



THE BAR  
OF IRELAND

*The Law Library*

SAFEGUARDING  
JUSTICE

May 2021



## A Message from the Chair

Welcome to the fourth edition of *Safeguarding Justice*.

This biannual newsletter highlights the range of advocacy work undertaken by the Council and its committees in recent months.

Preserving access to justice during the pandemic remains a key priority for the Council. Disruption to court business continues however a more proactive and strategic planning stance from the judiciary and the Courts Service is a welcome development, as is the recent cabinet approval of 5 additional judicial appointments to the High Court. Having regard to the Government's current plan to ease existing Covid-19 restrictions, the Council furthermore welcomes the decision of the High Court to recommence a limited number of non-urgent necessary witness actions in-person with effect from the 2nd June 2021.

The Council continues to contribute independent expert opinion on the reform and development of a range of areas of law and policy through various consultations and Oireachtas appearances – a summary of which is highlighted within – and we showcase some of the campaigns we have run over the past number of months such as 'Justice Week' and this year's virtual 'Look into Law' programme which had the benefit of reaching over 12,000 TY students through an e-learning platform. As always, I am immensely grateful to the many members who volunteer their time, knowledge and expertise in respect of all of this work.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. We welcome and invite continued engagement with all interested parties on the issues raised within.

**Maura McNally SC**

Senior Counsel, Barrister

Member of the Inner Bar

Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland

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# Preserving Justice During Covid-19

## Additional judicial appointments to the High Court a welcome development

The Council of the Bar of Ireland welcomes the news of cabinet approval for additional appointments to the High Court. Access to justice and speed of dispute resolution will be positively impacted by this additional capacity.

This news is coming at a really pivotal moment as we now face into dealing with the backlog of matters arising due to Covid-restrictions. It is furthermore welcome that a proactive approach is being taken in terms of planning for the future. We must improve the throughput of matters so that the administration of justice can properly support the economic and social fabric of the State. Brexit and the international standing of the Irish legal services and the reputation of the State are all matters which validate these appointments.

Our view is that while five additional High Court judges is welcome, the need is in fact many times that. Prior to Covid and on an ongoing basis, The Bar of Ireland has impressed upon the State the need for adequate investment in our Courts System as a key public service, and to avoid burdening a system which is experiencing significant challenges. It is imperative that these appointments are permanent so that the reasonable expectations of all who use and interact with the Courts can be met.

IRELAND HAS THE  
**LOWEST NUMBER  
OF JUDGES**  
PER CAPITA IN THE EU



[EU JUSTICE SCOREBOARD 2020]

## Justice in Transition – One Year On

Marking the one year anniversary of Covid-19 restrictions, The Bar of Ireland held a dedicated CPD event regarding the operations of the courts, which allowed members to hear directly from, and engage directly with, the judiciary and the Courts Service on operational issues affecting High and Circuit Court jurisdictions, both civil and criminal.

The remote event was attended by in excess of 300 members during which a number of salient points came to the fore, in particular the need for increased resourcing to deal with the longer-term impacts on access to justice. We all learned that with over 1,100 staff, 180 judges and almost 25,000 court hearings, the Courts Service employs only 11 dedicated ICT staff – akin to “taking a nut to the sledgehammer”.

In a post-Covid court system, it is vital that in-person and hybrid hearings are adequately supported. By logical extension this includes judicial resources, and we heard the President of the High Court, Ms Justice Irvine, outline the urgent need for up to 20 additional High Court judges in order to deal with the backlogs and incoming matters.

The recent cabinet approval of 5 additional appointments is a welcome development in this regard as is the establishment of a Judicial Planning Working Group which will examine the number of judges that will be required for the administration of justice over the next five years.

## Joint Statement of the Four Bars on the Administration of Justice Post Pandemic

The four professional bodies of barristers and advocates across the four jurisdictions (Ireland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland), recently published a joint statement highlighting the various factors that need to be taken into account before any decision is taken to employ remote hearings more widely once COVID-19 is behind us.

In order to deliver justice in lockdown, it quickly became vital to move to remote hearings. From that experience, the four Bars recognise that the justice system has undergone changes that are, and should be, here to stay. In particular, the use of remote hearings to deal with short or uncontroversial procedural business is unobjectionable, and indeed to be welcomed in many cases, even after the current crisis has passed. However, careful consideration is needed before any decision is taken to employ remote hearings more widely.

There are multiple and multi-faceted disadvantages with such hearings, when compared to the usual, in-person hearings that have delivered justice for centuries. The following were highlighted by the four Bars:

- Experience shows that judicial interaction is different and less satisfactory in remote hearings from that experienced in “real life” with the result that hearings can be less effective at isolating issues and allowing argument to be developed.
- The management of witnesses, especially in cross-examination, is far less satisfactory when conducted remotely and there are concerns among the four Bars that it may have an adverse impact on the quality of the evidence given.
- The four Bars are concerned that remote hearings present very considerable challenges to effective advocacy in cases involving evidence or complex narrative submissions. The very real, but often intangible, benefits of the human interaction inherent in in-person hearings cannot be ignored. The universal sentiment across the four Bars is that remote hearings deliver a markedly inferior experience.
- The diverse and complex needs of our clients must be protected and their participation must be safeguarded. By its nature, a remote and automated system will only degrade the valuable human interaction that should be at the heart of meaningful and open access to justice.
- There are also wider concerns arising from remote working. We have all found that the training experience has been markedly affected by the predominance of remote working, and the accompanying isolation – in marked contrast to the usual collegiality of our respective Bars – is also having a negative impact on wellbeing
- The four Bars remain supportive of both the continuing use of technology in courts and the use of remote hearings becoming the default position for short or uncontroversial procedural business, however, they are unanimous in their stance that for any hearing that is potentially dispositive of all or part of a case, the default position should be ‘in-person’ hearings. Remote hearings should be available as an option in such cases where all parties (including the court) agree that proceeding in that way would be appropriate.



## Member Survey highlights ongoing issues

The findings of a recent member survey confirm that the disruption to court business continues to have a detrimental impact on members' livelihoods, as well as giving rise to serious barriers for clients seeking access to justice and the resolution of their disputes.

Court services are a public service, and court users do not have a lobby group per se. As a consequence, the impact on the public, and in particular the relatively unheard section of those who rely on the courts during these months, has yet to be fully heard. The progress made in relation to urgent family and child law cases (including domestic violence) is a credit to all agencies and practitioners involved. However, citizens with civil and criminal matters before the courts continued to be impacted over the past year.

With backlogs arising due to restrictions in physical hearings, the survey results highlight the need for the Courts Service and the Department of Justice to 'turbo charge' preparations for alternative settings, modifying existing ones and streamlining the hybrid possibilities of remote hearings. Developments in respect of the High Court personal injuries hearings, as well as certain Circuits adopting a remote capacity, will be welcome, and reflect the progress made, in particular in the Superior Courts. The task one year on is to replicate that approach across all court activity, while ensuring that physical hearings can also continue to be relied upon. Full details are available in the **February edition of *The Bar Review***.

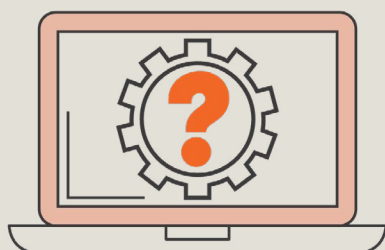
# 75%

OF MEMBERS REPORT  
CLIENTS BEING  
**HIGHLY IMPACTED**  
BY MATERIAL DELAYS OR  
CANCELLED HEARINGS



# 36%

OF MEMBERS REPORTED  
**PROFICIENCY IN**  
**TECHNOLOGY**  
AS A MAJOR ISSUE FOR CLIENTS





## Pro Bono at the Bar

Charities, NGOs and civic society groups who are working hard to provide a dynamic response to the needs of vulnerable groups during Covid-19, are reminded of the voluntary legal services of The Bar of Ireland's Voluntary Assistance Scheme (VAS). VAS can provide assistance in most areas of law including debt, housing, landlord and tenant, social welfare, employment and equality law. Legal services can be provided to the charity, NGO or civic society group directly, or to the organisation's clients where the organisation acts as the intermediary. Full details of the scheme and how to avail of its services can be found [here](#).

Members of The Bar of Ireland also continue to provide pro bono voluntary legal assistance through a number of free legal advice clinics that operate outside of the Bar such as those operated by FLAC and Community Law and Mediation (CLM).



**01 847 7804 or 061 536 100**



**1890 350250 or 01 8745690**



**[VAS@lawlibrary.ie](mailto:VAS@lawlibrary.ie)**

## Promoting Diversity at the Bar

### The Denham Fellowship

The Denham Fellowship 2021 application process is now complete. Two new Fellows have been selected and they will commence the barrister-at-law degree programme in October. This brings to a total of 10, the number of Fellows currently being supported on the five-year long programme which provides financial, educational and professional support to aspiring barristers from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Fellows are supported from point of entry to the Barrister-at-Law degree programme at the King's Inns all the way through their first four years of practice at the Law Library, and ultimately in what is sure to be a successful and rewarding career at the Bar.

**Hear what some of our current Fellows have to say**

# LOOK INTO LAW TY PROGRAMME



THE BAR  
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## 'Look into Law' TY Programme goes online

This may have been the first online Look into Law Transition Year (TY) Programme offered by The Bar of Ireland, but the overwhelming success and positive reaction means it will definitely not be the last! In light of a continuing uncertain situation with Covid-19 restrictions, this year's programme was delivered through an e-learning platform that allowed an unlimited number of students to take part, whether in a classroom led by a teacher, or at home in the evening.

400

SCHOOLS

70

DEIS SCHOOLS

12,000

STUDENTS

11

HOURS OF CONTENT

65

MEMBERS OF THE  
BAR OF IRELAND

6

MEMBERS OF THE  
JUDICIARY

48

48 VIDEOS

24

24 QUIZZES WITH  
181 QUESTIONS

Over 400 schools signed up, of which 70 were DEIS schools, resulting in 12,000 students registered, representing about one-quarter of all TY students in the country. Students were taken through a combination of videos, quizzes, links and reflections over the course of five modules, totalling approximately 11 hours of content. In addition, schools were given a mock trial casefile and the option to run a mock trial within the school where possible.

This programme could not have been created without the generosity of barristers and invited guests. The programme was highly engaging and a huge success and The Bar of Ireland was delighted to be able to reach out to so many more students this year, who hopefully got a taste for the profession and may consider a career at the Bar in the years to come.



## Informing and Reforming

Over the past number of months, The Bar of Ireland, through its Council and committees, has submitted independent expert opinion across a range of issues concerning the rule of law and the administration of justice. Full submissions are available on the website [www.lawlibrary.ie](http://www.lawlibrary.ie)

January 2021

### **The General Scheme of the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2020**



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

Submission to the Department of Justice

A number of reforms to the appointments process are currently under consideration under the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2020. Such reforms include the establishment of a new body, the Judicial Appointments Commission, to replace the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board (JAAB).

### **Key Observations:**

- The Bar of Ireland welcomes the reduction in the number of members of the Commission from 17 to 9 and agrees that a reduced number encourages consensus and aids decision making. However, it is of concern that neither the Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland nor the President of the Law Society are included as members of the Commission, resulting in no member of the Commission representing either of the professions from which candidates may be selected.
- Where there are sufficient suitably qualified candidates, the maximum number of persons recommended to the Minister should be 3 as opposed to 5 as is recommended in the 2020 Bill. There is no rationale for recommending 5 people for one available role, particularly where the recommended candidates are not ranked.
- If the proposed legislation does not reduce the list of recommended candidates from 5 to 3 then the Council recommends that the Commission undertake an exercise of ranking applicants on the basis of merit.
- It is not clear why the Minister would receive a list of names from the Commission in circumstances where the Commission concluded, having conducted the

selection process, that none or a lesser number of candidates were suitable for recommendation. It appears that the 2020 Bill envisages that the Minister would appoint a person not recommended by the Commission despite it having conducted, at great expense, a selection process. The Council recognises that, under the Constitution, the executive retains the power to nominate judges for appointment by the President, however the Council believes that only candidates recommended by the Commission should be eligible for appointment and recommends that the position should be re-advertised if no suitable candidate applies for the position.

- The Council welcomes the introduction of a process where serving judges must participate in the same selection process for appointment to a higher court as other candidates.
- Nominations by the State to international judicial positions, including the EU, Strasbourg and international criminal courts, should be covered in the Bill.
- The Council does not believe that any case has been made out for the extension of eligibility for appointment to legal academics. What constitutes a legal academic has been poorly defined and the inclusion of such a category is inconsistent with requirements for candidates to demonstrate experience and competence.

Maura McNally SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland, appeared before the Joint Committee on Justice to set out the views of the Council on the General Scheme of the Bill in greater detail. It was stressed to the Committee that the 2020 Bill would be significantly strengthened if the foregoing observations were addressed.

It is crucial that the Judiciary maintains high standards of competency, impartiality and fairness, and that the public retains the utmost confidence in the judiciary and the Council believes that the judicial appointments process is a vital mechanism for ensuring these objectives are achieved. The Council does, however, feel the establishment of a new, separate body such as the Judicial Appointments Commission is costly and unnecessary when the current Judicial Appointments Advisory Board could be reorganised so as to perform the same functions as the proposed new Commission, or alternatively administrative support functions could be shared with the Judicial Council. It is the Council's view that scarce resources are better used underpinning and supporting the judiciary in its functions.

Read the full submission, including the Council's recommendations from previous submissions made in 2014 and 2016 [here](#). The Council's appearance before the Justice Committee on 18th May 2021 can be viewed [here](#).

February 2021

**Admission Policies of the Legal Profession as Required by Section 33 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015**



An tÚdarás Rialála  
Scirbhísi Dlí  
Legal Services  
Regulatory Authority

Submission to the LSRA

The Council prepared these submissions at the request of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority who are in the process of preparing a second annual report for the Minister on the admission policies of the legal professions in accordance with section 33(1) of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.

This submission contains specific data requested by the LRSA including information on the demand for barrister services, the costs of legal services in 2020, the standard of education and training for persons admitted to practise, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. Read the full submission [here](#).



February 2021

## **Victim's Testimony in cases of Rape and Sexual Assault**



Submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice

The Council of The Bar of Ireland prepared these submissions at the invitation of the Joint Committee on Justice in consideration of the topic of Victim's Testimony in cases of Rape and Sexual Assault.

According to CSO Crime Detection Statistics for 2019 the detection rate for reported sexual offences was 12%, the lowest detection rate of any crime. A crime is considered detected when An Garda Síochána have identified and sanctioned a suspected offender for the crime. In terms of criminal justice reform efforts, there is doubtless a strong social and moral impetus to focus reform efforts on this area of the law, to evaluate recent reforms and to improve the experiences of victims of sexual offences should they choose to engage with the criminal justice system.

An important question to pose is what does justice look like for victims of sexual assault and rape? When developing reform proposals in this area it is important to seek advice from victims of rape and sexual assault who have already been through the experience of giving testimony in Court. It is also important to seek advice from key stakeholders who work with victims in this area.

The Council's submission provides an overview of how victims' testimony in cases of rape and sexual assault is currently conducted within the criminal justice system in Ireland and discusses the effect the current process has on victims, the accused, and practitioners. A number of key recommendations of the *'Review of Protections for Vulnerable Witnesses in the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Offences'* (the "O'Malley Report") are highlighted.

Read the full submission [here](#).

Dara Hayes BL, Chair of the Criminal and State Bar Committee, and Fiona Murphy SC appeared before the Joint Committee on Justice to discuss the topic. Significant emphasis was placed on the need for greater judicial and court resources to minimise the impact of delays and adjournments on victims and witnesses. There is a psychological impact on victims and witnesses as they ready themselves for trial. The longer the process, the longer this burden has to be carried.

The Council's appearance before the Justice Committee on 23rd March 2021 can be viewed [here](#).

## **Public consultation on enhancing and reforming the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (“PIAB”)**



Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

This submission was made in response to a public consultation overseen by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on enhancing and reforming the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (“PIAB”). Arising from a commitment in the Programme for Government the Department is considering the role and remit of PIAB and the operation of the PIAB Acts 2003-2019.

### **Key Observations:**

- The Council generally concurs with the consultation document issued by the Department of Trade, Enterprise and Employment in noting that PIAB was established to “fairly, promptly, and transparently compensate the victims of accidents involving personal injuries, in a cost-effective manner.” The values of fairness balanced with promptness are cardinal values in the success of PIAB to date. Any increase in volumes or change in the type of cases coming within the remit of PIAB must be carefully scrutinised for risk of compromising these most successful aspects of the PIAB structure.
- As an early neutral evaluator, the strength of PIAB lies in the simplicity in the manner in which it operates. By introducing more complex claims, PIAB would lose its agility, become slow and more costly for parties and risk having to deal with more regulatory and administrative issues.
- The Council is of the view that PIAB should retain its discretion not to assess where it feels it is inappropriate to attempt to resolve complex issues or overlapping issues on a desk assessment. Here an oral adjudicative hearing is required where issues of fact and law may be resolved. Caselaw has established that this discretion to decline assessment in certain cases is part of the scheme of the 2003 Act.
- Any enhanced role or reform of PIAB must not infringe unduly on a claimant’s constitutional right of access to the courts. It must be remembered that litigation is not merely a means for seeking compensation but is the manner in which an injured party’s rights are vindicated, and the appropriate forum for this is within the courts.
- In line with Action 15 of the Action Plan for Insurance Reform (December 2020) it is for the Department of Justice to: “Report on the implementation and early impact of the Personal Injury Guidelines and examine relevant policy response.” The Council therefore submits that the impact of the Guidelines on PIAB should first be assessed before any proposals to amend other sections of the PIAB Acts to increase the number of claims assessed by PIAB are considered.

Read the full submission [here](#).

# THE BAR REVIEW

The Bar Review, The Bar of Ireland's journal, is published six times per year. It contains articles from leading barristers on key developments and topical issues of practical and legal importance, as well as a comprehensive Legal Update detailing pertinent publications, judgments, and legislation.

## April Edition

- **Third-party cover.** Under the Consumer Insurance Contracts Act 2019, third parties can now pursue insurers directly where no privity of contract exists
- **Private versus professional life – what are the boundaries?** Recent case law in other jurisdictions sheds light on how the Irish courts may view cases where the boundary between professional conduct and private life is called into question.
- **The limits of post-Brexit judicial co-operation.** In the absence of new post-Brexit legal instruments, cross-border civil and commercial litigation between EU member states and the UK is likely to be less predictable, more time consuming and more costly.

[Read it here](#)



## February Edition

- **Revoking a naturalisation certificate.** Two recent Supreme Court judgments have raised important issues around the dividing line between executive and judicial functions, and the constitutionality of s. 19 of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956.
- **Drug driving: recent developments.** The commencement of the Road Traffic Act 2016 has greatly assisted the detection and prosecution of drug driving offences.
- **Climate change and the Supreme Court.** The recent Supreme Court decision in the Climate Case is a cause for celebration among environmental activists, but is also a decision of considerable interest for public lawyers in Ireland.

[Read it here](#)



## Recent interviews:

- **Lord Sumption,** retired UK Supreme Court judge, about his views on government responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and where we should draw the boundaries between law and politics.
- **Rosalind Carroll,** Chief Executive of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board, about the Board's role and impending reforms in the sector.
- **Dr. Mike Ryan,** Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, on the challenges of tackling a global pandemic in a complex and diverse world.

The Bar of Ireland's LinkedIn guest post series brings perspectives from our members and our partners across various areas of legal practice and policy:



**David Hand BL:** The troubled youth justice system: Why no provision for suspended sentences in the Children Act 2001?



**Sophie Honohan BL:** Climate Case Ireland and the 2020 Bill: Let's not waste a crisis – Covid-19 and the climate action opportunity

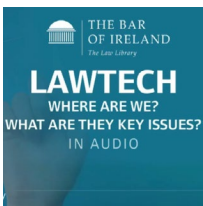


**Jane Murphy BL:** 'The Right to Disconnect' - key employer obligations under existing legislation, employee processes and breaches under the Code.

## Latest from The Bar of Ireland Podcast



### Legal Technology - Where are we? What are they key issues?



We spoke with Dr. Rónán Kennedy, NUI Galway and SFI Researcher on his recent report '*Algorithms, Big Data & Artificial Intelligence in the Irish Legal Services Market*'. Integrating technology within legal practice has its advantages, but there are concerns with how technology can impact on decision making and client welfare.

[Listen here.](#)

### #JusticeWeek2021 - Employment Law & Covid-19



Barrister Claire Bruton BL speaks about the rights of employers and employees, and how Covid-19 has brought with it new issues for workplaces to grapple with.

[Listen here.](#)



### #JusticeWeek2021 - Mandatory Vaccines: Constitutionally Permissible?

Barrister Colm-Scott Byrne BL discusses the constitutional issues which could arise in the case of the introduction of a mandatory vaccination programme.

[Listen here.](#)

## Statement of the Four Bars on PRC Government Sanctions Against Barristers of England and Wales

The four Bars of the United Kingdom and Ireland recently united in their condemnation of the sanctions announced by the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) against barrister members of the legal profession and their "immediate families".

Four barristers gave a legal opinion for lay clients, who then published that opinion publicly. The opinion related to legal issues arising from alleged human rights violations by the PRC authorities against the Uyghur population in the Xinjiang Province of the PRC. The imposition of sanctions on lawyers for providing a legal opinion clearly contravenes the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers which state (at para. 18) that "lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions". The naming in the sanctions of a barristers' chambers, which comprises some 95 other barristers who practise from the same premises but as independent legal practitioners, is a further indiscriminate attack on legal professionals. It is inconsistent with respect for the rule of law.

The Chinese state, as well as Chinese citizens and their businesses, benefit as much as anyone from a functioning international legal order. The four Bars have called on the PRC government to review these sanctions, which call into question its commitment to the rule of law, as well as its status and reputation as a reliable partner in international trade and commerce. Measures which target lawyers who are complying with their professional obligations, simply because their work attracts the disapproval of the Chinese government, are also a threat to the global legal community.

The four Bars have furthermore called upon national and international Bar associations to condemn the imposition of these sanctions as an unjustifiable interference with the professional role of lawyers and an attack upon the rule of law internationally.

## Justice Week 2021



In March, The Bar of Ireland held its second annual Justice Week – a joint awareness campaign of the legal professions across the four jurisdictions (Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, and England and Wales). The campaign aims to promote an awareness and understanding of access to justice and the rule of law. This year, the focus of Justice Week was the impact that Covid-19 has had on citizens' rights and the administration of justice, with particular emphasis on the important role that the rule of law and the justice system play in responding effectively to a public health crisis.

The campaign was launched by the Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Clarke, Chief Justice. Hear what he had to say on Access to Justice in Ireland and related issues in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic:

[Listen on Soundcloud here](#)

Each day of the week held a distinct theme, and utilising our social media and online events platforms, The Bar of Ireland brought a series of virtual events, podcasts, and interviews to as wide an audience as possible.

Among the events held was a virtual intervarsity debate comprising eight students from eight different university law schools around the country. Chaired by Shauna Colgan BL, the motion for debate was: 'This House Believes That the Right to Offend, Shock and Disturb is Necessary in a Democratic Society'. The debate presented a wonderful opportunity for students, particularly those considering a career as a barrister, to hone their advocacy skills in front of an esteemed judging panel comprising Mr Justice Seamus Noonan, Mr Justice Maurice Collins, Ms Justice Nuala Butler, and Maura McNally SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland, and an audience of over 120 people.

The Bar of Ireland was also delighted to host a **panel discussion on the topic of disinformation**. Joining the panel were Mark Little, CEO of Kinzen, Sunniva McDonagh SC, Vice-Chairperson of the Fundamental Rights Agency, and Pierre Francois Docquir, Head of the Media Freedom Programme of ARTICLE 19. The



virtual event was chaired by Sorcha Pollak, Irish Times journalist and author. Among the issues discussed were disinformation in a pandemic, disinformation in autocratic societies, anti-lockdown protests, and social media algorithms that can promote and spread disinformation.

The Bar of Ireland was delighted to see such a fantastic level of response and engagement across the wider legal and justice community, and particularly among our younger citizens, throughout the week.

[Watch our Justice Week Round-up Video here](#)

## Green Street Lecture Series Returns

The 2021 Green Street Lecture Series feature talks on a range of luminaries from Irish legal history. Revisiting pivotal moments and their lasting impact, the lectures are delivered by some of Ireland's most prominent legal figures.

A banner for the Green Street Lectures 2021 series, featuring the text 'GREEN STREET LECTURES 2021' in white on a dark blue background with a pink vertical bar on the right.

GREEN STREET  
LECTURES 2021

- **Frank Callanan SC** – 'The Tables of the law, graven in the language of outlaw' – John Francis Taylor's Speech as the King's Inns in 1901 and Ulysses.
- **Marguerite Bolger SC** – 'From Rogues to Role Models for Equality Law' – The Evolution of Employment Equality Law in Ireland.
- **John O'Donnell SC** – 'You have no merit, no merit at all' – The Trial and Error of Patrick Kavanagh.

HOME & ABROAD

# HUMAN RIGHTS: UNIVERSAL RIGHTS?

2021 CHAIR'S CONFERENCE

16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June | 4.30pm Start



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#BarConf21

## SPEAKERS

- **The Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Clarke**  
Chief Justice of Ireland
- **The Rt. Hon. Sir Declan Morgan**  
Lord Chief Justice OF Northern Ireland
- **The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE**  
former President of the UK Supreme Court
- **Ms. Justice Mary Finlay Geoghegan**  
former Judge of the Irish Supreme Court
- **The Hon. Mr. Justice Donal O'Donnell**  
Judge of the Irish Supreme Court
- **The Honourable Rosalie Abella**  
Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada
- **Paul Gallagher SC**  
Attorney General of Ireland
- **Michael McDowell SC**  
Senator and Former Attorney General
- **Micheál P. O'Higgins SC**  
Former Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland
- **Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**
- **Prof. Claire Hamilton**  
Professor of Criminology at Maynooth University Dept. of Law

## Chair's Conference 2021

The Bar of Ireland's Chair's Conference is an opportunity for practitioners, academics, policy makers and the wider public to converge on the most defining issue impacting on legal systems and democratic institutions – the rule of law and the protection of human rights against emerging political and societal forces.

The participation of a diverse legal community is a key response to how these challenges are resolved. As such, this year's Chairs Conference will also focus on the role, participation and experiences of female lawyers and judges. [Register for the conference here.](#)

## Specialist Bar Associations of The Bar of Ireland

The Bar of Ireland is home to a number of Specialist Bar Associations, each a vibrant hub of activity that facilitates the exchange and advance of specialist knowledge and expertise through conferences, seminars, papers and submissions, promoting members of The Bar of Ireland as a specialist provider of advocacy and legal advice services across a range of practice areas.



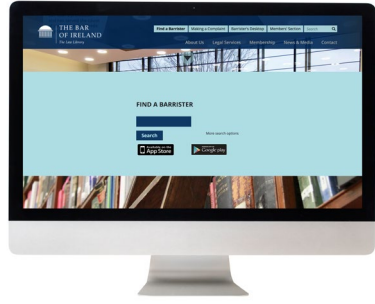
# Find a Barrister

Use the search tool on the [Law Library homepage](#) to find a barrister by reference to his or her research skills, area of specialisation and location.

## Website relaunch coming soon!

The 'Find a barrister, mediator or arbitrator' function is the most visited section on

The Bar of Ireland website. This section will become front and centre under a new website relaunch. The new website will encompass a new and improved barrister search tool with more search terms and greater access to information about a barrister's expertise and experience to make it easier for solicitors and clients to identify suitably qualified counsel.



# Do you need a legal opinion?

## Direct Professional Access Scheme

The Direct Professional Access Scheme is a facility for approved bodies and their members to brief barristers directly (i.e. without going through a solicitor) in non-contentious matters. The scheme does not extend to contentious matters (for example, court appearances) but only legal opinion. Approved bodies include the Oireachtas Committees, Houses of the Oireachtas Commission and Service.

# Contact Us

Our Policy and Public Affairs Team welcomes the opportunity to speak with you, understand your priorities and clarify any queries you might have. Get in touch!

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