has passed. In that time, VAS has taken on almost 500 cases for over 100 charities and is expanding its outreach to new organisations on a consistent basis. VAS makes the services of a barrister available to the requesting organisation for the purposes of legal advice, or, where appropriate, for litigation. The parameters within which VAS operates are strictly adhered to:

- VAS does not deal directly with individuals, but instead through non-government organisations, charities and civic society organisations who make representations on their own behalf or on behalf of their clients.
- Representatives of the organisation in question act as the intermediary between the barrister and the client when legal advice is required, assuming the role that is otherwise filled by solicitors.
- Where VAS takes on a case involving court proceedings, VAS engages the services of one of the scheme's firm of solicitors.
- The Scheme does not seek out points of law of particular interest or importance, but rather dedicates itself to assisting anybody who comes through established channels in any way that it can. The remit is clear: where there is a genuine issue arising and there is no other means of accessing the legal system – VAS can provide assistance.

Types of cases include debt, housing, landlord and tenant, employment and equality issues arising for individuals as well as general organisational issues arising for charity organisations. The work can range from something as straightforward as assisting with the drafting of a letter to representing a defendant in repossession proceedings.

A recent case involved a Limerick family who had been forced to abandon their house in a disadvantaged area earmarked for regeneration because of a prolonged period of vandalism and abuse. Proceedings were instituted against the Local Authority as the regeneration agency and against the State. The case has settled on good terms.

In order to ascertain a volunteering profile of the Bar, VAS conducted a survey of members in June of last year. Practitioners were asked if they either volunteered currently or did so in the past. 82% of those who responded said

* Diane Duggan is the co-ordinator of the Bar Council Voluntary Assistance Scheme. This article is an edited version of a speech given by her at the Bar of Ireland Conference in Westport in May 2014.

1 Black's Law Dictionary, 1363, 2nd Ed. 1910

2 Judith L. Maute, "Changing Conceptions of Lawyers' Pro Bono Responsibilities: From Change Noblesse Oblige to Stated Expectations," 77 Tul. L. Rev. 91 - 162 (2002)

3 *Ibid*, p.97

4 *Ibid*, p.98

they had volunteered and would do so again in the future. Volunteering was not limited to legal services but consisted of a wide range of activities across the volunteering sector. Many practitioners remarked that much of their so called 'paying work' was not bearing any dividends and thus were engaging in pro bono work by default. Many went further to say they now actively pursued pro bono work because if there was any inevitability to not being paid for work, they would prefer to do it within a structured, formalised scheme with clients who had a genuine and worthy need. The paths and motivations to the world of pro bono are varied and numerous. The difference made is sometimes small but often immeasurable.

One of VAS's most recent initiatives is the establishment of a Legislative Drafting Committee with the aim of assisting NGOs who are endeavouring to further their legitimate aims through the process of law reform. VAS has provided legislative drafting services to numerous organisations in the past, including Focus Ireland, the Irish Penal Reform Trust and currently, the Ana Liffey Drug Project.

A Critical Approach to Pro bono work

Since the turn of the century, international bar associations, such as in the United States, have taken a view that in order to serve the unmet legal need and assist genuine litigants in accessing justice, pro bono work should become mandatory for all practitioners. While Ireland has been far slower than other jurisdictions to recognise an intrinsic value in providing pro bono services, it is questionable as to whether imposing a mandatory obligation on practitioners to carry out such work is the correct approach.

VAS provides three CPD points to all barristers who carry out work for the scheme. One risk inherent in a mandatory scheme is that it increases the prospect of pro bono lawyers filling a role that should otherwise be filled by a state funded service. Also, recent controversies in the Central Remedial Clinic and Rehab have taught us that charity work needs to be examined in a critical light. The enactment of the Charities Act 2009 in recent months will go a long way towards addressing those challenges of transparency and accountability. In a similar vein, there is a need to constantly scrutinise the needs that are being addressed. In some instances, law reform is required, in particular, in addressing the chronically under funded statutory legal aid schemes.

Interaction between State funded legal aid schemes and pro bono work – the VAS experience

The State's Civil Legal Aid Scheme established in 1970 went some way towards addressing the insurmountable difficulties around access to justice prior to then. The validly held view was that individual rights were meaningless without effective mechanisms to enforce those rights. The service provided by the Legal Aid Board over the last 34 years has gone some way towards providing that mechanism, but due to a chronic lack of resources, huge gaps remain and access to justice for all is far from being fully realised. The focus has been on family and asylum law which accounted for 87% of 11,638 initial appointments to the Legal Aid Board in 2012⁵.

5 Legal Aid Board Annual Report 2012

A 2005 FLAC report stated that:

“after 25 years of state legal aid, the scheme has failed to achieve its stated goals. Despite the ongoing commitment and dedication of staff and Board members, it neither provides the necessary service nor ensures that it is delivered to all those entitled to it.”

It went on to say that:

“The primary focus in Law Centres is on family law and on individual clients. Thus the Board interprets its mandate narrowly and does not engage in legal education and training or law reform. It does not engage in dissemination of information on legal entitlements, research or innovation into how best to meet the changing need for legal services of vulnerable people in society.”

These were the problems at the height of the Celtic Tiger. In 2010, Ms. Anne Colley, Chairperson of the Legal Aid Board, said that their research suggested that 50% of the population is eligible to apply for civil legal aid⁶. In 2012, waiting lists for an appointment with the Legal Aid Board were up to 15 months in some places. This is not surprising where 50% of the population are eligible to apply to a scheme that had just 363 staff members in 2012 (though it is not clear how many of these are practicing solicitors, certainly a minority of that figure).

VAS policy has been to direct people towards a state funded service where it is available rather than taking on cases that should be serviced elsewhere. However, given the extended waiting times and overstretched resources, VAS has routinely taken on cases where it is clear that the Legal Aid Board will not be able to take on a case in advance of an impending court date.

There is a significant political debate to be had about the appropriate interaction between State funded legal aid schemes and voluntary legal aid schemes. One view is that the more extensive and efficient the voluntary legal aid schemes become, the more the State will abdicate its responsibility for ensuring access to justice. This author's view is that, as barristers, we should not hesitate to meet the need whilst at all times being free to express the strongest possible views on the inadequacies of the State funded schemes.

Emerging benefits of pro bono work

There are obvious benefits to pro bono work. For the individual barrister and indeed, for the Bar, as a profession, there is the satisfaction of doing what is intrinsically good and providing a service to disadvantaged members of our society. A recent Sunday Independent article referencing VAS inspired the following comment from social media:

“A slam dunk argument for an independent referral

6 'Access to Justice: A Right or a Privilege? A Blueprint for Civil Legal Aid in Ireland', FLAC, July 2005

7 Ibid, p.57

8 Access to Justice and the Role of the Legal Aid Board – 30th Anniversary Legal Aid Board Conference

bar. If all lawyers were in firms this would be very unlikely.”

In addition however to the obvious benefits of pro bono work, there are some less obvious benefits beginning to emerge. When VAS first approached the five largest firms of solicitors in Dublin to assist in the provision of voluntary services, they agreed to do so for wholly altruistic reasons. However, in the first decade of the 21st century, a practice emerged whereby public authorities and many large private corporations putting out tenders for the provision of legal services by solicitors requested those solicitors to identify their corporate and social responsibility policy. When the practice first emerged, solicitors were pleased to be able to reference their work with VAS. There were therefore unforeseen practical benefits to those solicitors engaging with the VAS.

The future may well also hold previously unforeseen practical benefits for barristers who engage in pro bono work. It cannot be long before applicants for judicial office, for silk, or for publicly funded work are asked about their approach to, and involvement in, pro bono work.

Conclusion

The future of pro bono work at the Bar is bright. The response of individual members of the Bar approached by VAS is prompt and enthusiastic. Their diligence and professionalism reminds me that there is much to be proud of and many reasons for us to be able to state that we act “*for the public good; for the welfare of the whole.*” A special thank you is due to all those who have made themselves available for VAS work in the past and in anticipation, to those who will volunteer in the future. ■

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- An Update on Planning Law Practice and Procedure – Recent Cases: Eamon Galligan SC
- Environmental Law: An Overview of Recent Developments: Tom Flynn BL
- Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the implications of the new package of local government reform: David Browne BL

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Judgment Information Supplied by The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

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11th ed
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SI 33/2014

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SI 372/2014

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Signed on 22nd June 2014

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SI 225/2014

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Sub-contractor – Arbitrator appointed by president of Construction Industry Federation – Standard form contract – No signed contract – Main contract – Terms – Model law – De novo hearing – Intention – Whether arbitration agreement existed – Whether valid appointment – Whether standard form contract incorporated into contract – Whether arbitral tribunal had jurisdiction – Whether arbitrator erred in fact and law in finding jurisdiction – Lynch Roofing Systems Limited v Bennett & Son Limited [1999] 2 IR 450; British Crane Hire v Ipswich Plant Hire [1975] 1 QB 303; McCrory Scaffolding Limited v McNerney Construction Limited [2004] 3 IR 592 and Barnmore Demolition & Civil Engineering Ltd v Alandale Logistics Ltd (Unrep, Feeney J, 11/11/2010) considered – Arbitration Act 2010 (No 1), ss 6 and 9 – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 56, r 3(1)(f) – Finding that no arbitration agreement existed (2013/8MCA – Laffoy J – 19/6/2013) [2013] IEHC 284
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Signed on 27th July 2014

BANKING

Guarantees

Validity – Past consideration – Bankruptcy – Scheme of arrangement – Whether creditor entitled to have guarantees entered into scheme of arrangement – Whether company loan made on basis that personal guarantee was necessary – Whether guarantees valid and enforceable – Contra proferentem rule – Whether guarantees executed prior to drawing down of loan monies – Whether facility letters ambiguous – First National Bank plc v Anglin [1996] 1 IR 75 and Bradford v Roulston (1858) 8 ICLR 468 considered – Application granted (2330AD & 2329AD – Gilligan J – 14/12/2011) [2011] IEHC 553
In re Mullee; ACC Bank v Mullee

Validity of transactions

Application for judgment on foot of loan – Defences – Liability – Liquidated demand – Debt – Irregularities in documents –

Forged signature – Restitution – Statutory responsibilities of lender – Materiality of evidence – Mis-selling – Inducement – Financial advice – Consumer protection code – Central Bank code for lending to small and medium businesses – Fraud – Graphologist – Whether case proven – Whether loans entered into – Whether valid defence – Whether signatures real – Whether defect in documentation – Whether borrowing as consumer – Whether bank acted as financial adviser – Stepstone Mortgage Funding Ltd v Fitzell [2012] IEHC 142, [2012] 2 IR 318; ACC Bank Ireland Plc v Fahey [2010] IEHC 41, (Unrep, Kelly J, 12/2/2012); Allied Irish Bank plc v Higgins [2010] IEHC 219, (Unrep, Kelly J, 3/6/2010); Zurich Bank v McConnon [2011] IEHC 75, (Unrep, Birmingham J, 4/3/2011); ACC Bank plc v Fahey [2010] IEHC 41, (Unrep, Kelly, 12/2/2010); Seldon v Davidson [1968] 1 WLR 1083; Chapman v Jaume [2012] EWCA Civ 476, (Unrep, English Court of Appeal, 29/3/2012); Verity v Lloyd's Bank [1995] CLC 1557 and Irish Life and Permanent Plc v Duff [2013] IEHC 43, (Unrep, Hogan J, 31/1/2013) considered - Central Bank Act 1989 (No 16), s 117 – Consumer Credit Act 1995 (No 24) – Consumer Protection Act 2007 (No 19) – Judgment granted (2011/2131S & 2012/1COM – Ryan J – 28/6/2013) [2013] IEHC 427

ACC Bank Plc v Deacon

Validity of transactions

Appeal from decision of Financial Services Ombudsman – Seeking return of investment premium – Principle of utmost good faith – Full disclosure of material facts – Failure of investment – Risk – Fair procedures – Duty to give reasons – Adequacy of reasons – Jurisdiction – Nature of appeal – Brevity of decision – New grounds of appeal – Role of ombudsman – Role of court on appeal – De novo appeal – Burden of proof – Onus of proof – Whether error of law – Whether decision reasonable based on facts – Whether compliance with statutory requirement to give reasons – Whether failure to have regard to principle of uberrimae fidei – Whether contract of assurance – Ulster Bank v Financial Services Ombudsman [2006] IEHC 323, (Unrep, Finnegan P, 1/11/2006); Hayes v Financial Services Ombudsman (Unreported, MacMenamin J, 3/11/2008); Square Capital Ltd v Financial Services Ombudsman [2009] IEHC 407, [2010] 2 IR 514; Hyde v Financial Services Ombudsman [2011] IEHC 422, (Unrep, Cross J, 16/11/2011); Irish Life and Permanent plc v Financial Services Ombudsman [2011] IEHC 439, (Unrep, White J, 16/11/2011); Koczan v Financial Services Ombudsman [2010] IEHC 407, (Unrep, Hogan J, 1/11/2010); Murphy v Financial Services Ombudsman [2012] IEHC 92, (Unrep, Peart J, 21/2/2012); Lyons v Financial Services Ombudsman [2011] IEHC 454, (Unrep, Hogan J, 14/12/2011); Mallak v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform [2012] IESC 59, (Unrep, SC, 6/12/2012); Banque Keyser Ullmann SA v Skandia (UK)

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Validity of transaction

Claims for loan amount and guarantee – Husband guarantor of wife's loan – Defence of non est factum – Guarantee dependent on validity of principal contract – Document signature purportedly witnessed – Consideration – Whether loan contract entered into – Statutory rights – Abrogation of duty – Departure from financial institution procedures – Credibility of evidence – Given documents by husband to sign – Want of care – Whether negligent in signing – Whether meeting of mind – Whether dealing in context of business – Allied Irish Bank plc v Higgins [2010] IEHC 219, (Unrep, Kelly J, 3/6/2010) – Consumer Credit Act 1995 (No 24), s 38 – Claims dismissed (2012/990S, 2012/127COM, 2012/989S & 2012/128COM – Charleton J – 9/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 201

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Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland Act 2014

Act No.22 of 2014

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COMMERCIAL LAW

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Addressing hidden ownership-a role of EMIR?

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COMPANY LAW

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Restriction – Liquidation – Company unable to pay debts – Failure of directors to act responsibly in conduct of affairs of company – Whether court ought to consider unprecedented collapse of construction sector – Whether failure by directors to recognise insolvency of company – Whether directors ought to have ceased trading – Whether failure to engage appropriately with banks – Whether directors permitted undervalued transactions – Whether directors irresponsibly in acquisition of assets – Whether fraudulent disposition of assets – Whether directors engaged in reckless trading – Whether failure to keep proper books of account – Whether just and equitable to restrict directors – Whether court bound to impose mandatory 5 year period of restriction - Business Communications Ltd v Baxter (Unrep, Murphy J, 21/7/1995) approved – Companies Act 1990 (No 33), s 150 – Company Law Enforcement Act 2001 (No 28), s 56 – Application granted (2010/205COS – Cooke J – 28/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 544

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Directors

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ought to be prohibited – Whether legal costs of directors covered by insurance – Whether funding of legal costs ultra vires company powers – Whether rule of law prohibiting funding of legal costs – Whether participation and expenditure necessary or expedient in interests of company – Whether “rebuttable distaste” as to necessity and expediency – Whether rule prohibiting company monies being expended on disputes between shareholders – Whether use of company resources and funds by directors constituting misfeasance – Whether grant of petition inappropriate due to potential impact on costs determination of trial judge – Whether company insurance policy covering costs of litigation – Re a company (No 001126 of 1992) [1993] BCC 325 approved – Irish Life v Dowling [2013] IEHC 75, (Unrep, Charleton J, 21/2/2013); Dowling v Cook [2013] IEHC 129, (Unrep, Gilligan J, 27/3/2013); Dowling v Cook [2013] IESC 25, (Unrep, SC, 16/5/2013); Permanent TSB plc v Skoczylas [2013] IEHC 42, (Unrep, Cooke J, 4/2/2013); Pickering v Stephenson (1872) LR 14 Eq 322; Re Crossmore Electrical and Civil Engineering Ltd (1989) 5 BCC 37; Re Milgate Developments Ltd [1991] BCC 24; American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd [1975] AC 396; Re a Company (No 004502 of 1988) ex p Johnson [1991] BCC 234; Kelly v Kelly [2011] IEHC 349, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 31/8/2011); Re Beddoe [1892] 1 Ch 574 and Fitzpatrick v FK [2006] IEHC 392, [2007] 2 IR 406 considered – Companies Act 1963 (No 33), ss 200, 205 and 218 – Companies Act 1990 (No 33), s 160 – Credit Institutions (Stabilisation) Act 2009 (No 36), s 9 – Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, arts 267 and 139 – Companies Act 1985 (UK), s 459 – Insolvency Act 1986 (UK), s 127 – Application refused (2013/36COS – Laffoy J – 23/8/2013) [2013] IEHC 406

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Liquidation

Application for directions as to quantum of liquidator remuneration – Application for directions as to funds out of which remuneration to be discharged – Customer funds – Constructive trust – Whether work in administering customer monies properly task for liquidator – Whether remuneration associated with administration of customer monies could properly be discharged from customer funds – Quantum of remuneration – Custom House Capital Ltd. (In Liquidation) [2012] IEHC 382, [2012] 3 IR 93; Re Berkeley Applegate (Investment Consultants) Ltd [1988] 3 All ER 71; Re GB Nathan & Co Pty Ltd (In Liquidation) [1991] 24 NSWLR 674; Re Marine Mansions Co (1867) LR 4 Eq 601; Scott v Nesbitt [1803–13] All ER Rep 216 and Boardman v Phipps [1967] 2 AC 46 considered – Companies Act 1963 (No 33), ss 228, 244 and 249 – Companies Act 1990 (No 33), s 150 – Directions given (2011/457COS – Finlay Geoghegan J – 25/10/2013) [2013] IEHC 507

Re Home Payments Limited

Receivership

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lawful – Whether detention to serve out remaining part of custodial sentences lawful – *People (Director of Public Prosecutions) v Alexiou* [2003] 3 IR 513; *The State (Murphy) v Kieft* [1984] IR 458; *M v Governor of Mountjoy Prison* [2011] IEHC 336, [2011] 4 IR 621; *The State (McDonagh) v Frawley* [1978] IR 131; *In Re ÓLaighléis* [1960] IR 93 and *The People (Director of Public Prosecutions) v Walsh* [1980] IR 294 considered – European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2006 (SI 226/2006), arts 20 and 26 – Criminal Justice Act 1960 (No 27), s 6 – Immigration Act 1999 (No 22), s 3 – Constitution of Ireland 1937, Art 40.4.2° – Legality of detention upheld (2013/838SS – McDermott J – 16/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 528

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Leopardstown Club Limited v Templeville Developments Limited

Breach

Claim for payment in respect of provision of accommodation centres for refugees - Statute of Limitations - Delay - Laches - Mutual mistake - Effect of delay in hampering ability of court to ascertain precise state of affairs - Estoppel - Provisions of agreement - Termination of agreement - Whether statute-barred - Whether claim should be struck out on grounds of delay - Whether laches applied to claim in damages for breach of contract - Whether mutual mistake - Whether breach of contract - *Moloney v Lacey Building &*

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Meagher v Dublin City Council

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Breach

Mediation settlement agreement – Lease – Non-payment of rent and service charge – Equitable relief against forfeiture – Fundamental breach – Misrepresentation – Mistake – Right of way – Adverse possession – Failure to call evidence – Whether entitlement to withhold rent and service charge – Whether mistake or misrepresentation in entering mediation settlement agreement – Whether inference could be drawn from failure to call evidence – Whether fundamental breach of contract – Whether entitlement to equitable relief against forfeiture – *Fyffes PLC v DCC PLC and ors* [2005] IEHC 477, [2006] IEHC 32, [2007] IESC 36, [2009] 2 IR 417; *M’Queen v Great Western Railway Company* [1875] LR 10 QB 569; *Reg v IRC, ex p Coombs & Co* [1991] 2 AC 283; *Wisniewski v Central Manchester Health Authority* [1998] Lloyd’s Reports Med 223; *Pedley v Avon Insurance* [2003] EWHC 2007, (Unrep, Hegarty J, 31/7/2003); *Rock Nominees v RCO Holdings* [2003] 2 BCLC 493; *Lewis v Eliades* (No 4) [2005] EWHC 488 (Unrep, Smith J, 23/3/2003); *Herrington v British Railways Board* [1972] AC 877; *Irish Telephone Rentals v ICS Building Society* [1992] 2 IR 525; *Hong Kong Fir Shipping Co. Ltd v Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Limited* [1962] 1 QB 26; *Parol Limited and Carroll Village (Retail) Management v Friends First Pension Funds Limited and Superquinn* [2010] IEHC 498, (Unrep, Clarke J, 8/10/2010); *Wallersteiner v Moir* [1975] QB 373 and *Campus and Stadium Development Ltd v Dublin Waterworld Ltd* [2006] IEHC 200, (Unrep, Gilligan J, 21/3/2006) considered – Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980 (No 16), s 22 – Judgment for plaintiff; issue of forfeiture adjourned (2012/6741P – Charleton J – 2/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 526

Leopardstown Club Limited v Templeville Developments Limited

Breach

Claim for payment in respect of provision of accommodation centres for refugees – Statute of Limitations – Delay – Laches – Mutual mistake – Effect of delay in hampering ability of court to ascertain precise state of affairs – Estoppel – Provisions of agreement – Termination of agreement – Whether statute-barred – Whether claim should be struck out on grounds of delay – Whether laches applied to claim in damages for breach of contract – Whether mutual mistake – Whether breach of contract – *Moloney v Lacey Building & Civil Engineering Ltd* [2010] IEHC 8, [2010] 4 IR 417; *Doyle v Gibney* [2011] IEHC 10, (Unrep, Hogan J, 18/1/2011); *Hynes Ltd v Independent Newspapers Ltd* [1980] IR 204; *United Scientific Holdings Ltd v Burnley Borough Council* [1978] AC 904; *Hales v Minister for Industry and Commerce* [1967] IR 67; *Shelley-Morris v Bus Atha Cliath* [2003] 1 IR 232; *Primor plc v Stokes Kennedy Crowley* [1996] 2 IR 459; *McBrearty v North Western Health Board* [2010] IESC 27, (Unrep, SC, 10/5/2010) and *Donnellan v Western Textiles Ltd* [2011] IEHC 11, (Unrep, Hogan J, 18/1/2011) considered – *Mespil Ltd v Capaldi* [1986] ILRM 373 applied – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 8, r 2 – Statute of Limitations 1957 (No 6), s 5 – Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act 1877 (c LVII), s 28 – Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004 (No 31), s 26 – Constitution of Ireland 1937, Art 34.3.1^o – Judgment granted in part (2005/336P – Hogan J – 1/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 474

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Detention

Application for release from custody – Arrest on foot of deportation order – Immigration – Non-national – Detention at airport – Leave to land refused – Transfer to garda station – Definition of 'examine' – Designated place of detention – Events amounting to force majeure – Error on formal detention notice – Whether detention lawful – Whether legal basis for detention – *Toidze v Governor*

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EVIDENCE

Admissibility

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European arrest warrant

Application for surrender - Poland - Surrender for serving of sentences - Breach of family rights - Best interests of the child - Private interests - Public interest - Delay - Difference between relocation in immigration

and extradition - Trial in absentia - Flight - Correspondence - Minimum gravity - Sui generis - Application of rules of evidence - Admission of evidence - Whether breach of right to respect for private and family life - Whether private interests outweigh public interest - Whether in best interests of children - Whether public interest in extradition - Whether disproportionate measure in terms of aim pursued - Whether fled to evade justice - Whether controversial and uncontroversial requirements satisfied - Whether minimum gravity threshold met - Whether gross or manifest error - Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform v Tobin (No 1), [2007] IEHC 15 & [2008] IESC 3, [2008] 4 IR 42; Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform v Ciechanowicz [2011] IEHC 106 (Unrep, Edwards J, 18/3/2011); Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform v Sliczynski [2008] IESC 73, (Unrep, SC, 19/12/2008); *The Leopardstown Club Limited v Templeville Developments Limited* [2010] IEHC 152, (Unreported, Edwards J, 29/1/2010); Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform v Bednarczyk [2011] IEHC 136, (Unrep, Edwards J, 5/4/2011); *HH v Deputy Prosecutor of the Italian Republic, Genoa*, [2012] UKSC 25, [2013] 1 AC 338; Minister for Justice and Equality v TE [2013] IEHC 323, (Unrep, Edwards J, 19/6/2013); Minister for Justice and Equality v NM [2013] IEHC 322, (Unrep, Edwards J, 25/6/2013); Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform v Gorman [2010] IEHC 210, [2010] 3 IR 583; *Launder v United Kingdom* [1997] ECHR 106, (1997) 25 EHRR CD67; *Babar Ahmad v United Kingdom* [2012] ECHR 609, (2013) 56 EHRR 1; *Huang v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2007] UKHL 11, [2007] AC 167; *Zigor Ruiz Jaso v Central Court of Criminal Proceedings (No 5) Madrid* [2007] EWHC 2983, [2008] 1 WLR 2798; *Norris v Government of the United States of America (No 2)* [2010] UKSC 9, [2010] 2 AC 487; *ZH (Tanzania) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] UKSC 4, [2011] 2 AC 166; Minister for Justice and Equality v Ostrowski [2013] IESC 24 (Unrep, SC, 15/5/2013); Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform v DL [2011] IEHC 248, [2012] 1 ILRM 270; *Agbonlahor v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2007] IEHC 166, [2007] 4 IR 309; Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform v Gheorghe [2009] IESC 76, (Unrep, SC, 18/11/2009); *R (Razgar) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2004] 2 AC 368; *Neulinger v Switzerland (2010) ECHR 1053*, (2012) 54 EHRR 31; *AO and DL v Minister for Justice* [2003] 1 IR 1; *R (Mahmood) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2001] 1 WLR 840; *Üner v The Netherlands* [2005] ECHR 464, (2006) 45 EHRR 421; *Rodrigues da Silva and Hoogkamer v The Netherlands* [2006] ECHR 86, (2006) 44 EHRR 729; *Nunez v Norway* [2011] ECHR 1047, (2014) 58 EHRR 17; *Antwi v Norway (App No 26940/10)* (Unrep, ECHR 14/2/2012); *Shakurov v Russia (App No 55822/10)* (Unrep, ECHR, 5/6/2012); *King v United Kingdom (App No 9742/07)*

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European arrest warrant - Application for postponement of surrender pending service of term of imprisonment in state - Application for temporary surrender for trial in issuing state - Right to trial with reasonable expedition - Relationship between ss 18 and 19 of European Arrest Warrant Act 2003 - Judicial discretion - Factors to be considered in determining whether to make temporary surrender order - Whether appropriate to postpone surrender - Whether appropriate to make temporary surrender order - *Rattigan v DPP* [2008] IESC 34, [2008] 4 IR 639; *DPP v Wharrie* [2013] IECCA 4 (Unrep, CCA, 19/4/2013); *Cormack v DPP* [2008] IESC 63, [2009] 2 IR 208; *SH v DPP* [2006] IESC 55, [2006] 3 IR 575; *Quebec Railway, Light, Heat and Power Co v Vandry* [1920] AC 662; *Goulding Chemicals Ltd v Bolger* [1977] IR 211; *Shelly v District Justice Mahon* [1990] 1 IR 36; *State (O'Connell) v Fawsitt* [1986] IR 362; *Barker v Wingo* (1972) 407 US 514; *Sorokins v Latvia (App No 45476/04)*, (Unrep, ECHR, 28/5/2013); *H v France (App No 10073/82)*, (1990) 12 EHRR 74; *Stögmüller v Austria (App No 1602/62)*, (1979-80) 1 EHRR 155; *McMullen v Ireland (App No 42297/98)*, (Unrep, ECHR, 29/7/2004) considered - European Arrest Warrant Act 2003 (No 45),

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Application for surrender – Italian European arrest warrant – Warrant endorsed – Drugs trafficking – Warrant stated wanted for prosecution – Already convicted of offences – Tried, convicted and sentenced in absentia – Time for lodgement of appeal expired – Whether notified of time and place of trial – Direction to State central authority to inform issuing judicial authority and Eurojust of reasons for refusal – *Minister for Justice v Gherine* [2012] IEHC 536 (Unrep, Edwards J,

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Asylum

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I(C) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Application for leave to seek judicial review – Certiorari – Telescoped hearing – Challenge to decision of Minister refusing refugee status – No challenge to decision of Tribunal – Application to amend pleadings to include Tribunal – Kenya – Mungiki tribe – Error of fact – Credibility – Internal relocation – Whether error of fact having material effect on outcome – Whether failure to consider all evidence in credibility assessment – Whether correct approach to internal relocation – E v Secretary of State for Home Department [2004] QB 1044; R v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex p A [1999] 2 AC 330; R (Alconbury Developments Limited) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Region [2003] 2 AC 295; L(VCB) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal [2010] IEHC 362, (Unrep, Cooke J, 15/10/2010); Richardson v Mahon [2013] IEHC 118, (Unrep, Dunne J, 21/3/2013); Ryanair v Flynn [2000] 3 IR 240; Traore v Refugee Appeals Tribunal [2004] IEHC 606, (Unrep, Finlay-Geoghegan J, 14/5/2004); R(I) v The Refugee Appeals Tribunal [2009] IEHC 353, (Unrep, Cooke J, 24/7/2009) and M(V) [Kenya] v The Refugee Appeals Tribunal and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform [2013] IEHC 24, (Unrep, Clark J, 29/1/2013) – Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000 (No 29), s 5 – Leave to seek judicial review refused; Application to amend pleadings refused (2009/215)JR – MacEochaidh J – 6/6/2013 [2013] IEHC 282
N(S) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Application for leave to seek judicial review – Certiorari – Telescoped hearing – Challenge to decision of Tribunal – Nigeria – Particular social group of women subjected to human trafficking and prostitution – Credibility – State protection – Internal relocation – Whether decision lacked clarity and consistency – Whether credibility findings based on conjecture and peripheral matters – Whether letters improperly discounted – Whether finding on state protection flawed due to selective assessment of country of origin information – Whether internal relocation finding based on reasoned assessment – Oguqua v Refugee Appeals Tribunal [2007] IEHC 172, (Unrep, Herbert J, 15/5/2007) considered – T(AA) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Attorney General [2009] IEHC 51, (Unrep, Clark J,

11/2/2009) followed – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 5 – Leave refused (2009/260)JR – MacEochaidh J – 22/2/2013 [2013] IEHC 89

O(G) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Application for leave to seek judicial review – Certiorari – Challenge to decision of Minister – Subsidiary protection – Deportation order – Determination of issues previously adjourned pending decisions in other cases – State protection – No issue of credibility – Lifelong effect of deportation order – Separate and independent evaluation of subsidiary protection application – Application to amend pleadings – Exceptional circumstances – *Functus officio* – Whether lifelong deportation order disproportionate – Whether separate and independent evaluation of subsidiary protection application – Whether appropriate to allow amendment of pleadings after delivery of judgment and before formal order made – Whether new cause of action – *U(MA) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2010] IEHC 492, (Unrep, Hogan J, 13/12/2010); *M(M) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform (Case C-277/11)* (Unrep, First Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union, 22/11/2012); *Emre v Switzerland (No1)* (App No 42034/04), (Unrep, ECHR, 22/5/2008); *Emre v Switzerland (No.2)* (App No 5056/10), (Unrep, ECHR, 11/10/2011); *M(JC) (Democratic Republic of Congo) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2012] IEHC 485, (Unrep, Clark J, 12/10/2012); *M(M) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform (No 1)* [2011] IEHC 547, (Unrep, Hogan J, 18/05/2011); *M(M) v Minister for Justice and Equality (No 3)* [2013] IEHC 9, (Unrep, Hogan J, 23/1/2013); *HID v Refugee Applications Commissioner (Case C-175/11)* (Unrep, Second Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union, 31/1/2013) and *U(MA) v Minister for Justice* [2011] IEHC 95, [2011] 1 IR 749; *Cox v Electricity Supply Board (No 2)* [1943] IR 231 considered – *Sivsvadze v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2012] IEHC 244, (Unrep, Kearns P, 21/6/2012) followed – *Re McInerney Homes Ltd* [2011] IESC 31, (Unrep, SC, 29/7/2011) applied – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 58, r 2 and O 28, r 1 – Immigration Act 1999 (No 22), s 3 – European Convention of Human Rights Act 2003 (No 20), s 5 – Council Directive 2004/83/EC, art 4 – Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, art 267 – European Convention on Human rights 1950, art 8 – Leave to seek judicial review refused; leave to amend pleadings refused (2011/512)JR – Hogan J – 1/3/2013 [2013] IEHC 95
Z(S) (Pakistan) v Minister for Justice and Law Reform

Asylum

Application for leave to apply for judicial review – Asylum – Negative credibility findings – Persecution – Ethnicity – No

documentation – Burden of establishing claim – Illogical finding of availability of internal relocation – No consideration of general conditions prevailing in relocation zone – Costs – Extension of time – Illiteracy – Translator required – Affidavit sworn in English – Admissibility – *De bene esse* – Whether decision sufficiently clear – Whether the merits of the case were such that it would be unfair not to consider the application – Whether internal relocation correctly considered – *MAMA v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2011] IEHC 147, [2011] 2 IR 729 and Secretary of State v AH (Sudan) [2007] UKHL 49, [2007] 3 WLR 832 considered – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), regs 7(1) and 7(2) – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 40, r 14 – Application refused (2008/1412)JR – Clark J – 4/10/2012 [2012] IEHC 488

A(SI)(Sudan) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Judicial review – Telescoped hearing – Persecution – Evidence of attack – Positive and negative credibility findings – Internal relocation – Whether decision explained rationally and clearly – Whether tribunal member acted consistently – Whether breach of fair procedures – Whether stricter standard of proof imposed – *DH v Refugee Applications Commissioner* (Unrep, Herbert J, 27/5/2004) and *O’Keeffe v An Bord Pleanála* [1993] 1 IR 39 considered – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 5(2) – Order of certiorari granted (2012/425)JR – Hanna J – 1/3/2013 [2013] IEHC 99
B(M)(Georgia) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Internal relocation – Principles applicable to internal relocation alternative – *AA (Morocco) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2011] IEHC 389, (Unrep, Cooke J, 12/10/2011); *CA v Refugee Applications Commissioner* [2008] IEHC 261, (Unrep, Birmingham J, 2/7/2008); *SIA (Sudan) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2012] IEHC 488, (Unrep, Clark J, 4/10/2012); *BOB v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2013] IEHC 187, (Unrep, MacEochaidh J, 2/5/2013); *GOB v Minister for Justice* [2008] IEHC 229, (Unrep, Birmingham J, 3/6/2008); *SBE v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2010] IEHC 133, (Unrep, Cooke J, 25/2/2010); *CE v Minister for Justice* [2012] IEHC 3 (Unrep, Hogan J, 11/1/2012); *WMM v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2009] IEHC 1, (Unrep, Cooke J, 11/11/2009); *PO (Nigeria) v Minister for Justice* [2010] IEHC 513, (Unrep, Ryan J, 22/10/2013) and *DT v Minister for Justice* [2009] IEHC 482, (Unrep, Cooke J, 3/11/2009) considered – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 7 – Decision quashed (2009/623)JR – Clark J – 1/11/2013 [2013] IEHC 481

D(K)(Nigeria) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Refugee – Refugee Appeals Tribunal – Refusal

of refugee status – Adverse credibility findings – Judicial review – Mental disability – Evidence – Medical reports – Whether tribunal failed to take medical evidence in account in making adverse credibility findings – Whether substantial error in tribunal decision – Whether substantial grounds shown – *IR v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2009] IEHC 353, (Unrep, Cooke J, 24/7/2009) applied – *ME v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2008] IEHC 192, (Unrep, Birmingham J, 27/6/2008); *Nicolai v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2005] IEHC 345, (Unrep, Ó Néill J, 7/10/2005) and *Pamba v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* (Unrep, Cooke J, 19/5/2009) considered – UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status 1992 – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 5 – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 11 – Leave refused (2009/437)JR – Clark J – 30/9/2013 [2013] IEHC 538

E(RA)(Cameroon) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Judicial review – Telescoped proceedings – Failure to put certain matters arising from documents to applicant at hearing – Manner in which documentary evidence treated – Negative findings – Whether unfair and breach of due process – Whether unlawful – What reasonable decision maker would have decided – Availability of State protection – Whether obligation to make independent inquiry – *Idiakheua v Minister for Justice* [2005] IEHC 150, (Unrep, Clarke J, 10/5/2005) considered – Leave and order quashing decision of Tribunal granted (2009/622)JR – Mac Eochaidh J – 7/6/2013 [2013] IEHC 252

G(A) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Judicial review – Telescoped hearing – Negative credibility findings – Legality of decision – Inadequacy of reasons – Deference to decision makers – Reasonable decision maker – Error of fact – Speculation and conjecture – Whether rejection of credibility rational – Whether conclusion flowed from premises – Whether fundamentally at variance with reason and common sense – Whether reason given enabled applicant to understand basis for dismissal – Whether reason lawful – *Meadows v Minister for Justice* [2010] IESC 3, [2010] 2 IR 701; *RO v Minister for Justice* [2012] IEHC 573, (Unrep, Mac Eochaidh J, 20/12/2012) and *IR v The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2009] IEHC 353, (Unrep, Cooke J, 24/7/2009) considered – Leave and order of certiorari granted (2009/570)JR – Mac Eochaidh J – 18/7/2013 [2013] IEHC 339

K(M) v Minister for Justice

Asylum

Refugee – Refugee Appeals Tribunal – Judicial review – Adverse credibility findings – Substantial grounds – County of origin information – Whether tribunal permitted to take account of common knowledge in

assessment of credibility – Whether failure to consider relevant documentation and country of origin information – Whether need to carry out artificial assessment of country of origin information where core claim disbelieved – Whether substantial grounds demonstrated to impugn validity of decision – *Imafu v Minister for Justice* [2005] IEHC 416, (Unrep, Peart J, 9/12/2005) considered – UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status 1992 – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 5 – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 13 – Leave refused (2007/1256)JR – Clark J – 10/12/2013) [2013] IEHC 563
O(NTM)(Sudan) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Asylum

Refugee – Refugee Appeals Tribunal – Refusal – Judicial review – Leave – Substantial grounds – Well founded fear of persecution – Adverse credibility findings – Country of origin information – Internal relocation – State protection – Whether well founded fear that minor applicant would be subjected to female genital mutilation – Whether tribunal erred in finding no well founded fear of persecution – Medical treatment – Whether treatment for sickle cell disease available in Nigeria – Whether assessment of internal relocation and availability of state protection unnecessarily carried out – Whether failure to identify particular area to which applicant could relocate – Whether internal relocation and availability of state protection determining factor in refusal – Whether technical error invalidating decision – Whether substantial grounds demonstrated – *N v United Kingdom* (App No 26565/05) [2008] 47 EHRR 39 and *EMS v Minister for Justice* [2004] IEHC 398, (Unrep, Clarke J, 21/12/2004) considered – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), regs 7 and 9 – European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950, art 3 – Leave refused (2009/666)JR – Clark J – 1/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 536
O(S) (a minor) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Judicial review – Negative credibility findings – Persecution – Lack of knowledge – Basic principles – Weight to be attached to documents – Whether failure to have regard to relevant country of origin information – Whether failure to properly investigate claim – Whether treatment of country of origin information selective and incomplete – Whether findings unfair – Whether matters peripheral to core of claim – *Horvath v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [1999] INLR 7 – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 5 – Decision quashed (2009/1582)JR – Clark J – 12/6/2013) [2013] IEHC 262
S(H)(Morocco) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Asylum

Refugee – Refugee Appeals Tribunal – Well founded fear of persecution – Adverse credibility findings – Judicial review – Country of origin information – Prohibition against refoulement – Whether possible to discern reasons for refusal of refugee status – Whether acceptance of account of applicant logically required consideration of refoulement – Whether failure to consider existence of UN protection for applicant – Whether failure to consider relevant country of origin information – Whether consideration of likelihood of persecution – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), ss 11 and 13 – Relief granted (2009/869)JR – Clark J – 30/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 535
V(NH)(Bangladesh) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Deportation

Injunction – Test to be applied – Judicial review – Revocation of deportation order – New facts – Country of origin information – Whether additional information provided in application to revoke deportation order beyond information provided in application for asylum and leave to remain – Whether deportation constituting infringement of fundamental rights – Whether application for revocation of deportation order giving rise to entitlement to interlocutory injunction restraining deportation – Whether new facts demonstrated – Whether fair issue to be tried – Whether arguable or stateable grounds demonstrated – Whether balance of convenience favoured restraint of deportation – Whether additional relevant factors – Whether due consideration given to rights of child – *Okunade v Minister for Justice* [2012] IESC 49, [2012] 3 IR 152; *Smith v Minister for Justice* [2013] IESC 4, (Unrep, SC, 1/2/2013) and *ADS (Ghana) v Minister for Justice* [2012] IEHC 73, (Unrep, Cross J, 14/2/2012) applied – *Efe v Minister for Justice* [2011] IEHC 214, (Unrep, Hogan J, [2011] 2 IR 798 and *Zambrano v Office National de l'Emploi* (Case C-34/09) [2011] ECR I-1177 considered – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 5 – Immigration Act 1999 (No 22), s 3 – Criminal Justice (United Nations Convention Against Torture) Act 2000 (No 11), s 4 – European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950, art 8 – Relief refused; leave refused (2013/867)JR – *McDermott J* – 6/12/2013) [2013] IEHC 566
N(K) v Minister for Justice and Equality

Family reunification

Application for judicial review – Mandamus – Somalian national – Reasonableness of ministerial decision to insist on production of identity documents in respect of family members – Power to reunify families of declared refugees – Discretionary nature of power – Requirement for proof of dependence – Necessity for powers to be exercised in compliance with constitutional principles – Entitlement to insist upon adequate proofs – Whether wrongful refusal to perform public duty – Whether egregious

delay in performing public duty – Whether unreasonable to demand original passports where department policy of refusing to accept Somali embassy documentation as acceptable proof of identity – *East Donegal Co-Operative v Attorney General* [1970] IR 317; *R (Butler) v Navan UDC* [1926] IR 466 and *Point Exhibition Company v Revenue Commissioners* [1993] 2 IR 551 considered – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 18 – Relief refused (2011/812)JR – *Cooke J* – 24/5/2012) [2012] IEHC 221

H(ZM) v Minister for Justice and Equality

Practice and procedure

Judicial review – Statement of grounds – Amendment – Extension of time – Good and sufficient reason – Whether errors of lawyers could constitute good and sufficient reason to permit amendment – Whether application to amend ought to be brought as soon as practical one pleading error identified – Whether four year delay between filing of pleadings and application to amend excusable – Whether reasonable for lawyers to postpone work on case until weeks leading up to hearing – *Muresan v Minister for Justice* [2004] 2 IRLM 364 approved – *Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000* (No 29), s 5 – Application refused (2009/308)JR – *Mac Eochaidh J* – 25/7/2013) [2013] IEHC 416
R(R) v Refugee Appeals Tribunal

Subsidiary protection

Application for judicial review of refusal of subsidiary protection – Bangladesh – Credibility – Applicability of rule requiring consideration of home country circumstances – Requirement to show clearly process by which finding on credibility reached – Whether Minister lawfully rejected credibility – Whether EC (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006, reg 5(1)(a) could be disapplied where credibility rejected – *SBE v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2010] IEHC 133 (Unrep, *Cooke J*, 25/2/2010) followed – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 5 – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), ss 11 and 13 – *Certiorari* granted (2012/1021)JR – *Mac Eochaidh J* – 8/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 502
A(F) v Minister for Justice and Equality

Subsidiary protection

Leave to remain – Deportation – Judicial review – Leave – Substantial grounds – Fair procedures – *Audi alterem partem* – Proportionality – Right to effective remedy – Adverse credibility findings – Whether Minister entitled to take adverse credibility findings from asylum process into account when making decision on subsidiary protection – Whether fresh credibility ought to be carried out – Child – Medical condition – Best interests of child – Whether separate consideration given to rights of child – Whether convention rights engaged – Whether substantial grounds shown – Principle of refoulement – Whether refoulement considered personally by Minister – Whether indefinite effect of

deportation breach of constitutional and convention rights – Whether failure to provide effective remedy – Delay – Extension of time – Whether blameworthiness for delay in seeking judicial review – *MM v Minister for Justice* [2013] IEHC 9, (Unrep, Hogan J, 23/1/2013); *AAA v Minister for Justice* [2013] IEHC 422, (Unrep, McDermott J, 10/9/2013); *LAT v Minister for Justice* [2011] IEHC 404, (Unrep, Hogan J, 2/11/2011); *Sivsvadze v Minister for Justice* [2012] IEHC 244, (Unrep, Kearns P, 21/6/2012); *BJSa v Minister for Justice* [2011] IEHC 381, (Unrep, Cooke J, 12/10/2011); *CC v Minister for Justice* [2012] IEHC 143, (Unrep, Cooke J, 19/4/2012); *SL v Minister for Justice* [2011] IEHC 370, (Unrep, Cooke J, 6/10/2011) and *CS v Minister for Justice* [2004] IESC 44, [2005] 1 IR 343 followed – *Agbonlahor v Minister for Justice* [2006] IEHC 56, [2007] 4 IR 309; *Oguekwe v Minister for Justice* [2008] IESC 25, [2008] 3 IR 795; *Kadri v Governor of Wheatfield Prison* [2012] IESC 27, [2012] 2 ILRM 392; *D v United Kingdom* [1997] 24 EHRR 423; *FCN v Home Secretary* [2005] UKHL 31, [2005] 4 All ER 1017; *MM v Minister for Justice* (Case C277/11) (Unrep, ECJ, 22/11/2012); *Boulif v Switzerland* (App No 54273/00), [2001] ECHR 497; *Üner v The Netherlands* (App No 46410/99), [2006] ECHR 873 and *Okunade v Minister for Justice* [2012] IESC 49, [2012] 3 IR 152 considered – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006) – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 13 – Immigration Act 1999 (No 22), s 3 – Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000 (No 29), s 5 – Directive 2004/83/EC – Constitution of Ireland 1937, art 40.3 – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, art 3 – European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950, arts 3 and 8 – Leave granted (2012/424)JR – McDermott J – 3/12/2013 [2013] IEHC 554

A(FB) (an infant) v Minister for Justice and Equality

Visa

European Union law – Citizens' Directive - Visa – Qualifying family members of European Union citizen – Test to be applied – Dependence – Evidence of dependency – Whether test requiring evidence of assistance for all family members' essential needs – Whether visa officer applied correct test – Whether sufficient reasons given for refusal of visas – Whether refusals ought to be quashed – *Jia v Migrationsverket* [2007] QB 545 approved – *Centre Public d'Aide Sociale Councelles v Lebon* [1987] ECR 2811; *Chen v Home Secretary* [2005] QB 325; *O'Leary v Minister for Justice* [2012] IEHC 80, [2013] 1 ILRM 509; *O'Leary v Minister for Justice* [2011] IEHC 256, (Unrep, Hogan J, 30/6/2011) and *Meadows v Minister for Justice* [2010] IESC 3, [2010] 2 IR 701 considered – European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) (No 2) Regulations 2006 (SI 656/2006), reg 2 – Directive 2004/38/EC, arts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 – Constitution of Ireland 1937, Art 41 –

European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950, art 8 – Relief granted (2012/674)JR – Mac Eochaidh J – 22/8/2013 [2013] IEHC 424
Kuhn v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

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INJUNCTIONS

Interlocutory injunction

Application for a prohibitory interlocutory injunction pending s 205 petition hearing – Serious issue to be tried – Balance of convenience – Obligation to retire as director – Shareholder voting rights – Possibility of restricting lawful action – Whether balance of convenience favoured granting relief – Whether effective remedy for any breach of European Union Law – *McGilligan v O'Grady & ors* [1999] 1 IR 346 and *Avoca Capital Holdings and The Companies*

Act [2005] IEHC 302, (Unrep, Clarke J, 29/7/2005) considered – Companies Act 1963 (No 33), s 205 – Application for interlocutory relief refused (126/2013 – SC – 16/5/2013) [2013] IESC 25
Dowling v Cook

Interlocutory injunction

Application for interlocutory injunctions – Operating agreement – License agreements – Extension of agreement – Refusal to vacate filling stations – Trespassing – Threshold – Implied terms – Jurisdiction to strike out proceedings – Discretion – Whether serious issue for trial – Whether defence frivolous or vexatious or had no prospect of success – Whether damages inadequate remedy – Whether balance of convenience lay in favour of grant of injunction – *American Cyanamid v Ethicon* [1975] 1 All ER 504; *Moorcock* [1889] 14 PD 64; *Dakota Packaging Ltd v AHP Manufacturing BV* [2004] IESC 102, [2005] 2 IR 54; *Rainy Sky v Kookmin Bank* [2011] 1 WLR 2900; *Sweeney v Duggan* [1997] 2 IR 531; *Barry v Buckley* [1981] IR 306; *Sun Fat Chan v Osseous Limited* [1992] 1 IR 425; *Shell & BP Limited v Costello* [1981] ILRM 66; *Kenny Homes v Leonard* [1997] IEHC 230, (Unrep, Costello J, 11/12/1997) and *Gatien Motor Company Limited v Continental Oil Company* [1979] IR 406 considered – Application refused (2013/6119P – Kelly J – 4/7/2013) [2013] IEHC 389

Esso Ireland Ltd v 911 Retail Ltd

Interlocutory injunction

Application for interlocutory injunction restraining defendant from terminating contracts pending substantive proceedings – Application for interlocutory injunction restraining defendant from contacting customers of plaintiff without prior consent – Adequacy of damages – Balance of convenience – Mandatory injunction – Whether strong case likely to succeed at hearing of action – *Okunade v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2012] IESC 49, [2013] 3 IR 152; *Kinsella & Kinsella v Wallace* [2013] IEHC 112, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 12/3/2013); *Campus Oil Limited v Minister for Industry and Energy* (No. 2) [1983] IR 88 followed – *Ó Murchú v Eircell Limited*, (Unrep, SC, 21/2/2001) and *Maha Lingham v Health Safety Executive* [2005] IESC 89, (Unrep, SC, 4/10/2005) considered – Data Protection Act 1988 (No 25) – Council Regulation (EC) No 1400/2002 – Mandatory injunctive relief refused (2013/4143P – Moriarty J – 4/7/2013) [2013] IEHC 318
O'Leary v Volkswagen Group Ireland Ltd

Interlocutory injunction

Probate – Life insurance – Proceeds – Whether applicant entitled to injunction restraining personal representative dissipating disputed proceeds of life insurance policy – Test to be applied – Whether fair or bona fide or serious issue to be tried – Whether damages constituting adequate remedy – Whether risk of assets being removed or dissipated

– Campus Oil v Minister for Energy (No 2) [1983] IR 88; American Cyanamid v Ethicon [1975] 1 All ER 504 and O’Mahony v Horgan [1995] 2 IR 411 applied – Application refused (2013/408P – Laffoy J – 6/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 400

Cullinan v Keogh

Interlocutory injunction

Application for interlocutory mandatory injunction to repair property – Application for order extinguishing appointment of receiver – Receiver appointed over mortgaged property – Deeds – State of dereliction – Rent receiver – No physical possession – Interlocutory reliefs – Higher threshold – Receiver’s duty of care – Whether strong case that was likely to succeed at hearing of action – Whether appropriate to determine validity of appointment of receiver on interlocutory application – Adequacy of damages – Undertaking as to damages – Balance of convenience – Shepherd Homes Ltd v Sandham [1971] Ch 340; Okunade v Minister for Justice [2012] IESC 49, [2012] 3 IR 152; Maha Lingham v Health Service Executive [2006] 17 ELR 137; B & S Ltd v Irish Auto Trader Ltd [1995] 2 IR 142 considered – Conveyancing Act 1881 (44 & 45 Vict c 41), ss 19(1)(iii) and s 24 – Application dismissed (2012/5281P – Laffoy J – 25/7/2013) [2013] IEHC 362

O’Mahony v Lowe

Interlocutory injunction

Real property – Trespass – Mortgage – Charge – Receiver – Whether serious issue to be tried – Whether deed of mortgage lawfully executed – Whether charge created on correct folio – Whether damages constituting adequate remedy for infringement of property right – Whether balance of convenience favouring grant of injunction – Whether evidence that defendants capable of securing better sale price – Metro International SA v Independent News and Media [2005] IEHC 309, [2006] 1 ILRM 414; Savill v Byrne [2012] IEHC 415, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 21/6/2013) and McCann v Morrissey [2013] IEHC 288, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 21/6/2013) followed – Injunction granted (2013/7810P – Mac Eochaidh J – 19/8/2013) [2013] IEHC 412

Swinburne v Geary

Interlocutory injunction

Application for interlocutory injunction requiring deliverance of possession of apartment and restraining trespass on tenancy – Tenancy – Receiver – Obligation of candour when seeking interim ex parte relief – Duty to disclose material that might affect mind of court – Discretion of court to grant interlocutory relief – Bona fide question to be tried – Undertaking as to damages – Balance of convenience – Whether significant culpable failure to disclose matters – Whether entitlement to interlocutory injunction – Bambrick v Copley [2005] IEHC 43, [2006] 1 ILRM 81; Tate Access Floors Inc v Boswell [1991] Ch 512; Atkin v Moran (1871) IR 6 Eq 79; Criminal Assets Bureau v BGS Ltd

& Ors [2013] IEHC 302, (Unrep, Cross J, 3/7/2013); Balogun v Minister for Justice, (Unrep, Smyth J, 19/3/2002); European Paint Importers Ltd v O’Callaghan [2005] IEHC 280, (Unrep, Peart J, 10/8/2005); Campus Oil Ltd v Minister for Industry and Energy (No 2) [1983] IR 88; Westman Holdings Ltd v McCormack [1992] 1 IR 151; Collen Construction Limited v Building and Allied Trades Union & Ors [2006] IEHC 159, (Unrep, Clarke J, 16/5/2006); Pasture Properties v Evans, (Ex tempore, Laffoy J, 5/2/1999); Contech v Walsh [2006] IEHC 45, (Unrep, Finlay Geoghegan J, 17/2/2006); Mitchelstown Co-Operative Agricultural Society Ltd v Golden Vale Products Ltd, (Unrep, Costello J, 12/12/1985); Fitzpatrick v Commissioner of An Garda Síochána [1996] ELR 244; Meskell v Córas Iompair Éireann [1973] IR 121; Martin v Bord Pleanála [2002] 2 IR 655 and American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd [1975] AC 396 considered – Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (No 27), ss 4 and 12 – Landlord and Tenant Law Amendment Act Ireland 1860 (c CLIV), s 41 – Injunctions refused (2013/10002P – Keane J – 31/10/2013) [2013] IEHC 491

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Tesco Ireland Ltd v Cork County Council

Unauthorised development

Application for injunctions – Operator of airport – Operation of private long term car park – Competitor – Planning permission – History of site – Discretion – Conduct of applicant – Hardship – Disproportionate – Economic and public interest – Whether unauthorised development – Whether disproportionate and oppressive to grant injunction – Whether to permit application for planning permission – Whether use materially different – Whether ancillary unauthorised use – Whether authorisation for use as car park – Whether development – Whether exempted development – Whether use commenced more than seven years ago – National Federation of Drapers and Allied Trades Limited v Allied Wholesale Warehouses, *Irish Times*, 29/11/1979; *Fusco v Aprile* (Unrep, Morris P, 6/6/1997); *Morris v Garvey* [1983] IR 319 and *Lanigan v Barry* [2008] IEHC 29 (Unrep, Chareton J, 15/2/2008) considered – Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), ss 5 and 160(1) – Applications for planning permission allowed to be processed (2012/445MCA & 2012/444MCA – Birmingham J – 13/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 510

Dublin Airport Authority Plc v JD Motorline Ltd

Unauthorised development

Application for mandatory injunction – Cessation of operation of wind farm – Claim that wind turbines erected in contravention of permission – Planning permission – Whether turbines constructed in accordance with permission – Claim that deviations minor and immaterial – Claim that turbines substantially in accordance with permission – Claim that deviations permitted by local authority – Alleged failure to discharge onus of proof to demonstrate material deviation – Conduct of respondents – Whether order would be draconian and disproportionate hardship – *Dublin Corporation v McGowan* [1993] 1 IR 405; *Altara Developments Ltd v Ventola Ltd* [2005] IEHC 312, (Unrep, O’Sullivan J, 6/10/2005) and *Sweetman v Shell E & P Limited* [2006] IEHC 85, [2007] 3 IR 13

considered – Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), s 160 - Relief refused (2012/166MCA - Peart J – 27/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 509

Bailey v Kilvinane Wind Farm Limited

Development

European Union law – Habitats – Special area of conservation – Natura 2000 site – Judicial review – An Bord Pleanála – Consent to public authority development – Sewage treatment – Whether failure by Minister to inform Board of impending designation of special conservation area – Whether development prohibited by habitats protection – Whether sufficient proof shown of lack of protection for special area of conservation – Whether suitable assessment of risk of adverse impact on special area of conservation – Directive – Statutory interpretation – Conforming interpretation of directive with national law – Whether basis to conclude that protection requirement would not be met – Shadow notification – Whether intended designation of special area of conservation giving rise to protection requirements – Whether development constituting unlawful conduct – Costs – Whether statutory provisions regarding costs in environmental protection proceedings applicable – Whether each party to bear own costs – *Marleasing SA v La Comercial de Alimentation SA* (Case C106/89) [1990] 4 ECR I-4135; *Pfeiffer and ors v Deutsches Rotes Kreuz* (Joined cases C397/01 & C-403/01) [2004] ECR I-8835; *Criminal Proceedings Against Pupino* (Case 105/03) [2005] ECR I-5285; *Società Italiana Dragaggi sPa v Ministero della Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti* (Case C-117/03) [2005] ECR I-167; *Bund Naturschutz in Bayern eV v Freistaat Bayern* (Case C-244/05) [2006] ECR I-8445 and *Commission v Hellenic Republic* (Case C-103/10) [2012] ECR I-147 considered – European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011) – Foreshore Acts 1993 to 2011, s 3 – Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), s 50B – Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (No 30), s 33 – Directive 92/43/EEC, arts 2, 3, 6 and 27 – Directive 85/337/EEC, art 10a – Proceedings dismissed (2013/29)JR – *Charleton J* – 19/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 542 *Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association v An Bord Pleanála*

Judicial review

Reference to Board – Compliance with planning conditions – Development – Material change of use – Notice of reference – Application for leave to amend pleadings – Requirement to state in full grounds of reference and reasons, considerations and arguments – Whether non-compliance Planning and Development Act 2000, s 127(1) (d) rendered reference invalid – Whether reference asking whether occupier operating in compliance with planning conditions valid – Whether reference could be made without notice to relevant landowner – *Keegan v Garda Síochána Complaints Board* [2012]

IESC 29, (Unrep, SC, 1/5/2012); *O'Reilly Brothers (Wicklow) Ltd v An Bord Pleanála* [2006] IEHC 363, [2008] 1 IR 187; *Roadstone Provinces Ltd v An Bord Pleanála* [2008] IEHC 210, (Unrep, Finlay-Geoghegan J, 4/7/2008); *Monaghan County Council v Brogan* [1987] IR 333; *Galway County Council v Lackagh Rock* [1985] IR 120; *McMahon v Dublin Corporation* [1997] 1 ILRM 227; *Palmerlane Ltd v An Bord Pleanála* [1999] 2 ILRM 214; *Grianán an Aileach Interpretative Centre Co Ltd v Donegal County Council* [2004] IESC 41, [2004] 2 IR 625; *O'Ceallaigh v An Bord Altranais* [2000] 4 IR 42; *West Wood Club Ltd v An Bord Pleanála* [2010] IEHC 16, (Unrep, Hedigan J, 26/1/2010); *Dellway Ltd v National Asset Management Agency* [2011] IESC 14, [2011] 4 IR 1 and *Keegan v Garda Síochána Complaints Board* [2012] IESC 29, (Unrep, SC, 1/5/2012) considered – Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (SI 600/2001) – Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), ss 3, 5, 127, 128, 129 and 160 – Local Government Act 2001 (No 37), s 155 – *Certiorari granted* (2012/563)JR – *Hogan J* – 4/6/2013) [2013] IEHC 261

Heaton's Limited v Offaly County Council

Public authority

Appeal from decision that NAMA public authority – Statutory interpretation – Practice and procedure – Point of law – Statutory appeal – Definition of 'includes' – Literal interpretation – Natural and ordinary meaning – Dictionary definition – Whether word of limitation – Environmental information – Transposition of directives into national law – *Ejusdem generis* rule – Role of the court on appeal – Inherent jurisdiction – Implementation of directive – *De novo* ruling – Power to remit – Legislative intention – Presumption of faithful transposition – Whether NAMA public authority – Whether respondent erred in law in concluding that NAMA public authority – Whether plain and ordinary meaning of words clear – Whether legal ambiguity existed – Whether definition expanded – Whether High Court had jurisdiction to quash decision and remit matter – Whether High Court had jurisdiction to substitute own decision – Whether court limited in appellate jurisdiction to consideration of issue brought before it on appeal – *Dilworth v Stamp Commissioner* [1899] AC 99; *Inland Revenue Commissioners v Joiner* [1975] 3 All ER 105; *Allen v Grenier* (1997) 145 DLR (4th) 286; *The Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Relief of Poor Lying-in Women v Information Commissioner* [2009] IEHC 315, (Unrep, McCarthy J, 2/7/2009); *Von Colson v Land Nordrhein Westfalen* [1984] ECR 1891; *Meagher v Minister for Agriculture* [1994] 1 IR 329; *MST v Minister for Justice* [2009] IEHC 529, (Unrep, Cooke J, 4/12/2009); *Usk v An Brd Pleanála* [2007] IEHC 86, [2007] 2 ILRM 378; *FP v The Information Commissioner* [2009] IEHC 574, (Unrep, Clark J, 13/7/2009); *McK v Information Commissioner* [2006] IESC 3, [2006] 1 IR

260; *Glancre Teo v Cafferkey* [2004] 3 IR 40; *Rye Investments Ltd v Competition Authority* [2009] IEHC 140, (Unrep, Cooke J, 19/3/2009); *E v Secretary of State of the Home Department* [2004] QB 1044; *Vavasour v Northside Centre for the Unemployed* [1995] 1 IR 450; *The Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Relief of Poor Lying-in-Women, Dublin v Information Commissioner* [2011] IESC 26, (Unrep, SC, 19/7/2011); *Flachglas v Federal Republic of Germany* (Case C-204/09) [2013] QB 212; *Von Colson* (Case C-14/83) [1984] ECR 1891, *Marleasing* (Case C-106/89) ECR [1990] I-4135; *O'Dwyer v Keegan* [1997] 2 ILRM 401; *Inspector of Taxes v Kiernan* [1981] IR 117; *County Council of the County of Cork v Whillock* [1993] 1 IR 231; *Mara (Inspector of Taxes) v Hummingbird* [1982] 2 ILRM 42; *Henry Denny & Sons (Ireland) Limited v Minister for Social Welfare* [1998] 1 IR 34; *Castleisland Cattle Breeding Society Limited v Minister for Social and Family Affairs* [2004] IESC 40, [2004] 4 IR 150; *Sheedy v Information Commissioner* [2005] IESC 35, [2005] 2 IR 272; *Deely v Information Commissioner* [2001] 3 IR 439; *Kruse v Information Commissioner* [2009] IEHC 286, (Unrep, Sheehan J, 23/6/2009); *Minister for Agriculture and Food v Barry* [2008] IEHC 216, [2009] 1 IR 215; *Pawys v Pawys* [1971] P 340; *OH v OH* [1990] 2 IR 558 and *McCann Ltd v Ó Culachain* (Inspector of Taxes) [1986] 1 IR 196 considered – European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 (SI 133/2007), arts 3, 6, 12 and 13 – European Communities Act 1972 (No 27), s 3 – Interpretation Act 2005 (No 23), s 5(2) – Constitution of Ireland 1937, Art 29.4.7° – Council Directive 2003/4/EC, arts 1 and 2(2) – Council Directive 90/313/EEC – Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, Aarhus, Denmark, 25/6/1998 – Appeal dismissed (2011/357)MCA – *Mac Eochaidh J* – 27/2/2013) [2013] IEHC 86

National Asset Management Agency v Commissioner for Environmental Information

Unauthorised development

Enforcement – Planning injunction – Exempted development – Jurisdiction – Whether court had free-standing jurisdiction to determine whether development exempted where planning authority made s. 5 declaration – Whether appropriate to adjourn proceedings to allow making of s. 5 application – Whether placement of caravan and mobile home constituted development – Whether constitutional protection of the dwelling applicable to caravan or mobile home – Whether applicant having discharged burden that development commenced seven years prior to initiation of enforcement proceedings – *Grianán an Aileach Interpretative Centre Co Ltd v Donegal County Council* [2004] IESC 41, [2004] 2 IR 625 and *Sligo Council v Martin* [2007] IEHC 178, (Unrep, Ó Néill J, 24/5/2007) applied – Wicklow County

Council v Fortune [2012] IEHC 406, (Unrep, Hogan J, 4/10/2012); Wicklow County Council v Fortune [2013] IEHC 255, (Unrep, Hogan J, 6/6/2013); Cunningham v An Bord Pleanála [2013] IEHC 234, (Unrep, Hogan J, 15/5/2013); Mallak v Minister for Justice [2012] IESC 59, [2013] 1 ILRM 73; Meadows v Minister for Justice [2010] IESC 3, [2010] 2 IR 701; People (AG) v Hogan (1972) 1 Frewen 360 and Dublin Corporation v Lowe (Unrep, Morris P, 4/2/2000) considered – Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (SI 600/2001), art 9 and Sch 2 – Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), ss 3, 5, 152 and 160 – Directive 92/43/EEC – Constitution of Ireland 1937, Art 40.5 – Orders made (2011/25CA & 2011/26CA – Hogan J – 5/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 397
Wicklow County Council v Fortune

Articles

Barrett, Eva

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Hastings, Amy

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PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Amendment of pleadings

Application for leave to amend judicial review proceedings – Subsidiary protection – Credibility – Effective remedy – Independent assessment of credibility claim by subsidiary protection decision-maker – Reliance on recent decision of Court of Justice of European Union – Whether appropriate to grant leave to amend pleadings – Whether *functus officio* – Whether entirely new cause of action – Whether exceptional circumstances – MM v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform (Case C-277/11) [2012] ECR I-000; HID v Refugee Applications Commissioner (Case C-175/11), (Unrep, Second Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union, 31/1/2013); Wilson v Ordre des avocats du barreau de Luxembourg (Case C-506/04) [2006] ECR I -8613; Diouf v Ministre du Travail, de l'Emploi et de l'Immigration (Case C-69/10) [2011] ECR I-07151; M(P) v Minister for Justice and Law Reform (No 2) [2012] IEHC 34, (Unrep, Hogan J, 31/1/2012); D and A v Refugee Applications Commissioner [2011] IEHC 33, (Unrep, Cooke J, 9/2/2011); MM v Minister for Justice and Equality (No 3) [2013] IEHC 9, (Unrep, Hogan J, 23/1/2013); U(MA) v Minister for Justice [2011] IEHC 95, [2011] 1 IR 749; U(MA) v Minister for Justice [2010]

IEHC 492, (Unrep, Hogan J, 13/12/2010) and Cox v Electricity Supply Board (No 2) [1943] IR 231 considered – Re McInerney Homes Ltd [2011] IESC 31, (Unrep, Supreme Court, 22/7/2011) applied - SZ (Pakistan) v Minister for Justice and Law Reform [2013] IEHC 95 followed – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 58 r 2 and O 28 r 1 – European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006 (SI 518/2006), reg 2 – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), ss 13 and 17 – Immigration Act 1999 (No 22), s 3(1) – Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking Act) 2000 (No 29), ss 5(2) – Council Directive 2005/85/EC, arts 4(1) and 39(1) – Leave to amend granted in respect of subsidiary protection issue; leave to amend refused in respect of effective remedy issue (2011/147)R – Hogan J – 14/6/2013) [2013] IEHC 271
M(P) (Botswana) v Minister for Justice & Law Reform

Appeal

Copyright – Breach of confidential information – Reformulation of statement of claim in High Court – Micro-management – Argument abandoned in High Court – Whether evidence adduced on copyright claim sufficient to shift evidential burden of proof – Whether appropriate to allow new issue on appeal – Whether argument diametrically opposed to case in High Court – Whether court could remit matter to High Court to allow significantly different case be made – Koger Inc v O'Donnell [2010] IEHC 350, (Unrep, Feeney J, 8/10/2010); House of Spring Gardens Ltd v Point Blank Ltd [1984] IR 611; Saltman Engineering Co Ltd v Campbell Engineering Co Ltd [1948] RPC 203; FSS Travel and Leisure Systems Ltd v Johnson [1999] FSR 505 and Lough Swilly Shellfish Growers Cooperative Society Limited v Bradley [2013] IESC 16, (Unrep, SC, 13/3/2013) considered – Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (No 28), s 37 – Appeal dismissed (422/10 – SC – 18/6/2013) [2013] IESC 28
Koger Inc v O'Donnell

Contempt

Application for an order directing attachment and committal for contempt of court – Breaches of orders made for production of minor to court – Standard of proof – Factors in determining whether committal to prison should be ordered – Whether guilty of contempt of court – Whether committal to prison should be ordered – DPP v Nevin [2003] 3 IR 321 and Button v Salama [2013] EWHC 2474 (Fam) considered – Order of committal made with stay on order to facilitate steps to purge contempt (2011/2031P – Birmingham J – 7/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 517
Health Service Executive v R (a minor)

Costs

Child care proceedings – District Court – Jurisdiction of District Court to award costs in child care proceedings – Meaning of civil proceedings – Whether child care proceedings civil proceedings – Whether District Court

having jurisdiction to award costs in child care proceedings – Rule that cost follow event – Discretion of court to depart from rule – Means of litigant – Separation of powers – Public policy – Whether public body performing functions pursuant to statutory duty should be liable for costs – Whether permissible on costs application to consider whether litigant had applied for legal aid – Whether necessary on costs application to consider whether litigant had applied for legal aid – Dunne v Minister for the Environment [2007] IESC 60, [2008] 2 IR 775 and Dublin Corporation v Ashley [1986] IR 781 applied - Director of Public Prosecutions v Buckley [2007] IEHC 150, [2007] 3 IR 745 and The National Authority for Safety and Health v O'K Tools [1997] 1 IR 534 approved - Attorney-General v Crawford [1940] IR 335; TD v Minister for Education [2001] 4 IR. 259; Dillane v Ireland [1980] ILRM 167; Garnett v Bradley (1878) 3 App Cas 944; Henehan v Allied Irish Banks Ltd (Unrep, Finlay P, 19/10/1984); Law Society of Ireland v Competition Authority [2005] IEHC 455, [2006] 2 IR 262; Magee v Farrell [2009] IESC 60, [2009] 4 IR 703; Sinnott v Minister for Education [2001] 2 IR 545; Southern Hotel Sligo Ltd v Iarnród Éireann [2007] IEHC 254, [2007] 3 IR 792; The State (Attorney General) v Shaw [1979] IR 136; The State (Freeman) v Connellan [1986] IR 433 and Wheat v United States (1988) 486 US 153; 108 S Ct 1692; 100 L Ed 2d 140 considered - Re T (Children) [2010] EWCA Civ 1585, [2011] 2 FLR 264; [2012] UKSC 36, [2012] 1 WLR 2281 not followed – Rules of the District Court 1997 (SI 93/1997), O 51 – Courts of Justice Act 1924 (No 10), s 91 – Interpretation Act 1937 (No 38), s 17 – Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act 1961 (No 39), s 34 - Civil Legal Aid Act 1995 (No 32), ss 25 and 33 - Questions answered in the negative (2012/1568SS – O'Malley J – 12/4/2013) [2013] IEHC 172
Health Service Executive v A(O)

Costs

Protective costs order – Planning- Whether applicant entitled to protective costs order – Application to join notice party - Whether notice party could be joined so as to be fixed with costs- Whether court should exercise jurisdiction to make a non-party liable for costs – Moorview Developments Ltd v First Active plc [2011] IEHC 117, [2011] 3 IR 615 and The Queen (Edwards) v Environment Agency & Ors (Case C-260/2011) (Unrep, ECJ, 11/4/2013) followed - Cullen v Wicklow County Manager [2010] IESC 49, [2011] 1 IR 152; McNamara v An Bord Pleanála [1995] 2 ILRM 125 and Thema Intl Fund v HSBC Inst Trust Services (Ireland) [2011] IEHC 357, [2011] 3 IR 654 considered - Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), s.160 – Environmental (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 (No 20), s. 3 and 7 - Rules of the Superior Courts, 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 15, r 13 - Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act 1877 (40 & 41 Vict, c 57), s

53 – Applications granted (2012/470MCA – Hedigan J – 17/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 430
Hunter v Nurendale Ltd t/a Panda Waste

Costs

Application for costs where case moot – Decision on application for naturalisation – Delay – Judicial review – Inquiry into good character by third party – Whether mootness result of factor or occurrence outside control of parties or unilateral action of one party – Whether court had sufficient information to determine cause of mootness – Whether in all circumstances reasonable for applicants to have commenced application for leave to seek judicial review – Whether decision to commence judicial review proceedings proportionate reaction to actions of respondent – Whether indication given to applicant as to reason for delay – Whether estimated timeframe furnished to applicant – Whether entitlement to costs – *Cunningham v President of the Circuit Court & Anor* [2012] IESC 39, [2012] 3 IR 222; *SG & NG v The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2006] IEHC 371, (Unrep, Herbert J, 16/11/2006); *Salman v Minister for Justice & Equality* [2011] IEHC 481, (Unrep, Kearns P, 16/12/2011); *Nawaz v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2009] IEHC 354, (Unrep, Clark J, 29/7/2009); *Nearing v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform* [2009] IEHC 489, [2010] 4 IR 211 and *Matta v Minister for Justice and Law Reform* [2010] IEHC 488, (Unrep, Clark J, 21/7/2010) considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 99, r 4 – Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 (No 26), s 15 – Official Secrets Act 1963 (No 1) – Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951, art 34 – Applicant awarded one half of costs of proceedings (2012/28)JR – *McDermott J* – 29/1/2013) [2013] IEHC 527

Mansouri v Minister for Justice & Law Reform

Costs

Wasted costs – Immigration – Judicial review – Office of the Refugee Appeal Commissioner – Whether judicial review proceedings bound to fail – Whether solicitor ought to be faulted in proceedings with instructions to bring judicial review proceedings where case bound to fail – Whether High Court erred in failing to make wasted costs order – Whether jurisdiction to make wasted costs order discretionary – Whether actions of solicitor constituted misconduct – *Kennedy v Killeen Corrugated Products Ltd* [2006] IEHC 385, [2007] 2 IR 561 approved – *Kayode v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* (Unrep, SC, 28/1/2009); *BNN v Minister for Justice* [2008] IEHC 308, [2009] 1 IR 719; *OJ & TJ (minors) v Refugee Applications Commissioner* [2010] IEHC 176, [2010] 3 IR 637; *Idris v Legal Aid Board* [2009] IEHC 596, (Unrep, Cooke J, 10/12/2009) and *Myers v Elman* [1939] 4 All ER 484 considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 11, r 7 and O 99, r 7 – Directive 38/2004/EEC – Appeal

dismissed (360/2012 – SC – 23/10/2013) [2013] IESC 41

O(H) v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Costs

Appeal against refusal of ex parte application for costs order – Refusal based on departure from fair procedures – Refusal to grant costs order without notice to affected parties – Appeal considered on papers – Fair procedures – *R(Edwards) v Environmental Agency* (Case C-260/11) ECR 2013 considered – Appeals dismissed (451, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 464 & 498/2012 – SC – 26/2/2013) [2013] IESC 31

Coffey v Environmental Protection Agency

Disclosure

Application for further and better disclosure – Injunctive relief previously granted – Order for disclosure of assets – Disclosure on affidavit of all documents relating to actions taken to place assets beyond reach of plaintiffs – Cross-examination on contents of affidavit – Incomplete disclosure – Employment contracts – Salaries – Bank accounts – Rent rolls – Companies ownership – Practice of deletion of electronic files – Disclosure of documents in possession only – Documents in power or procurement – Jurisdiction – *Mareva* injunction – Inherent jurisdiction to grant injunction – Whether disclosure order complied with – Whether full and proper disclosure made – Whether documents in possession, power or procurement that were not disclosed – Whether affidavits sworn complete – Whether misapprehension as to disclosure obligation – *Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Ltd v Quinn* [2012] IEHC 510, (Unrep, Kelly J, 11/12/2012); *House of Spring Gardens Limited & Ors v Waite & Ors* [1985] FSR 173; *AJ Bekhor & Co v Bilton* [1981] 2 All ER 565; *A v C* [1980] 2 All ER 347 and *Deutsche Bank v Murtagh* [1995] 2 IR 122 considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 40, r 1 – Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act 1877 (40 & 41 Vict c 57), s 27(7) – Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act 1961 (No 39), s 48 – Application granted in part (2011/5843P – Kelly J – 10/7/2013) [2013] IEHC 388

Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Ltd v Quinn

Discovery

Application for non-party discovery – Defamation – Justification – Privilege – Security – Witness protection – Judicial discretion – Role of court in administration of justice – Requirement that claim of privilege be sufficiently particularised – Inherent jurisdiction to refuse application where purpose could never be achieved – Whether document fell within class of documents which should be withheld on public interest grounds – Whether disclosure should be denied as contrary to public policy – Whether success on plea of privilege unavoidable – Whether relevant and necessary – Whether moving party disclosed some information

upon which plea of justification based – Whether application oppressive – *Director of Consumer Affairs and Fair Trade v Sugar Distributors Ltd* [1991] 1 IR 225; *Foley v Bowden & Anor* [2003] 2 IR 607; *McLaughlin v Aviva Insurance (Europe) & Anor* [2011] IESC 42, [2012] 1 ILRM 487; *Corscadden v BJN Construction Ltd & Anor* [2007] IEHC 42, (Unrep, Master of the High Court, 9/2/2007); *Hannon v The Commissioner of Public Works & Ors*, (Unrep, McCracken J, 4/4/2001); *McDonagh v Sunday Newspapers Ltd* [2005] IEHC 183, [2005] 4 IR 528; *Haughey & Ors v Moriarty & Ors* (Unrep, Geoghegan J, 20/1/1998); *Ambiorix & Ors v Minister for the Environment & Ors* (No 1) [1992] 1 IR 277; *Breathnach v Ireland & Ors* (No 3) [1993] 2 IR 458; *Livingstone & Ors v Minister for Justice & Ors* (Unrep, Murphy J, 2/4/2004); *Allied Irish Banks plc & Anor v Ernst & Whinney & Anor* [1993] 1 IR 375; *Murphy v Dublin Corporation and The Minister for Local Government* [1972] IR 215; *Fitzpatrick v Independent Newspapers and Anor* [1988] IR 132; *Skeffington v Rooney & Anor* [1997] 1 IR 22; *O'Brien v Minister for Defence & Ors* [1998] 2 ILRM 156; *In re Kevin O'Kelly* [1974] 108 ILT 97; *Burke & Ors v Central Independent Television plc* [1994] 2 IR.61; *Stafford v Revenue Commissioners* (Unrep, Supreme Court, 27/3/1996); *Compagnie Financière et Commerciale du Pacifique v Peruvian Guano Company* (1882) 11 QBD 55; *Sterling-Winthrop Group Ltd v Farbenfabriken Bayer AG* [1967] IR 97; *Ryanair plc v Aer Rianta cpt* [2003] 4 IR 264; *Taylor v Clonmel Healthcare Ltd* [2004] 1 IR 169; *Framus Ltd. & Ors v CRH plc & Ors* [2004] 2 IR 20; *Galvin v Graham-Twomey* [1994] 2 ILRM 315; *Bula Limited (In Receivership) & Or v Crowley & Ors* [1991] 1 IR 220; *Aquatechnologie Ltd v National Standards Authority of Ireland & Ors* (Unrep, SC, 10/7/2000); *Megaleasing UK Ltd & Ors v Barrett & Ors* [1993] ILRM 497 and *Doyle v Garda Commissioner* [1999] 1 IR 249 considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 31, rr 12 and 29 – Appeal dismissed (381/2008 – SC – 9/5/2013) [2013] IESC 22

Keating v Radio Telefís Éireann

Dismissal of proceedings

Motion to dismiss on grounds of inordinate and inexcusable delay – Claim for damages for maladministration – Refusal of planning permission – Tribunal of Inquiry into Planning matters – Balance of Justice – Obligation to conduct proceedings expeditiously where pre-commencement delay – Failure to communicate decision to await report of Tribunal to defendant – Inherent jurisdiction in certain special cases to hold unfair in all circumstances to force defendant to defend case – Allegation of corruption of most serious nature – Prejudice to defendant – Whether unique or exceptional circumstances – Whether delay inordinate – Whether delay inexcusable – Whether balance of justice in favour of proceeding of case – *Rainsford v Limerick*

Corporation [1995] 2 ILRM 561 followed – *Primor plc v Stokes Kennedy Crowley* [1996] 2 IR 459; *Comcast International Holdings Incorporated and Ors v Minister for Public Enterprise and Ors* [2012] IESC 50, (Unrep, SC, 17/10/2012); *Desmond v MGN Limited* [2008] IESC 56, [2009] 1 IR 737 applied – *McBrearty v North Western Health Board* [2010] IESC 27, (Unrep, SC, 10/5/2010); *O'Domhnaill v Merrick* [1984] IR 151; *Toal v Duignan (No 1)* [1991] ILRM 135; *Toal v Duignan (No 2)* [1991] ILRM 140; *Stephens v Paul Flynn Limited* [2008] IESC 4, [2008] 4 IR 31; *Birkett v James* [1978] AC 297 and *Redmond v Mr. Justice Fergus Flood and Ors* [2012] IEHC 253, (Unrep, Gilligan J, 28/3/2012) considered – *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963 (No 28)* – Proceedings dismissed (1999/10181P – *Dunne J* – 14/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 519 *Clare Manor Hotel Limited v Lord Alderman & Burgesses of Dublin*

Dismissal of proceedings

Motion to dismiss on grounds of delay – Trial of preliminary issue of law – Statute of Limitations - Public law time limits – Abuse of process – Inordinate and inexcusable delay – No reasonable cause of action – *Locus standi* – Collateral challenge to criminal proceedings – Diseases of animals – Failure of Minister to establish statutory system of compensation – Proper transposition of EU Directives – Damages for breach of constitutional rights – Whether statute-barred when plenary summons issued – Whether public law reliefs claimed within applicable time limits – Whether good reason for extending time – Whether barred from seeking equitable relief on the grounds of laches and acquiescence – *Lucey and Madigan v The Minister, Ireland and the Attorney General*, (Unrep, Lardner J, 19/12/1990); *Tate v Minister for Social Welfare* [1995] 1 IR 418; *McDonnell v Ireland* [1998] 1 IR 134; *Minister for Justice and Law Reform v Devine* [2012] IEHC 159 (Unrep, Feeney J, 18/4/2012); *Hegarty v O'Loughran* [1990] 1 IR 148; *Irish Equine Foundation Limited v Robinson* [1999] 2 IR 442; *Tuohy v Courtney* [1994] 3 IR 1; *Clerkin v Irwin Pharmacy Limited* (Unrep, Carroll J, 30/4/1993); *Howard v Minister for Agriculture and Food* [1990] 2 IR 260; *Farrell v Minister for Agriculture and Food* (Unrep, Carroll J, 11/10/1995); *Rooney v Minister for Agriculture and Food and Ors* [1991] 2 IR 539; *Rooney v Minister for Agriculture and Food and Ors* [2010] IESC 12, (Unrep, SC, 9/3/2010); *Shell E & P Ireland Limited v McGrath and Ors* [2013] IESC 1, (Unrep, SC, 22/1/2013); *O'Donnell v Dun Laoghaire Corporation* [1991] ILRM 301; *Murphy v The Attorney General* [1982] IR 241; *Byrne v Minister for Defence* [2005] IEHC 147, [2005] 1 IR 577; *Cahill v Sutton* [1980] IR 269; *Sun Fat Chan v Osseous Limited* [1992] 1 IR 425 and *Kelly v Ireland* [1986] ILRM 318 considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 19, r 28, O 84, rr 20 and 21 – *Brucellosis in Cattle (General Provisions) (Amendment) Order*

1996 (SI 86/1996) – Statute of Limitations 1957 (No 6) s 11 – Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (No 6) s 6 – Council Directive 64/432/EEC – Council Directive 77/391/EEC – Council Directive 78/52/EEC – Council Directive 92/102/EEC – Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 – Commission Regulation (EC) 494/98 – Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 – Constitution of Ireland 1937, art 15.2.1° – Proceedings dismissed (2010/6822P – *Laffoy J* – 1/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 520 *Kenny v Minister for Agriculture and Food & Ors*

Dismissal of proceedings

Motion to dismiss – Contract claim statute barred – Tort claim based on fraud allowed to proceed – Fraud pleaded only by way of reply to defence – Whether plaintiff should be allowed await outcome of similar claims – Whether time should be allowed to facilitate plaintiff seeking leave to amend statement of claim – *O'Hara v ACC Bank Plc* [2011] IEHC 367, (Unrep, Charleton J, 7/10/2011); *Gallagher v ACC Bank Plc* [2012] IESC 35, (Unrep, SC, 7/6/2012); *Cuttle v ACC Bank plc* [2012] IEHC 105, (Unrep, Kelly J, 30/3/2012); *Packenham v Irish Ferries* (Unrep, SC, 31/1/2005) considered – Claim dismissed; stay on terms granted (2010/5537P – *Charleton J* – 11/10/2012) [2012] IEHC 396

Gallagher v ACC Bank Plc

Dismissal of proceedings

Applications to dismiss case in limine – Whether manifest claim could not proceed – Personal injuries - Claim for damages arising out of adoption of child without knowledge or consent – Whether plaintiff entitled to prosecute claim for damages without challenging validity of adoption order – *M v An Bord Uchtála* [1977] IR 287 considered – Adoption Act 2010 (No 1), s 50 – Applications refused (2001/16485P – *Ryan J* – 31/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 425 *M(P) v C(D)*

Dismissal of proceedings

Appeal from decision to dismiss proceedings on basis that statement of claim did not disclose cause of action – Previous proceedings settled – Lease – Term of lease – Document altered – Examination of lease by experts – Garda investigation – Reopening of legal issues – Fresh allegation of fraud – Client privity – Legal advice – Admission of new evidence – Whether trial judge correct in dismissing claim – Whether settlement of proceedings agreement to not litigate again – Whether fresh evidence could have been obtained earlier with reasonable diligence – *Mahon v Burke* [1991] ILRM 59; *Gleeson v J Wippell & Company Limited* [1977] 1 WLR 510; *Shaw v Sloan* [1982] NI 393; *Kelly v Ireland* [1986] ILRM 318 and *McIlkenny v Chief Constable of the West Midlands* [1980] QB 283 considered – Appeal dismissed (29/2012 – SC – 9/5/2013) [2013] IESC 20 *Mulrooney v John Shee & Co Solicitors*

Dismissal of proceedings

Motion to dismiss – Plenary proceedings seeking declaration of entitlement to make application for subsidiary protection – Interlocutory injunction restraining deportation – Failure to challenge deportation order – Application for revocation of deportation order non-suspensive – Whether reliefs sought would, if granted, amount to collateral attack on deportation order – Whether object or effect of proceedings questioned validity of measure which could only be questioned under judicial review – *Nawaz v Minister for Justice, Equality & Ors* [2012] IESC 58, (Unrep, SC, 29/11/2012) applied – *R (Razgar) v Home Secretary* [2004] 3 AC 368; Re Article 26 of the Constitution and Sections 5 and 10 of the Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Bill 1999 [2000] IR 360; *Mekudi Yau v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Governor of Cloverhill Prison* [2005] IEHC 360, (Unrep, O'Neill J, 14/10/2005) and *Lelimo v Minister for Justice* [2004] IEHC 165, [2004] 2 IR 178 considered – *O'Donnell v Dun Laoghaire Corporation* [1991] ILRM 301 followed – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 84 – Refugee Act 1996 (No 17), s 5 – Immigration Act 1999 (No 22), ss 3 and 5 – Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking Act) 2000 (No 29), s 5 – European Convention on Human Rights 1950, art 8 – Proceedings struck out (2013/4086P – *MacEochaidh* – 9/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 206 *O(F) v Minister for Justice and Equality*

Leave to appeal

Application for certificate of leave to appeal to Supreme Court – Leave to seek judicial review refused – Decision refusing planning permission – Consideration of finding not yet of legal effect in decision making process – Point not raised in pleadings but in course of legal argument – Failure to apply for leave to amend pleadings – Whether point could be considered by court where not raised in pleadings – Whether point of exceptional public importance – Whether lack of fair procedures – Whether desirable in public interest to determine point – *Glancré Teoranta v An Bord Pleanála* [2006] IEHC 250, (Unrep, MacMenamin J, 13/7/2006); *Urrinbridge v An Bord Pleanála* [2011] 400 IEHC, (Unrep, MacMenamin J, 28/10/2011); *Roadstone Provinces Ltd v Wicklow County Council* [2008] IEHC 210, (Unrep, Finlay Geoghegan J, 4/07/2008); *Harding v Cork County Council* [2006] IEHC 450, (Unrep, Clarke J, 30/11/2006); *Kenny v An Bord Pleanála* [2001] 1 IR 704 and *Commission v Ireland (Case C-215/06)* [2008] ECR I-04911 – Planning and Development Act 2000 (No 30), ss 5 and 50 – Council Directive 85/337/EEC – Application refused (2011/154)JR – *Hedigan J* – 3/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 92 *Shillelagh Quarries Limited v An Bord Pleanála*

Legal representation

Appeal against refusal of ex parte application for costs order – Refusal based on departure from fair procedures - Application to appear

as representative or advocate of appellants – Role of McKenzie friend – Right of audience before courts – Exclusive right of counsel to audience – Statutory extension of right to solicitors – Litigants in person – Regulation of counsel and solicitors – Representation of companies – Inherent jurisdiction of court – Whether obligation on court of Member State to permit litigants to be represented by persons other than qualified lawyer – *McKenzie v McKenzie* [1970] 1 P 33; *Collier v Hicks* (1831) 2 B & Ad 663; *RD v McGuiness* [1999] 2 IR 411; In the matter of the Solicitors (Ireland) Act and in the matter of an application by Sir James O'Connor [1930] 1 IR 623; *RB v AS* [2002] 2 IR 428; *Abse and Others v Smith* [1986] 2 WLR 322; *Battle v Irish Art Promotion Centre Ltd* [1968] 1 IR 252; *Tritonia Ltd v Equity and Law Life Assurance Society* [1943] 1 AC 584; *Re GJ Mannix Ltd* [1984] 1 NZLR 309; *PMLB v PHJ* (Unrep, Budd J, 5/5/1992) and *Coffey v Tara Mines Limited* [2007] IEHC 249, [2008] 1 IR 436 considered – Courts Act 1971 (No 36), s 17 – Statute of the Court of Justice, art 19 – Rules of Court of the European Court Human Rights, r 36 – Application rejected (451, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 464 & 498/2012 – SC – 26/2/2013) [2013] IESC 11
Re Applications for Orders in Relation to Costs in Intended Proceedings by Coffee and Ors

Non-suit

Appeal from decision to grant non-suit – Solicitor's negligence – Loan transaction to carry out works to house – Transfer of house to joint names – Sale of house – Manner in which cheque made out – Mental capacity to understand advice – Illiterate – Motion seeking order pursuant to inherent jurisdiction of court dismissing appeal as abuse of process or on grounds that bound to fail – Legal test in non-suit applications – Whether trial judge erred in failing to assess case at highest – Whether prima facie case – Whether evidence from which negligence could be inferred – Whether trial judge erred in failing to consider report – Whether prima facie evidence of vulnerability – Whether trial judge failed to have due regard for evidence – *Hetherington v Ultra Tyre Services Ltd* [1993] 2 IR 535; *O'Toole v Heavy* [1993] IR 544; *O'Donovan v Southern Health Board* [2001] 3 IR 385; *Schuit v Mylotte* [2010] IESC 56, (Unrep, SC, 18/11/2010) and *Hay v O'Grady* [1992] 1 IR 210 considered – Civil Liability Act 1961 (No 41), ss 17(2) and 35(1)(h) – Appeal allowed; motion struck out (483/2011 – SC – 19/6/2013) [2013] IESC 30
Murphy v Beauchamps

Particulars

Further and better particulars – Personal injury proceedings – Pleadings – Object of particulars – Relevance and necessity – Whether extent to provide particulars in personal injury cases affected by Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004 – Whether particular related to matter in pleading – *Cooney v Browne* [1985] IR 185; [1985]

ILRM 673; *Coyle v Hannan* [1974] NI 160; *McGee v O'Reilly* [1996] 2 IR 229 and *Mahon v Celbridge Spinning Co Ltd* [1967] IR 1 considered - *Doyle v Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Ltd* [2001] 4 IR 594 applied - Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 19, r 7(1) – Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004 (No 31), ss 10, 11, 13(1) and 14 – Majority of particulars disallowed (2011/4081P – Hogan J – 28/3/2013) [2013] IEHC 148

Armstrong v Moffatt

Preliminary issue

Application for trial of preliminary issue – Point of law – Whether duty of care owed by An Garda Síochána in relation to investigation of complaint – Tort – Negligence – Facts in dispute – Concession of facts for purpose of issue – Saving of court time and costs – Whether necessary that determination of preliminary point would bring proceedings to end – Exceptional case – Whether statute barred – Whether *res judicata* – *Kilty v Hayden* [1969] IR 261; *Murray v Fitzgerald* [2009] IEHC 101, (Unrep, MacMenamin J, 27/2/2009); *Tritton Development Fund Ltd v Markin AG* [2007] IEHC 21, (Unrep, Dunne J, 12/2/2007); *Nyembo v Refugee Appeals Tribunal* [2007] IESC 25, [2008] 1 ILRM 289; *Emma Silver Mining Company v Grant* [1879] 11 Ch D 918; *Tara Mines v Minister for Industry and Commerce* [1975] IR 242 considered - Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 25, r 1, O 34, r 2, O 36, r 7 and 9 – Application granted (2002/15244P & 2003/15671P – Peart J – 16/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 209

Smyth v Commissioner of An Garda Síochána

Reconstitution of proceedings

Rule in *Henderson v Henderson* – Discretionary jurisdiction to bar reconstitution – Ultimate aim of discretion – Entitlement of plaintiff to reconstitute proceedings – Whether rule in *Henderson v Henderson* depriving court of jurisdiction to permit reconstitution – Whether reconstitution barred where no adjudication made on underlying merits of claim – *McFarlane v Director of Public Prosecutions* [2008] IESC 7, [2008] 4 IR 117 and *SM v Ireland* [2007] IESC 11, [2007] 3 IR 283 applied - *Johnson v Gore Wood & Co* [2002] 2 AC 1 followed - *AA v Medical Council* [2003] 4 IR 302; [2004] 1 ILRM 372; *Ashcoin Limited* (in creditors' voluntary liquidation) v *Moriarty Holdings Limited* [2012] IEHC 365, (Unreported, Hogan J, 31/7/2012); *Henderson v Henderson* (1843) 3 Hare 100 and *Re Vantive Holdings* [2009] IESC 69, [2010] 2 IR 118 considered – Application granted (2008/2471S – Hogan J – 16/1/2013) [2013] IEHC 8

Ashcoin Ltd (in liquidation) v Moriarty Holdings Ltd

Security for costs

Application for security for costs - Limited company - Proceedings arising from supply of stone allegedly containing pyrite – Onus

on defendant to show prima facie defence – Whether court satisfied plaintiff would be unable to pay costs – Whether prima facie defence – Nature of prima facie defence – Whether content of affidavits matters of assertion – *Tribune Newspapers (in receivership) v Associated Newspapers Limited* (Unrep, Finlay Geoghegan J, 25/3/2011) – Companies Act 1963 (No 33), s 390 – Application refused (2010/758P – Gilligan J – 12/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 525
Marchbury Properties Limited v Murphy Concrete (Manufacturing) Limited

Security for costs

Appeals to Supreme Court – Orders for security for costs – Fixing of amount of security by Master of High Court – Appeal against ruling of Master – Whether High Court had jurisdiction to hear appeal – Whether appeal should be referred directly to Supreme Court – Whether amount fixed reasonable – Non-corporate litigant – One third rule -

Rules of the Superior Courts (SI 15/1986), O 63, r 9 and O 125, r 1 – Appeal allowed and amount of security fixed (2003/9017P, 2003/9018P, 2003/18785P, 2005/272S, 2005/1850P, 2005/2463P and 2006/379SP – Gilligan J – 31/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 370
Moorview Developments Limited v First Active plc

Set aside

Motion to set aside order of Supreme Court – Appeal struck out for failure to disclose stateable cause of action – Setting aside order of Supreme Court – Established criteria for setting aside – Alleged denial of fair procedures – Litigant in person - Refusal of adjournment to obtain legal advice regarding identification of grounds of appeal – Motion to discharge *lis pendens* – *Greendale Developments Ltd* (in liquidation) [2000] IR 514; *Bula Ltd v Tara Mines Ltd* (No 6) [2000] 4 IR 412; *People (Director of Public Prosecutions) v McKeivitt* [2009] IESC 29 (Unrep, SC, 26/3/2009) – Motion refused (29/2011 – SC – 12/6/2013) [2013] IESC 26
Kennedy v Harrabill

Set aside

Summary summons – Judgment in default of appearance – Delay – Whether explanation furnished for failure to enter appearance – Whether defendant as practising solicitor ought to have known consequences of failure to enter appearance – Whether evidence furnished giving rise to jurisdiction to set aside judgement – Whether evidentiary basis of valid and bona fide defence to proceedings – Whether application grounded on vague queries concerning accuracy of figures in support of judgment – Whether lapse of time exceptional and wholly unexplained – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 13, r 11 – Application to set aside refused (2009/5405S – Cooke J – 4/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 560

FCR Media Ltd v Farrell

Set aside

Motion to set aside where party did not appear at trial – Application to extend time – Application to set aside pursuant to inherent jurisdiction of court – Mental capacity – Judgment for damages arising from sexual abuse – Whether element of mistake or surprise about cases being listed – Whether real prospect of success for party applying to set aside – Whether appropriate to set aside judgment pursuant to O 36, r 33 – Whether exceptional circumstances arising from conduct of proceedings by court – Whether alternative remedy of appeal available such as to render it inappropriate to exercise inherent jurisdiction – Whether cognitive ability impaired to extent of insufficient understanding of nature, extent and consequences of decisions made for litigation at relevant time – *Schafer v Blyth* [1920] 3 KB 140; *Wise v Swami Omkarananda* (Unrep, Popplewell J, 21/2/1985); *Hayman v Rowlands* [1957] 1 All ER 321; *Shocked and Another v Goldschmidt and Another* [1994] Times (4/11/1994); *In Re Greendale Developments Limited (No 3)* [2000] 2 IR 514; *Bula Limited v. Tara Mines Limited (No 6)* [2000] 4 IR 412; *Desmond v Moriarty* [2012] IEHC 202, (Unrep, Dunne J, 17/2/2012); *LP v MP* [2002] 1 IR 219; *People (DPP) v McKevitt* [2009] IESC 29, (Unrep, SC, 26/3/2009); *Talbot v McCann Fitzgerald* [2009] IESC 25, (Unrep, SC, 26/3/2009); *Bank of Scotland (Ireland) Limited v Mannion* [2010] IEHC 419, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 18/11/2010); *Hay v O'Grady* [1992] 1 IR 210; *O'Connor v Dublin Bus* [2003] 4 IR 459; *Cooper Flynn v RTE* (Unrep, SC, 28/4/2004); *Wiszniewsky v Central Manchester Health Authority* [1998] PIQR 324; *Fyffes Pic v DCC plc* [2005] IEHC 477, [2006] IEHC 32, [2007] IESC 36, [2009] 2 IR 417; *Masterman-Lister v Brutton and Company (Nos 1 and 2)* [2003] 1 WLR 1511; *Fitzpatrick v KF* [2008] IEHC 104, [2009] 2 IR 7; *Dunhill v Burgen (No 2)* [2012] EWHC 3163 (QB), [2012] 1 WLR 3739; *Presho v Doohan* [2009] IEHC 631, (Unrep, Murphy J, 29/4/2009) considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986) O 36, r 33 and O 58, r 7 – Courts of Justice Act 1936 (No 48), s 39 – Constitution of Ireland 1937, Art 34.4.6° – Applications to set aside refused (2004/19859P and 2004/19860P – Dunne J – 25/10/2013) [2013] IEHC 523
Nolan v Carrick

Strike out

Delay – Right of access to courts – Right to have proceedings determined in reasonable time – Professional negligence claim – Alleged failure to process personal injury claim in Spanish courts within time – Whether proceedings should be struck out for undue delay – Delays in furnishing particulars and making discovery – Proceedings commenced within time – Whether ability to defend proceedings significantly compromised – Whether delay inordinate – Whether delay excusable – Balance of justice – *Primor plc v Stokes Kennedy Crowley* [1996] 2 IR 459

applied - *Adamson v North Eastern Health Board* [2013] IEHC 191, (Unrep, Hogan J, 19/4/2013); *McBrearty v North Western Health Board* [2010] IESC 27, (Unrep, SC, 10/5/2010) and *II v JJ* [2012] IEHC 327, (Unrep, Hogan J, 5/7/2012) considered – Motion adjourned to allow plaintiff apply for hearing date (2005/3112P – Hogan J – 9/5/2013) [2013] IEHC 391
Cassery v O'Connell

Strike out

Failure to disclose cause of action – Proceedings alleging breach of covenant and seeking recovery of possession of lands – Alleged absence of privity of contract – Alleged failure to serve forfeiture notice – Allegation that claim statute barred – Jurisdiction to strike out – *Mitchell v Ireland* [2005] IEHC 102, (Unrep, Hanna J, 18/3/2005) considered – Rules of the Superior Courts (SI 15/1986), O 19, r 28 – Proceedings struck out (2008/4749P – Moriarty J – 17/12/2012) [2012] IEHC 608
Looney v Punch Holdings

Strike out

Proceedings arising out of alleged failure to process arbitration of claim for illness pension - Application for orders striking out proceedings - Alleged failure to disclose cause of action – Claim that proceedings bound to fail – Claim that proceedings abuse of process – Alleged delay – Arbitration process in existence – Impermissibility of bringing parallel proceedings in court - Whether delay inordinate and inexcusable – Prejudice - *Henderson v Henderson* (1843) 3 Hare 100; *Barry v Buckley* [1981] IR 306; *Riordan v Ireland* [2001] 4 IR 463; *Primor plc v Stokes Kennedy Crowley* [1996] 2 IR 459; *Aer Rianta cpt v Ryanair Ltd* [2004] IESC 23, [2004] 1 IR 506 and *Lawlor v Ross* (Unrep, SC, 22/11/2001) considered – Rules of the Superior Courts (SI 15/1986), O 19, r 28 – Claim struck out (2010/8021P – Ryan J – 8/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 513
Murray v Irish National Insurance Public Limited

Strike out

Motion to strike out for no reasonable cause of action – Application for interlocutory injunction restraining first and second defendants from dealing with shares in third defendant and from reducing assets below present value of plaintiff's investment – Security on loan – Registration of notice as to stock – Actual notice – Constructive trust – Creation of equitable charge through promise to pay out of particular fund – Whether established that no reasonable prospect that plaintiff could succeed if case proceeded to hearing – Whether plaintiff entitled to interlocutory orders in respect of third defendant's shares – *Barry v Buckley* [1981] IR 306; *Rogers v Michelin Tyre Plc* [2005] IEHC 294, (Unrep, Clarke J, 28/6/2005); *McKillen v Misland (Cyprus) Investments Ltd & Others* [2013] EWCA Civ 781; *Barry v Buckley* [1981] IR 306; *Tett v Phoenix Property and Investments Company Ltd* [1986] BCLC

149; *Re Claygreen Ltd* [2005] EWHC 2032 (CH); *Re Champion Publications Ltd* (Unrep, Blayney J, 4/6/1991); *HKN Invest Oy v Incotrade PVT Ltd* [1993] 3 IR 152; *Kelly v Cahill* [2001] 1 IR 56; *In Varko Ltd (In Liquidation)* [2012] IEHC 278, (Unrep, Gilligan J, 3/2/2012); *Eves v Eves* [1975] 1 WLR 1338 and *Fitzpatrick v DAF Sales* [1988] 1 IR 464 considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986) O 19, r 28 – Companies Act 1963 (No 33), s 123 – Motion to strike out dismissed; order granted restraining payment or other distribution or disposal of proceeds of sale of shares in third defendant until hearing of action otherwise than (a) on notice to plaintiff and (b) with his consent (2013/6852P – Ryan J – 31/10/2013) [2013] IEHC 489
Anderson v Finavera Wind Energy Inc

Strike out

Motion to strike out appeal of second and third appellant as nullity – Appeal of order striking out proceedings for inordinate and inexcusable delay – Liquidator – Requirement of consent of liquidator for legal action of company in voluntary liquidation – Creditors' resolution in favour of continuation of appeal – Supervisory jurisdiction of High Court over companies under the Companies Acts – Whether liquidator had given consent for appeal – Whether appropriate to allow opportunity to invoke supervisory jurisdiction of High Court to allow appeals to proceed lawfully – *Framus Limited and Others v CRH plc and Others* [2012] IEHC 316, (Unrep, Cooke J, 19/7/2012) and *Re Amantiss Enterprises Ltd* [2013] IEHC 21, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 22/1/2013) considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 58, r 8 – Companies Act 1963 (No 33), s 309 – Appeals of second and third appellants struck out with stay of three months on order (445/2012 – SC – 14/5/2013) [2013] IESC 23
Framus Ltd v CRH Plc

Summary judgment

Loan – Trial of issues – Previous finding of no fiduciary relationship – Pleadings – Pleading requirements – Defence and counterclaim – Amount of interest – Wrongful interest rate – Wrongful conduct – Breach of trust and confidence – Equitable fraud – Misrepresentation – Prayer for relief – Whether entitled to judgment without trial of further issues – Whether issues remained to be determined – Whether matter pleaded – Whether court could determine on evidence amount to which plaintiff entitled – Whether matters pleaded predicated on existence of fiduciary relationship – Whether dispute determined by earlier judgment – Whether defence existed – *Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Ltd v Morrissey* [2013] IEHC 208, (Unrep, Finlay Geoghegan J, 14/5/2013); *Croke v Waterford Crystal Ltd* [2004] IESC 97, [2005] 2 IR 383; *Keaney v Sullivan* [2007] IEHC 8, (Unrep, Finlay Geoghegan J, 16/1/2007); *Forshall v Walsh and Bank of Ireland* (Unrep, Shanley J, 18/6/1997) and *McCaughy v Irish Bank Resolution*

Corporation Ltd [2013] IESC 17, (Unrep, SC, 13/3/2013) considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 19, r 5(2) and O 63A, r 5, 6 and 14 – Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Act 2013 (No 2) – Council Directive 2001/24/EC – Counterclaim dismissed; trial of issue ordered (2011/1548S & 2011/86COM – Finlay Geoghegan J – 12/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 506

Irish Bank Resolution Corporation Ltd v Morrissey

Summary judgment

Guarantee – Promissory estoppel – Whether agreement of defendant to use best endeavours to procure payment of third party debts sufficient to estop plaintiff from seeking summary judgment – Whether reliance placed upon representations – Whether defendant acted to detriment – Whether unjust or inequitable to permit plaintiff to seek summary judgment – Whether arguable defence raised – Whether guarantees enforceable – Whether agreement to use best endeavours capable of binding parties – Whether fair or reasonable probability of establishing real or bona fide defence – *Doran v Thompson Ltd* [1978] IR 223; *Ryan v Connolly* [2001] 1 IR 627; *Industrial Yarns Ltd v Greene* [1984] ILRM 15; *Daly v Minister for Marine* [2001] 3 IR 513; *McGuinness v McGuinness* (Unrep, Kinlen J, 19/3/2002); *Danske Bank v Durkan New Homes* [2010] IESC 22, (Unrep, SC, 22/4/2010); *Aer Rianta Cpt v Ryanair Ltd* [2001] 4 IR 607; *McGrath v O'Driscoll* [2006] IEHC 195, [2007] 1 ILRM 203 and *First National Bank v Anglin* [1996] 1 IR 75 applied – *Walford v Miles* [1992] 2 AC 128 distinguished – Rules of the Superior Courts 1985 (SI 15/1986), O 37 – Summary judgment granted (2013/1388S & 2013/97COM – McGovern J – 11/9/2013) [2013] IEHC 420

Bank of Scotland plc v Kennedy

Summary summons

Master of the High Court – Jurisdiction – Contested or uncontested case – Whether Master having jurisdiction to strike out summary summons in contested case – Whether filing of affidavit disputing plaintiff's claim rendering case contested – *ACC Bank plc v Tobin* [2012] IEHC 348, (Unrep, Laffoy J, 27/7/2012) and *Grace v Molloy* [1927] IR 405 considered – Rules of the Superior Courts 1986 (SI 15/1986), O 37, rr 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 – Appeal allowed (2011/2085S – Hogan J – 4/11/2013) [2013] IEHC 557

ACC Bank plc v Heffernan

Time limits

Appearance – Time limits – Extension of time – Jurisdiction – Statutory appeal – Statutory interpretation – Rules of court – Whether rule of court mandating entry of appearance within specified time ousted jurisdiction to extend time – Whether general provision of rules of court permitting extension of time – *In re MJBCH Ltd* (In liquidation) [2013] IEHC 256, (Unrep, Finlay Geoghegan J, 15/4/2013) and *Dunmanus*

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Gokul v Aer Lingus plc

Time limits

Appeal – Supreme Court – Time limits – Extension of time – Test to be applied – Objective bias – Whether unusual circumstances giving rise to application for extension of time to appeal – Whether party becoming aware of facts giving rise to appeal outside of time to appeal – Whether reasonable to expect party to engage in further inquiry following High Court hearing – Whether arguable grounds of appeal – Whether applicant placed upon further inquiry following disclosure by trial judge of financial interest in party – Whether evolution in jurisprudence subsequent to hearing giving rise to entitlement to extension of time to appeal – *Framus Ltd v CRH plc* [2013] IESC 23, (Unrep, SC, 14/5/2013), *Goode Concrete v Cement Roadstone Holdings plc* [2011] IEHC 15, (Unrep, Cooke J, 20/1/2011), *Goode Concrete v CRH plc* [2012] IEHC 116, (Unrep, Cooke J, 21/3/2012), *Goode Concrete v CRH plc* [2012] IEHC 198, (Unrep, Cooke J, 15/5/2012), *Mavior v Zerko Ltd* [2013] IESC 15, [2013] 2 ILRM 167, *Éire Continental Trading Co v Clonmel Foods* [1955] IR 170, *Brewer v Commissioners for Public Works* [2003] 3 IR 539, *Smith v Kvaerner Cementations Foundations Ltd* [2006] EWCA Civ 242, [2006] 3 All ER 593 considered – Extension of time granted for one ground only (2012/579, 2012/580 & 2012/581 – SC – 10/10/2013) [2013] IESC 39

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Negligence

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“Hanging on a knife-edge”. Suspended Sentences and recent case law.

JULIA FOX BL

Introduction

This article explores recent case law regarding suspended sentences and the operation of section 99 of the Criminal Justice Act 2006, as amended by s.60 of the Criminal Justice Act 2007 and s.51 of the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 (hereafter “the 2006 Act, as amended”). In *McCabe [No.2] v. The Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecution*¹, Mr Justice Hogan, while not declaring s.99 to be unconstitutional, made a declaration that a reactivation of a suspended sentence by the Circuit Court (when that sentence was originally imposed by the Circuit Court on appeal from the District Court) would be unconstitutional, absent the legislature introducing provision for an appeal of that reactivation. This article looks at that decision as well as a series of judgments preceding it wherein the Courts have examined the operation of s.99 in the context of the principle that conviction and sentence in the District Court are not severable.

The Legislation

Section 99 (1) of the 2006 Act, as amended, provides:-

“Where a person is sentenced to a term of imprisonment (other than a mandatory term of imprisonment) by a court in respect of an offence, that court may make an order suspending the execution of the sentence in whole or in part, subject to the person entering into a recognisance to comply with the conditions of, or imposed in relation to, the order.

Section 99(9) of the 2006 Act, as amended, provides:

“Where a person to whom an order under subsection (1) applies is, during the period of suspension concerned, convicted of an offence, being an offence committed after the making of the order under subsection (1), the court before which proceedings for the offence were brought shall, before imposing sentence for that offence, remand the person in custody or on bail to the next sitting of the court that made the said order.”

Section 99(10) of the 2006 Act, as amended, provides:-

“A court to which a person has been remanded under subsection (9) shall revoke the order under subsection

(1) unless it considers that the revocation of that order would be unjust in all the circumstances of the case, and where the court revokes that order, the person shall be required to serve the entire of the sentence of imprisonment originally imposed by the court, or such part of the sentence as the court considers just having regard to all the circumstances of the case, less any period of that sentence already served in prison and any period spent in custody (other than a period spent in custody by the person in respect of an offence referred to in subsection (9)) pending the revocation of the said order.”

Section 99(10A) of the 2006 Act (as amended) provides:-

“The court referred to in subsection (10) shall remand the person concerned in custody or on bail to the next sitting of the court referred to in subsection (9) for the purpose of that court imposing sentence on that person for the offence referred to in that subsection.”

Where a person is subject to a suspended sentence and is, during the period of the bond, convicted of an offence which occurred during the period of the bond, the person must be remanded to the court that originally imposed the suspended sentence prior to sentencing for the second offence. The court that imposed the suspended sentence must, unless it considers that revocation would be unjust in all the circumstances of the case, revoke the suspension. That court must then remand the person back to the court that imposed the second conviction, for sentencing on the second conviction.

Murphy v. Judge Watkins & Ors.²

In *Murphy*, the applicant brought judicial review proceedings in which he sought, *inter alia*, to quash an order of the District Court remanding him in custody to the Circuit Court pursuant to s.99(9) as well as the subsequent order of the Circuit Court partly reactivating a suspended sentence. The applicant had pleaded guilty to offences in the District Court. The court presenter then outlined the facts and relayed previous convictions including that the applicant had received a suspended sentence from the Circuit Court. Judge Watkin remanded him in custody pursuant to s.99 to the Circuit Court where the Circuit Judge reactivated part of the suspended sentence. The applicant was then remanded back to the

1 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J, 30th September, 2014.

2 Unreported, High Court, Moriarty J. 11th July, 2014.

District Court for sentencing on the District Court charges at which point Judge Watkin made no order.

The applicant argued that s.99(9) provides that where a person is *convicted of an offence* the court shall remand that person to the court where the suspended sentence was imposed and that since he was not convicted, in the sense of having been sentenced, the court had no jurisdiction to remand him. Furthermore, since there was no jurisdiction to remand him pursuant to s.99, the Circuit Court could not make an order pursuant to s.99 reactivating part of the suspended sentence.

The applicant relied on the judgment of Mr Justice Henchy in *State (de Burca) v bUadhaigh*³ in support of the proposition that sentence and conviction are inextricably linked. In that case, it had been held that where either conviction or sentence was quashed on appeal, the other fell. Mr Justice Moriarty held that the link between conviction and sentence was confined to that particular context. Moriarty J. distinguished the cases of *Burke v Director of Public Prosecutions & Judge McNulty*⁴ and *Muntean v Hamill and the Director of Public Prosecutions*⁵. These cases had considered the severability of conviction and sentence but Moriarty J. emphasised that they occurred in a specific statutory context (s.24 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1997 and the Rules of the District Court in *Burke* and s.99 and s.50 of the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act 1961 in *Muntean*). He held that he would follow the decision in *Harvey v Leonard*⁶ as that was the only case that considered the same statutory context.

The applicant in *Harvey* had entered pleas of guilty in the District Court where it transpired that the applicant had previously received a suspended sentence. The judge indicated that she was convicting the applicant but remanding him pursuant to s.99 to the court that had imposed the suspended sentence. The applicant brought judicial review proceedings in which he argued that the district judge had no jurisdiction to remand him pursuant to s.99(9). He argued that he was not a convicted person as he had not yet been sentenced and a conviction in the District Court had no free standing efficacy divorced of penalty. Mr Justice Hedigan held that while conviction and sentence were not severable, in the sense that where one fell the other did too, in this case, neither had fallen. He held that conviction and sentence were separate actions and that the applicant's "challenge was based on...the mistaken view that conviction and sentence are so inextricably linked that nothing of substance can occur between them. That proposition cannot be correct."⁷ Hedigan J. noted that District Court judges frequently convict and then remand for sentencing (e.g. for preparation of a probation report) and that the procedure contemplated by s.99, which could not be clearer from the wording of the 2006 Act (as amended), occurred within the same hiatus between conviction and sentencing. In *Murphy v Judge Watkins*, Moriarty J. refused the application.

McCabe v. Governor of Mountjoy⁸

In *McCabe v. Governor of Mountjoy*, similar themes in respect of s.99 were explored. This case led to a separate set of plenary proceedings (referred to above and discussed in detail below) wherein Mr Justice Hogan identified an unconstitutional lacuna in respect of s.99(12) but *McCabe No.1* dealt with the severability issue. The applicant had been convicted in the District Court and received a six month sentence suspended for two years. The conviction was affirmed on appeal by the Circuit Court on appeal. Within the period of the bond, he was convicted in the District Court of a public order offence and was remanded to the Circuit Court pursuant to s.99 of the 2006 Act, as amended. The Circuit Court revoked the suspended sentence and the applicant went into custody to serve the sentence with sentencing for the District Court offence postponed. In Article 40 proceedings, he argued (along with a point in relation to a defective warrant) that (i) the word 'convicted' in s.99 can only refer to a sentenced person so that s.99 is inoperable and (ii) that s.99 is unconstitutional because there is no right of appeal from the Circuit Court on appeal despite the wording of s.99(12).

Hogan J. held that the word conviction in respect of the District Court implies that the person has been both convicted and sentenced. He noted that the Supreme Court had twice confirmed that conviction and sentence are entirely intertwined so that an invalid sentence "cannot be severed from a conviction so as to validate a conviction on its own" (the *State (de Búrca) v. Ó bUadhaigh*). Further evidence of the link was that the right of appeal in District Court criminal matters is confined to those cases where sentence has been imposed.⁹ However, Hogan J. held as follows:-

"But if, in general, the law (and more specifically statutory law) treats conviction and sentence as inseparable, this does not mean that this is so for all purposes or, more particularly that the Oireachtas is not free to depart from these concepts. It follows that the meaning of the word conviction has not been fixed unalterably by some sacred tablet of stone which has permanently abridged the capacity of the Oireachtas to give this word any different meaning, even in the plainly different legal concept of the 2006 Act"¹⁰

Where a District Court had found a person guilty but adjourned the matter for sentencing, lawyers and lay people alike would correctly say that the person had convicted the accused of the offence. He held that the principle of *noscitur a sociis (known by its companions) i.e.* that words derive meaning from their context:-

"applies with a particular force to the present case. The entire language, structure and format of s.99 and particularly s.99(9) and s.99(10) expressly presupposes that the second court will transfer the question of the reactivation of suspended sentence to the first court and that this will be done before the second

3 1976 I.R. 85.

4 Unreported, High Court, Charleton J., 16th April, 2007.

5 Unreported, McCarthy J. 11th May, 2010.

6 Unreported, High Court, Hedigan J., 3rd July, 2008.

7 Unreported, High Court, Hedigan J., 3rd July, 2008, para 16.

8 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J., 3rd June, 2014.

9 Ibid, paras 10-11. See s.18(1) of the Courts of Justice Act 1928

10 Ibid, para 15.

court imposes sentence. If the phrase “convicted of an offence” were to have the meaning for which the applicant contends, then these provisions would be otiose and unworkable.”¹¹

Hogan J. rejected the applicant’s separate contention that the warrant was bad on its face. As far as the non-constitutional questions were concerned, he was satisfied that the applicant was in lawful detention. The constitutional questions were left to be dealt with by way of plenary summons in *McCabe No.2*.

McCabe [No.2] v. The Attorney General & the Director of Public Prosecutions¹²

In *McCabe No.2*, Hogan J. examined whether a person who had a suspended sentence reactivated by the District Court appeals had a constitutional right to appeal that reactivation. Section 99(12) provides:-

“Where an order under subsection 1 is revoked in accordance with this section, the person to whom the order applied may appeal against the revocation to such court as would have jurisdiction to hear an appeal against any conviction, or sentence imposed on, a person for an offence by the court than revoked the order.”

Hogan J. held that there was no mechanism for an appeal of the reactivation of a suspended sentence where the sentence was reactivated by the Circuit Court (in circumstances where the Circuit Court had imposed the original suspended sentence on appeal from the District Court). In contrast, suspended sentences reactivated in the District Court can be appealed to the Circuit Court. There was no appeal from the Circuit Court (when it is exercising its appellate jurisdiction from the District Court) to the Court of Criminal Appeal as appeals to the CCA are confined to prosecutions on indictment only (ss.63 of the Courts of Justice Act 1924 and s.31 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2010).

The plaintiff had argued that the failure to provide an appeal mechanism was arbitrary and contrary to the equality guarantee in Article 40.1. Hogan J. recalled that the policy objective as expressed in s.99(12) was that the reactivation of an suspended sentence should be capable of being appealed to a higher court. He held that there was no possible justification for the radically different treatment of persons whose suspended sentences for minor offences had been reactivated by the Circuit Court as distinct from the District Court.¹³

Citing several authorities¹⁴, Hogan J. held that:-

“The equal treatment of similarly placed persons within the criminal justice system is at the heart of the concept of equality before the law which, as the

language of that provision makes clear, is one of the fundamental objectives of Article 40.1.”¹⁵

He noted that s.99(12) does not provide for the automatic reactivation of a suspended sentence in every case and this acknowledgement that reactivation may be unjust in certain circumstances made the right to appeal provided by s.99(12) of such vital importance.¹⁶

He held that,

“In these circumstances, the denial of the right of appeal to one category of litigant simply because of the essentially accidental fact that the suspended sentence which has now been re-activated was imposed on appeal by the Circuit Court rather than at first instance by the District Court has the inherent capacity to work a considerable injustice and unfairness...”¹⁷

Hogan J. examined whether Article 34.3.4¹⁸ requires the existence of a right of appeal from a reactivation of a suspended sentence by the Circuit Court in the circumstances outlined above. He rejected the defendant’s argument that the decision to reactivate a suspended sentence was part of the appellate jurisdiction which had already been exercised when the applicant persuaded the Circuit Court on appeal to suspend the sentence which had been appealed from the District Court. The language, structure and form of s.99(12) necessarily presupposes that the decision to reactivate is a decision taken at first instance. He referred to the Supreme Court decision in *The People v. Foley*¹⁹ and the dicta of Chief Justice Denham which he said strongly supported the view that the reactivation of the suspended sentence pursuant to s.99(1) represents a new exercise of a statutory jurisdiction.²⁰ Hogan J. rejected the argument that the case stated procedure provided by s.16 of the Courts of Justice Act 1947, which allows a case to be stated by the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court was a right of appeal as the ultimate decision continues to rest with the Circuit Court judge.

Hogan J. noted that Article 34.3.4 does not contemplate a universal right of appeal in all cases. However he said that the right of appeal is subject to “law”. The learned Judge noted that this includes not only positive law in the sense of a statute but also the provisions of the Constitution. He stated that Article 34.3.4, in the words of Henchy J. in *King*

11 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J., 3rd June, 2014, para 20.
12 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J., 30th September, 2014
13 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J. 30th September, 2014, para.15.
14 *Cox v Ireland* [1992] 2.I.R.305, *S.M. v. Ireland (No.2)* [2007] 4 IR 369, *B.G. v. Ireland (No.2)* [2011] 3.I.R. 748 and *Byrne v Director of Oberstown School* [2014] 1 I.L.R.M. 346.

15 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J. 30th September, 2014, para.15.
16 *Ibid.*, para.16.
17 *Ibid.*, para.17.
18 “*The Courts of First Instance shall also include Courts of local and limited jurisdiction with a right to appeal as determined by law.*”
19 Unreported, Supreme Court, Denham C.J., 23rd January, 2014. The Supreme Court had held that the appropriate venue for consideration of reactivation of a suspended sentence was the Court of Criminal Appeal as opposed to the Circuit Court in circumstance where the length of the suspension imposed by the Circuit Court upon conviction on indictment had been varied following an undue leniency appeal by the DPP. The limited right of appeal to the Supreme Court pursuant to s.29 of the Courts of Justice Act 1924 was held to be clear from the wording of the section and justified by the Legislature’s policy of restricting appeals from the CCA to the Supreme Court.
20 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J., 30th September, 2014, para 23.

*v. Attorney General*²¹ “must [not] ignore the fundamental norms of the legal order postulated by the Constitution”.²² Hogan J. held that the right of an accused to appeal against sentence has been a fundamental feature of the criminal justice system and that:-

“In view of the centrality to the criminal justice system and given that the protection of liberty, the trial of offences in due course of law and the existence of appeal are themselves all fundamental norms expressively safeguarded by the Constitution, it is difficult to see how a law which did not provide for a right of appeal against sentence imposed by a court of local and limited jurisdiction could be said to be a law which represented those fundamental norms, so that it was a “law” in the sense identified by Henchy J. in *King*...”²³

It was unnecessary to decide whether Article 34.3.4 requires the existence of a right of appeal against sentence in every single case, however he said that a denial of a right of appeal against a sentence imposed by a court of local and limited jurisdiction was something which, at the very least, required to be objectively justified. For the reasons he already articulated regarding the equality guarantee in Article 40.1, Hogan J. found that such justification was not present. Accordingly, he held that the failure to provide a right of appeal against the reactivation of a suspended sentence by the Circuit Court in the circumstances of the case amounted to a breach of Article 40.1 and Article 34.3.4.

Hogan J. found that because the separate findings of unconstitutionality related to a legislative failure or lacuna, an order declaring the section unconstitutional would not be appropriate. He held, citing his own judgment in *BG v. Ireland (No.2)*, that a finding of unconstitutionality would serve no real purpose in the present case “*other than a Samson-like collapsing of the legislative pillars which gave rise to the unconstitutionality in the first instance.*”²⁴ The court must nonetheless fashion an effective remedy. To create a right of appeal for accused persons in the same position as the plaintiff would be to go far beyond the judicial capacity, given the constitutionally mandated separation of powers. Rather,

he made a declaration that it would be unconstitutional to give effect to a reactivated sentence in the absence of a legally conferred right of appeal.

Conclusion

Other recent case law regarding s.99 includes the *Director of Public Prosecutions v. Carter*²⁵ (under appeal) wherein it was held that the regime for the suspension of sentences is one now entirely governed by statute and that the requirement in s.99(9) that the convicted person be remanded to the very next sitting of the court that imposed the suspended sentence was mandatory²⁶. In the *Director of Public Prosecution v Vajenski*²⁷, following the *dicta* in *Carter*, Mr Justice Peart held that the regime regarding suspended sentences previously based on common law was obsolete and it was not now the law that, except in exceptional circumstances, a sentence could not be suspended for a period longer than the sentence itself.

Several other judicial reviews have been initiated by applicants who face reactivation of a suspended sentence in the Circuit Court (in circumstances where the sentence was imposed on appeal from the District Court) and who challenge the constitutionality of s.99 of the 2006 Act (as amended) on various grounds. A number of these cases were opened together at the beginning of 2014 and then adjourned pending the outcome of the decisions in *Murphy* and *McCabe*. One of the complaints made in these cases was that the section fails to provide a mechanism to appeal a conviction that triggers the re-entry of the suspended sentence for possible reactivation.

McCabe [No 2] will presumably prompt the legislature to once again amend s.99 to provide a right of appeal from a reactivation by the Circuit Court in the McCabe type scenario. While this will remedy an important lacuna, other problems will persist without further amendment. There is no doubt about the advantage of the suspended sentence as a sentencing option. One hopes that the Oireachtas might also consider consolidating this unwieldy piece of legislation and in addition tackling some of the other procedural difficulties that have been encountered in operating the section. ■

21 [1981] I.R.233.

22 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J., 30th September, 2014, para 34.

23 Ibid. para 37.

24 Unreported, High Court, Hogan J., 30th September, 2014, para 42.

25 Unreported, High Court, O'Malley J., 21st March, 2014.

26 While this requirement is necessitated by statute, anecdotally, it has caused logistical problems that may not be justified, particularly where the person is being remanded on bail and consents to a longer remand.

27 Unreported, High Court, Peart J., 23rd May, 2014.

Insolvency of defined benefit pension schemes

STEPHEN O'SULLIVAN BL

Introduction

Defined benefit pension schemes (hereinafter DB schemes) provide members with retirement and death benefits based on formulae set out in the rules of the scheme. Benefits are often based on a member's salary at retirement age and on his or her pensionable service. The pension benefit under a DB scheme is often for a lump sum up to one and a half times final remuneration and for an annual payment up to two thirds final remuneration - sums greater than this are not as tax efficient. Very often account is taken of the State pension in calculating a members pensionable salary.

Many DB schemes have solvency issues. Aer Lingus, Marks and Spencers and ESB, in particular, have had difficulties leading to industrial unrest. This is partly caused by the worldwide market turmoil since 2007. Other causes are increased life expectancy, the increased cost of buying annuities for pensioners and the rate of increase of final salaries. The projected assets do not meet the projected liabilities. As a result, many DB schemes have been closed off to new members after a certain date. Trustees are unsure what to do with the scheme going forward and members are unsure what benefits they can expect on reaching normal retirement age.

The trustees of a DB scheme must submit an actuarial funding certificate to the Pensions Authority¹ at least every 3 years, signed by an actuary². The certificate demonstrates that the scheme complies with the funding standard under the Pensions Act 1990, stating whether the scheme is capable of meeting specified liabilities in a statutory order of priority in the event of its being wound up on the date of the certificate. The Funding Standard ensures that a DB scheme has sufficient funds to secure the pensions rights that members have built up, should the scheme have to be wound up at any stage³.

The term 'pensioners' is used to describe persons over the retirement age and benefiting from pension payments. Active members are members who have not reached retirement age and are still contributing to the scheme – they are usually still in the employment. Deferred members are members who have not reached retirement age and are no longer contributing to the pension – they have usually left the employment.

Options for the company when the DB scheme does not meet the funding standard

Amendment of trust deed

The trustees might amend the trust deed to reduce benefits of active and deferred members. Some trust deeds even allow for benefits of pensioners to be reduced, but the trust deed has to clearly allow for this. Whenever the trustees exercise this power, they must do so in accordance with their fiduciary duties which might mean they cannot unduly favour one group of beneficiaries over another. Amendments might mean increasing the retirement age or changing the way in which final salary is calculated to make it lower.

Funding proposal

If a DB scheme doesn't meet the funding standard set out by the Pensions Act, the scheme trustees must submit a funding proposal⁴ to The Pensions Authority explaining how they intend to rectify the scheme's funding. Typically the funding proposal increases contribution rates and reduces benefits of active and deferred members. If it is sought to reduce the benefits of pensions in payment, a section 50 order is needed. The funding proposal does not require the vote of members, though some trustees might hold a vote where the unions are strong. The funding proposal must bring the pension into compliance with the funding standard within 3 years, or such longer period as determined by the Pensions Authority, being the later of 21st December 2023 or 6 years from the commencement of the funding proposal. In *Greene v. Coady*⁵ the employer made a funding proposal of 10.725m per year for 12 years to bring a DB scheme with a funding deficit of €100m into line by 2020. The court held *obiter* that this could amount to a contract between the trustees and the employer, which could be sued on, and could amount to a preferential debt on liquidation. Often, a funding proposal necessitates an amendment to the trust deed.

Contribution demand notice

Some trust deeds allow the trustees to serve a contribution demand notice (CDN) on the employer, if the funding of the scheme is not sufficient. The words contribution demand notice need not be used – it is enough to show that the deed can be interpreted to mean that the employer is liable for the sum demanded by the trustees in the period it is demanded, usually after the employers serves notice of intention to

1 The title "The Pensions Authority" replaces the title "The Pensions Board", by reason of an amendment to s. 9 Pensions Act 1990, effective from 7/3/14.

2 S.42 and 43 of the Pension Act 1990 as amended.

3 S.44 Pension Act 1990 as amended.

4 S.49 of the Pension Act 1990 as amended.

5 Unreported, High Court (Charlton J.) 4th February 2013

discontinue contributions and the expiry of that notice. The trust deed does not always make clear if the employer is liable to make up the difference on a statutory minimum basis (the funding standard), a annuity buy out basis (the most expensive standard) or a hybrid (somewhere in between in expense terms) In some cases, the trust deed may not have this detail and it will fall to be determined by the court.

In *Holloway v. Damianus BV* (Unreported High Court 25/7/14)⁶, the court directed the employer to pay €2.23 million to the DB scheme trustees pursuant to a contribution demand issued by the trustees. The court held the terms of the trust deed meant that the employer was liable to satisfy any contribution demand notice made in the period after their notice of cessation of contribution was served, and before expiry of that notice. Further the employer was liable on a hybrid basis as calculated by the trustees, and not merely on a statutory minimum basis - the court pointed to the failure of the defendant to consult with the plaintiff in relation to the figures and found the trustees acted reasonably in arriving at this figure.

In *Greene v. Coady*, the DB scheme had an estimated €129.2m deficit. The trust deed provided that, if the trustees served a CDN on the employer, the employer was liable for the whole amount of the deficit – not all trusts have such a provision. The trustees accepted an offer by the employer of an injection of €23.1m into the DB scheme, plus €14m to a defined contribution scheme for active members and liquidating the DB scheme, instead of serving a CDN on the employer. The trustees accountant estimated that serving a CDN could have netted up to €42.5m to the DB scheme. The court held the trustees did not act in breach of duty in adopting this course because they had not acted dishonestly or in bad faith, they took into account relevant considerations and excluded irrelevant considerations and the decision was not one that no reasonable body of trustees would have made. The trustees had taken into account *inter alia* that the employers operations might close at Shannon if the CDN was served and the employer liquidated and the risk that assets of the employer would move to related companies. The decision was not appealed to the Supreme Court. It is quite common for trustees to serve a CDN on the employer and then negotiate on a settlement *in lieu* of putting the employer into liquidation.

Section 50 Order

If the funding of the scheme is not sufficient to satisfy the Funding Standard, the Pensions Authority can make a Section 50 order, of it's own initiative. or at the request of the trustees. Under such an order, accrued benefits relating to members' past service can be reduced. Trustees must have asked the

employer for the contributions necessary to sustain the scheme without benefit reductions, and the employer must have declined to pay those contributions. Members must be notified of the proposal and are allowed make submissions in relation to the proposal, which submissions must be considered by the trustees. Affected persons can appeal a Section 50 order to the High Court, where the order was made other than on the application of trustees⁷. Also, the Pensions Authority will be able to wind-up a pension scheme where, *inter alia*, a scheme is underfunded, but will have to consult with scheme members before making such an order.

Recently, Section 50 of the Pensions Act 1990 was amended⁸ so that an order can reduce pensions in payment. The section now allows for pensions in payment of between €12,000 to €60,000 to be reduced by up to 10%, and for pensions in payment of €60,000 or more to be reduced by up to 20%. No pension can be reduced below €12,000, and no pension of €60,000 or more can be reduced below €54,000.

Winding up

Perhaps the last option is the winding up of the pension scheme. It was the case that under the Pensions Act 1990, as amended, pensioners had to be paid off in full before deferred or active members. This could result in pensioners getting all or nearly all of their entitlement with active and deferred members getting nothing. Section 48 of the Pensions Act 1990 has been amended⁹ effective from 25/12/13. The order of priorities is now as follows:-

Where the DB scheme is insolvent and the employer is solvent, the priority is as follows:-

1. Additional voluntary contributions.
2. Winding up expenses.
3. Pensions in payment.
 - 100% of pensions up to €12,000 per annum.
 - 90% of pensions between €12,000 and €60,000 per annum.
 - 80% of pensions above €60,000 per annum.
4. Active and deferred members up to 50% of entitlement.
5. Any remaining assets used to bring pensioners up to 100%.
6. Any remaining assets used to bring active and deferred members up to 100%.

Where the DB scheme is insolvent and the employer is insolvent, the priority is as follows:-

1. Additional voluntary contributions.
2. Winding up expenses.
3. 100% of pensions in payment up to €12,000 per annum.
4. The remainder of the scheme assets are apportioned to ensure that all members receive 50% of their

6 The words contribution demand notice were not used in the deed. Clause 8 provided "The Employers ... shall pay to the Trustees the moneys which the Trustees determine, after consulting the Actuary and the Principal Employer, to be necessary to support and maintain the Fund in order to provide the benefits under the Scheme." Clause 18 provided the employer could cease contribution at the end of the notice. Clause 19.1 provided the scheme could be wound up on the date of expiry of the notice. Clause 20.1 provided that employer continued to be liable for contributions which were due but were unpaid on the date of winding up.

7 S.50.6 of the Pensions Act 1990 as inserted by s.30 of the Social Welfare and Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2013.

8 Amended by s. 11 of the Social Welfare And Pensions (No. 2) Act 2013

9 Amended by s. 11 of the Social Welfare And Pensions (No. 2) Act 2013

benefits. In the event that a scheme does not have sufficient funds, the Act provides that the State will, subject to certain criteria, provide the necessary funds to cover the shortfall. This is to provide for *Robins v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions*¹⁰, analysed below.

5. Where the scheme has sufficient assets to meet the 50% target, the assets of the scheme are next prioritised to bring the pensioners back towards 100%

Litigating for members who do not get their full DB pension entitlement

Breach of contract

Even if the trustees and the employer have acted in accordance with the trust deed and the legislation, there may be a cause of action in contract.

In *IBM v Dalgleish*¹¹, the English High Court found the employer breached the implied term of mutual trust and confidence under the employment contract to its employees by the way it closed the DB scheme to future accrual and introduced new benefit restrictions. The court found that members had been entitled to hold reasonable expectations about the future of the schemes, and in particular the continuation of DB scheme accrual for a period, as a result of the earlier pension change projects in 2004 and 2006. These reasonable expectations were engendered by the defendant through communications issued to members as part of the previous scheme change exercises.

Pensions ombudsman

A complaint can be made to the pensions ombudsman¹² in relation to “any dispute of fact or law that arises in relation to an act done by or on behalf of a person responsible for the management of the scheme”. It is a requirement to complete any internal dispute resolution procedure before such a complaint is made¹³. The pension ombudsman can order *inter alia* compensation to be paid by the employer or trustees to the claimant, which order is without monetary limit and is enforceable in the Circuit Court¹⁴. By analogy with case-law on the financial services ombudsman litigation¹⁵, it is likely that a case brought to the pensions ombudsman estops the claimant from later bringing the same complaint before a court by way of plenary proceedings. If a complaint is in being before a court, you cannot bring the claim before the pensions ombudsman¹⁶.

10 Case C-278/05

11 (Unreported, High Court of England and Wales, 4/4/14)

12 Part XI of the Pensions Act 1990 inserted by the Pensions (Amendment) Act 2002.

13 S.131.6 of the Pension Act 1990.

14 Sections 139 and 141 Pensions Act 1990.

15 In *O'Hara v ACC Bank Plc* (Unreported, High Court, 7/10/11) the claimant had failed in a claim before the financial services ombudsman, that the bank misrepresented to him, when investing in a particular fund, that the money would be invested in blue-chip companies when this did not turn out to be the case. The court held that the plaintiff was estopped from proceeding with fresh High Court proceedings claiming misrepresentation arising from the same facts.

16 S.131.7 of the Pension Act 1990.

Claim against the State in the event of winding up

If the DB scheme is wound up, members of the DB scheme who do not get their full benefit might take a claim against the State. Article 8 of Directive 2008/94/EC (hereinafter the directive) provides *inter alia* that member states shall take necessary measures to protect entitlements of members under occupational pension schemes. The directive leaves it to the member state to decide what form the protection should take. The directive only applies where there is a double insolvency – where the employer is declared insolvent and the pension scheme is declared insolvent. In *Robins v Secretary of State for Work and Pension*, the ECJ held that the United Kingdom did not adequately protect the interests of employees in accordance with Article 8 of the Insolvency Directive, where an employee would receive less than half of her pension entitlements on winding-up. In *Hogan v The Minister for Social and Family Affairs Case*¹⁷, the ECJ held that Ireland did not adequately protect the interests of employees in accordance with Article 8, where the plaintiffs were likely to get between 18% and 28% of their full entitlements on one calculation, and between 16% and 41% on another calculation. The matter has been returned to the High Court to determine just what percentage the plaintiffs should get. Arising from *Hogan v The Minister for Social and Family Affairs Case*, the Minister for Finance introduced an additional 0.15% levy on private pension funds to meet the state liability that is likely to arise as a result of this judgment.

In *Greene v Coady*, the court held the trustees were not in breach of duty in failing to make a CDN, which would have created a double insolvency situation and put themselves a position to sue the state – the *Hogan v The Minister for Social and Family Affairs* decision had not been made when they made their decision. Also, creating a double insolvency situation would have meant closure of operations in Shannon which was a factor that motivated them to accept the employers offer of less than the funding deficit.

Since 25th December 2013¹⁸, a member who gets less than 50% of their entitlement in a double insolvency situation can make a claim to the State for the balance to bring them up to 50% – there is a question mark over whether this is adequate to implement the Directive.

Industrial action

Lastly, workers might threaten industrial action. This is not a litigation route but can be effective at stopping the trustees or employer doing what they are entitled to do under the trust deed or have been permitted to do by the Pensions Authority, either by way of section 50 order or otherwise. The procedures set out in the Industrial Relations Act 1990 should be complied with.

Conclusions

Funding proposals are in place for many DB schemes, with the aim of bringing the scheme into solvency by 2023, at the latest. Trustees should consider serving a CDN if this is possible under the trust deed. The trustees and employee

17 Case C-398/11

18 The Social Welfare And Pensions (No. 2) Act 2013

then often negotiate a compromise, with the closure of the scheme going forward. Trustees who do not serve a CDN, where this is possible under the trust deed, might find they are in breach of fiduciary duty. A decision to settle for less than the sum demanded should be well documented and trustees should seek advice.

Now that a section 50 order can reduce pensions in payment, it may be that this is the option the Pensions Authority will seek, *in lieu* of winding up the scheme.

The order of priority of payments in liquidation still put pensioners in a strong position compared with active and deferred members, particularly where the scheme is insolvent but the employer is solvent. It may be that active and deferred members will push for methods other than winding up for dealing with the deficits.

Industrial action will continue to be the main way that employees will seek to prevent a change that is otherwise authorised by the trust deed and the Pensions Authority. ■

Northside Community Law Centre Changes Name to Community Law & Mediation

For over 39 years, *Northside Community Law Centre* has been a pioneering organisation in the provision of community based legal services. Work carried out includes free legal, mediation and information services, as well as advocacy and support for law reform campaigns at national level. Since it was established in Coolock in 1975, the range of services has expanded to include a free mediation service, *Mediation Northside*. A second community law centre has been set up in Limerick.

To more accurately reflect the expanded range of services on offer, the members have voted to adopt a new

name for the organisation, *Community Law & Mediation*. Community Law & Mediation will continue to provide the same services concentrating on mediation, law reform, community education, and resources such as the *Irish Community Development Law Journal* and the Social Welfare decision database, *Casebase*.

If you would like further information, please sign up to the Community Law & Mediation mailing list at <http://communitylawandmediation.bc1.webtrade.ie/about-us/ mailing-list.41.html> or visit our new website: www.communitylawandmediation.ie



Rose Wall is the Director of Community Law & Mediation.

Female Genital Mutilation

CAROLINE BERGIN-CROSS BL*

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a clear form of domestic violence against women and girls. The UK Crown Prosecution Service is currently prosecuting its first claim for FGM since the enactment of the Female Genital Mutilation Act (UK) 2003. The Irish equivalent is the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012,¹ which is closely mirrored on the UK legislation.

FGM constitutes torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as affirmed by international jurisprudence and legal doctrine, including by many of the UN treaty monitoring bodies, the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the European Court of Human Rights. To expel or return a girl or woman to a country where she would be subjected to FGM would amount to a breach by the State concerned of its obligations under international human rights law. On foot of major campaigning by AkiDwA, the network of African and migrant women in Ireland, the Oireachtas recently enacted The Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012,² which had been in the making in one form or another for over ten years. Prior to this in Ireland, FGM was recognised as a form of persecution and may lead to a grant of asylum in certain circumstances. Implementation of best practice gender guidelines in the Irish asylum process will allow for improved practices in assessing gender-related claims of persecution. It is hoped The Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012 will lead to the increased investigation and persecution of this crime.

FGM reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. It is not necessarily an offence committed by men on women, as women also commit the offence. However, it is regularly carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children. The practice violates a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death. Labour Senator Ivana Bacik, who had first proposed The Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill 2011, said that the legislation had been long overdue.

For example, in the U.K., FGM has been a specific criminal offence since 1985, with the introduction of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985. At an international level, Article 38 of the Istanbul Convention has also recognised the seriousness of the offence and the need for lawmakers to have a statutory framework in place to tackle the problem. Furthermore, over 3,000 women living in Ireland are believed to have undergone FGM. To illustrate, of females aged between 15-49, an estimated 98%

of Somalian, 19% of Nigerian, and 90% of Sudanese girls and females undergo FGM.

"International research shows the enormous dangers to the health of women and girls represented by the barbaric practice of female genital mutilation," said Senator Bacik. "This is a pressing issue in this country, particularly for migrant women and girls and their families".³ Figures show as many as 140 million women and girls have been subjected to FGM worldwide, with an estimated 8,000 new cases every day.

Prior to the enactment of the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012, the Irish Government had taken a firm position against FGM in African countries which receive Irish state aid, however, there has been somewhat of a delay in their acknowledgement of FGM as a domestic issue. In this regard, it is worth noting that no evidence exists that FGM has been or is practiced on Irish soil, anecdotal evidence suggests that parents originally from practicing communities are experiencing pressure to have their daughters undergo FGM during visits to their country of origin. This point is significant in that the Act now provides a strong rationale for those parents to explain that they could be prosecuted on their return to Ireland. The Act is modelled on the UK Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, wherein, the legislation has failed to yet lead to a completed prosecution, appearing to have a largely symbolic and perhaps deterrent value.

The first prosecution either in Ireland or the U.K. in respect of FGM is currently being brought by the UK Crown's Prosecution Service against Dr. Dhanoum Dharmasena, from the Whittington Hospital in London, and Hasan Mohamed, who is not a medic. It is alleged that Dr. Dharmasena carried out a procedure on a female patient who had given birth in November, and that Mr. Mohamed had encouraged and helped Dr. Dharmasena contrary to s.1(1) of the Female Genital Mutilation Act (UK) 2003. This case will be closely watched in Ireland. Mr. Mohammad is charged on two counts – one charge of intentionally encouraging an offence of FGM, contrary to s.44(1) of the Serious Crime Act 2007, and a second charge of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring Dr. Dharmasena to commit an offence contrary to s.51(1) of the UK 2003 Act.

The passing of the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012 in Ireland now brings Ireland in line with a number of other EU Members States that have developed specific criminal legislation on FGM. Sections 2, 3 and 4 of The Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012 clearly outlines what is regarded as an offence of FGM for the purposes of the Act, and in accordance with international law Section 5 makes it a hybrid offence. Therefore, if a person

* BCL (UCD), LL.M Commercial (UCD), BL.

1 S.I. 11 of 2012.

2 S.I. 11 of 2012.

3 <http://www.thejournal.ie/female-genital-mutilation-officially-banned-in-ireland-399>.

is found guilty of FGM on indictment, such person can face a maximum of 14 years imprisonment.⁴

At present, one can only speculate as to the effect, ambit and protections the Act will produce. However, the prosecution by the UK Crown Prosecution Service of Dr. Dhanoum Dharmasena and Hasan Mohamed will most probably provide much guidance to Irish lawyers as to how Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012 will be interpreted and applied. The trial will be held at Westminster Magistrates' Court in April 2015.

The Irish legislation is an extremely important development in the protection of the human rights of women and girls who may be or have undergone female circumcision. The Act helps prevent the occurrence of FGM procedures in Ireland, thereby stop the damaging effects it causes on women, girls and female babies, for example, severe bleeding and problems urinating, and later cysts, infections, infertility as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths.

⁴ Section 5(b) of The Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012.

FGM constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women, and replicates deep-rooted inequality between the sexes. Minors are generally, in particular from certain ethnic backgrounds, forced to undergo this horrific and needless procedure, which represents a violation of the rights of children. The Act, in criminalizing FGM, epitomizes a females' right to be free from torture and cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death. The practice also violates a person's rights to physical integrity, security, and health. The 2012 Act strengthens the human rights of females and shows that Ireland will not be jurisdiction that will permit such an act on Irish soil or that will tolerate the transport of any girl out of the country for the purpose of undergoing the procedure.

FGM is a form of persecution from which women and girls are now provided protection for under Irish law. While laws banning FGM as a form of persecution will not alone end the outdated customary practice, the Act reflects Ireland's disapproval of female genital mutilation and will support the global struggle against it. ■

Launch of *Arbitration Law* by Derek Dunne and Arran Dowling-Hussey



Pictured at the launch of Arbitration Law (2nd edition) is: (l-r) The Hon Mr Justice Nial Fennelly, Derek Dunne BL (Author), Arran Dowling-Hussey (Author) and John Tackaberry QC (Consultant Editor).



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