

20 23 ANNUAL REPORT



THE BAR
OF IRELAND

The Law Library

BARRA NA HÉIREANN

An Leabharlann Dlí

A low-angle photograph of a classical building facade, featuring two large, fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. The building has a prominent pediment and a series of decorative moldings. The sky is overcast and grey. The text is centered over the image.

MISSION STATEMENT

**TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION ON
BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT
REFERRAL BAR OF IRELAND, ENSURE THE HIGHEST
STANDARDS OF ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT WITHIN THE PROFESSION AND TO
DELIVER VALUED AND QUALITY SERVICES FOR
THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS**

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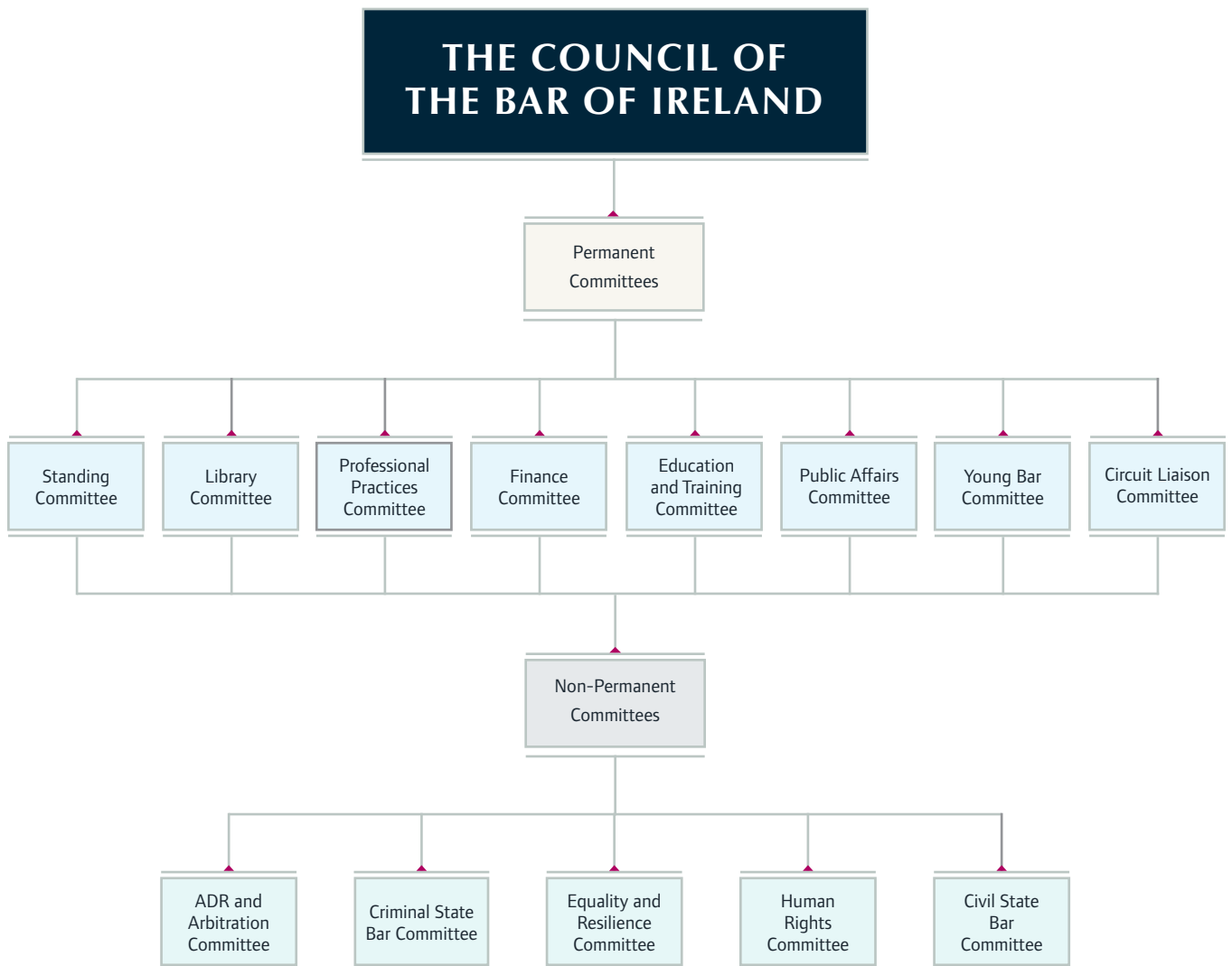
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COUNCIL AND MEMBERS

The Council of The Bar of Ireland

The Council is comprised of 25 members, elected and co-opted from the membership on an annual basis. The members of Council, along with Committee members, give their time and expertise voluntarily, contributing to the direction and policy of the Bar.



INNER BAR PANEL

ATTORNEY GENERAL



Sara Phelan SC
Chair



Denise Brett SC
Vice Chair



Séamus Clarke SC
Treasurer



Rossa Fanning SC



Mark J Dunne SC



Timothy Harley SC



Murray Johnson SC



Seán Guerin SC



Darren Lehane SC



Seán Ó hUallacháin SC



Brendan Kirwan SC

OUTER BAR PANEL



Deirdre Browne BL



Mema Byrne BL



Aoife Farrelly BL



Cian P Kelly BL



Roderick Maguire BL



Lewis Mooney BL



Paul Gunning BL



Michael D Hourigan BL



Aoife O'Leary BL



Catherine White BL

CO-OPTees



Nessa Cahill SC



Jessica Bartak-Healy BL



Sean O'Sullivan BL



Tanya Smith BL



Photo top left

President of the High Court, The Hon. Mr. Justice David Barniville, Rossa Fanning SC, Attorney General, Sara Phelan SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland, Minister of State for Law Reform, James Browne TD, and Caoimhe Clarkin, Partner and Head of Litigation and Regulatory, DLA Piper pictured at the launch of The Bar of Ireland's Equitable Briefing Policy

Photo bottom left

Aoife O'Leary BL, Mags Casey, Chairperson, The National Traveller Mental Health Network, and Sara Phelan SC at the 2022 Human Rights Award Ceremony.



THE CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been a privilege and honour for me, as Chair, to represent The Bar of Ireland over the last year. In my first Chair's Message for *The Bar Review* in October 2022, I thanked my predecessor, Maura McNally SC, whose leadership through a most difficult and trying two years was simply second-to-none and left the Bar very well-placed to return to a more 'normal' practice in a post-Covid world.



Sara Phelan SC was elected Chair of the Council of the Bar of Ireland in July 2022.

I would like to reiterate my heartfelt thanks to Maura and since taking up the office of Chair in September 2022, we have seen the Courts return to in-person hearings following the pandemic and the announcement by the President of the High Court on the 30th September 2022 that the default position for witness actions was in-person hearings, and that most other lists/applications could be conducted either remotely or in-person, was very much welcomed. The Bar continues to evolve post-pandemic and it is my sincere hope that the legal year 2023/24 will see increased numbers physically in Court (rather than members appearing online) and increased numbers in the environs of the Law Library and Courthouses around the country. We are a collegiate profession and depend upon each other for knowledge dissemination and acquisition and to protect and guard our mental health and well-being. None of these can be fully achieved if we do not meet and mingle in person and I urge each and every member to go the extra mile in this regard in 2023/24.

Building upon the work of my predecessors, the Council of The Bar of Ireland engaged with members this year through a series of workshops facilitated by Hannah Carney & Associates (HCA), to ascertain members' views on the challenges facing the existing business model of the independent referral bar. A number of themes emerged from these workshops, including 'right-sizing' the

Bar, streamlining administrative tasks such as fee-invoicing and fee-recovery, and attracting talent to the Bar and providing support for new entrants, and the HCA report was made available to members in July 2023. It would be for next year's Council to take those themes and to come up with solutions that will then be considered by the membership as a whole. The objective of this exercise is to future-proof the Bar for all members, to ensure that members have the opportunity to have a viable career and to ensure that the independent referral Bar continues to flourish, given its vital role in upholding the rule of law, in the administration of justice and in ensuring equal access to justice for all our citizens.

This year has also seen the launch of The Bar of Ireland's Equitable Briefing Policy and we continue to work with solicitor firms and briefing entities to attract signatories to the Policy. As individual members, we also have a role to play in equitable briefing, when recommending colleagues to solicitors and briefing entities for new work or for handovers, and true equity in briefing can only be achieved by all stakeholders in the legal world working together for the betterment of our clients and society as a whole.

Unfortunately the downward pressure on professional fees in legal aid schemes remains unresolved and we are now at a cross-roads in the barrister profession with criminal and civil legal aid remuneration at an historic all-time low, despite the profession's contribution to efficiencies in the justice system over the last 15 years and beyond. With high levels of attrition at the criminal bar, we must ask ourselves what access to justice might look like in the future if there aren't sufficient experienced and independent barristers available to prosecute, and to defend, those accused of crime. A functioning legal aid system needs barristers to promote and defend the rights of those who do not have the means to fund their own legal representation and an absence of representation will have a detrimental effect on the most vulnerable in our society and on society as a whole. It is my hope that Government will engage with us on our recent submissions on legal aid rates, where a decision is outstanding since July 2018.

The work of the Chair and the Bar Council is underpinned by the many, many members who give of their time voluntarily to participate on committees and working groups, prepare submissions and opinions, engage with external stakeholders and appear before external committees and I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who worked tirelessly on behalf of the profession to make decisions in the best interests of the Bar.

Huge thanks is also due to our remarkable staff and executive team, who work hard behind the scenes to deliver on the policy decisions taken by the Council, and who maintain a first-class library and information service and promote a fantastic education and professional development offering for the benefit of all members, whilst not forgetting the support and commitment of our communications and member services, estates, finance, HR, IT, member relations, reception, regulation and the Sheds teams.

Finally, my thanks to those Council members who have completed their terms of office this year. It is only when members participate on the Council that they realise the sheer volume of work that is undertaken to improve the working lives of members of the Law Library. But it is also a very enjoyable and fulfilling experience that helps us all to develop.

I look forward to working with the newly elected Council members and those who remain on over the year ahead.



SARA PHELAN SC

Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland



The Value of Connection –
The Bar of Ireland continues to nurture and build relationship between colleagues and other stakeholders.



“Ar a scath céile a maireann muid – a variation on the theme may very well be ‘united we stand; or even ‘no man is an island’. I’ve recently had energising engagements with colleagues, beyond the atomised version of ourselves, but rather part of a larger groupings or purposes. Engagements included the partnership of the Office of Parliamentary Legal Advisers (pictured) and the continued programme of annual conferences. The series of meetings on Criminal Professional Fees has placed a focus on the collective rather than individual self-interest.

The very foundation of the independent referral Bar has been our interdependence! And indeed this is true of our international networks and relationship with our fellow Four Jurisdictions Bars.

What all these touchpoints highlight is that we are each coming to the table with our unique life experience. By bringing our individuality and shared values to problem solving, the system is all the better for it.

— Excerpt from Chair’s Message, June 2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

This annual report sets out a detailed summary of what the Council of The Bar of Ireland and its committees, together with the support of the executive staff, have done on behalf of members of the Law Library over the last year.

Membership Overview

As of June 2023, membership of the Law Library was 2,104, a slight decline on the previous year at 2,118. In the year to date, 91 have ceased membership. This is a reduction from the 106 members that left last year but consistent with the average numbers leaving membership yearly, hovering in and around 90 per year. 7 re-entered membership during the year and there were 92 new entrants to membership of the Law Library in October 2022, including 2 new members from other jurisdictions. We are forecasting a similar level of new entrants in October 2023.

Council Priorities

A total of 12 meetings of the Council took place during the 2022/2023 legal year. At the first Council meeting of the year held in September 2022, the priorities of the Council for the year ahead were agreed that included the priority areas for representing members' interests; a review of the future Business Model of the profession; roll-out of the marketing supports and plan for the profession and advancing options to improve on-site facilities for members.

Representing the Interests of the Profession

1. Ongoing lobbying for restoration of the cuts applied in the professional fees paid to barristers under Criminal Legal Aid.

A priority focus of both the Council and the Criminal State Bar Committee continued on lobbying for restoration of the cuts applied in the professional fees paid to barristers practising in crime. Against a backdrop of increasing frustration on the lack of progress to date that coincided with an intensification of media coverage on the issue, a series of member meetings took place during May 2023 to update members on the range of activity that had been undertaken on behalf of members since March 2016 and discuss the impasse in having the fees issue resolved.

In June 2023, [The Bar of Ireland made a pre-budget submission](#) to Government highlighting the unfairness and inequality in the government's approach to pay in respect of criminal barristers and highlighting the ongoing contribution

of the Bar to efficiencies in the administration of criminal justice. Noting the outcome of the July 2018 review process led by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in conjunction with the Department of Justice and sanctioned by the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, that concluded *'the ongoing flexibility being delivered by prosecuting counsel...is considered comparable to the flexibility delivered by other groups to justify the reversing of cuts imposed during the financial emergency'*, The Bar of Ireland once again called on the Government to immediately restore the link with public sector pay agreements and engage in a process to unwind the cuts applied to the professional fees of criminal barristers.

2. Continued participation in the review underway since May 2022 in Civil Legal Aid.

A [review of the Civil Legal Aid Scheme](#) commenced in June 2022 is ongoing. The proposals for reform across a variety of areas include financial eligibility, areas of law and jurisdictions. The Council [submission to the Civil Legal Aid Review Group](#) was made in February 2023. The Chair, Sara Phelan SC is the representative of the Council on the review group and it is anticipated that its work will conclude at the end of 2023, culminating in a report to be made to the Minister for Justice.

3. Ongoing participation in the reform of the family justice system through the Family Court Bill.

The [Family Justice Strategy 2022-2025](#) was published in November 2022 followed by the [Family Courts Bill 2022](#) in December. The Bill as drafted provides that while the High Court retains exclusive jurisdiction in certain family law proceedings such as child abduction, in many other areas of child and family law the right to bring family law proceedings to the High Court will be confined to instances where there is 'a special reason to do so'. As such it is proposed that a significant amount of family law adjudication would be transferred to the Circuit Court and, more so, to the District Court. The Council is concerned that despite a planned increase in the number of judges at District Court level, the reality is that as a Court of summary jurisdiction, the

District Court is not equipped to deal with complex and lengthy cases even with enhanced resourcing.

The Civil State Bar Committee is overseeing engagements with members of the Oireachtas to raise concerns in relation to some of the proposals set out in the Family Court Bill.

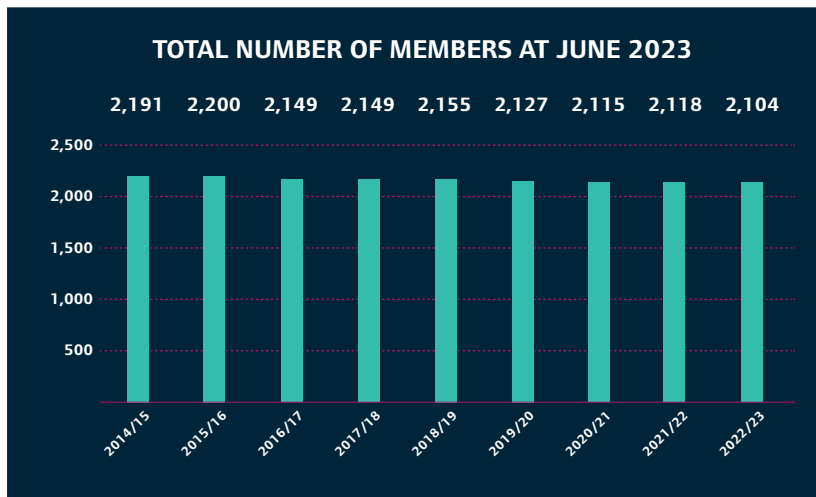
4. Monitoring and participating in the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Kelly Report – Review of the Administration of Civil Justice

Implementation of the report of the Review of Administration of Civil Justice continues. In February 2023, the Government published the ‘**Report of the Judicial Planning Working Group**’ that recommended an increase in the number of judicial appointments in a phased manner – 24 additional judges to be appointed in 2023 and a further 20 judges by the end of 2024. The Council welcomed the increase in judicial appointments and urged the Government to provide the other necessary supports to assist judges in managing their caseloads effectively. Further increases in the number of judges will be reviewed in 2025. The report makes a number of other recommendations that will receive further consideration in the coming months and years.

Justice Plan 2023 noted that the Department of Justice had expected to finalise the independent economic research (undertaken by Indecon) on models to control legal costs in H1/2023. The plan notes their intention to carry out legal evaluation/assessment of the research, following which they intend to ‘develop draft policy proposals as appropriate to control legal costs’ by Q4/2023. There has been no further engagement with The Bar of Ireland on this front following our detailed **submissions** made to Indecon during 2022.

Consideration of the Future Business Model of the Profession

The future business model of the profession was further analysed over the course of the last year. This arose on foot of a decision of the Bar Council in May 2022 (on the recommendation of a Working Group of members of Bar Council) not to proceed with the recommendations contained in the EY Report relating to the introduction of the concept of a ‘meitheal’. Instead, it was agreed to facilitate an initiative to gather further information and views from members in relation to the business model structure of the independent referral bar, to engage with the challenges identified as confronting the profession, and to



MEMBERSHIP

AS AT JUNE 2023, MEMBERSHIP OF THE LAW LIBRARY WAS

2,104

THERE WERE

92

NEW ENTRANTS IN OCTOBER 2022,

2

OF WHOM WERE FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

IN THE YEAR TO DATE,

91

HAVE CEASED MEMBERSHIP, WITH

7

RE-ENTERING MEMBERSHIP.

facilitate the exploration and fostering of ideas and solutions to confront those challenges.

Consultants, Hannah Carney & Associates, were selected following a competitive tendering process. They facilitated a series of seven workshops during March – May 2023, arising from which a detailed report was provided to the Council in June 2023 that set out the priorities identified by members where the Council should focus effort and resources. The Council decided that the report should be circulated to members in advance of the AGM to be accompanied by an appropriate motion calling on the next Council to continue its deliberations on the business model of barristers and the challenges faced by the profession.

Marketing The Bar

Implementation of the new marketing plan for The Bar of Ireland got underway over the last year with a three-prong approach being adopted:

- Marketing The Bar of Ireland and the profession;
- Harnessing the 17 Specialist Bar Associations to market the specialist expertise at the Bar;
- Supporting and providing individual members with the tools and 'know-how' to market themselves.

Further information on the initiatives implemented to promote and market the Bar are detailed further on in this report.

Betterment of the Estate Facilities for Members

Bettering the estate facilities for members was also a focus of the Council over the last year. Following approval of the Finance Committee to engage a team of property and construction professionals to undertake a feasibility study for the Jameson Building and Distillery Building, a range of options were presented to the Council at its January 2023 meeting. On foot of feedback from Council members, the architects were provided with more detailed direction on the brief and provided with more information on the needs of the organisation. It was agreed to advance to the next phase and detailed surveys of the buildings were commissioned to assist the architects in providing a more detailed plan. At the time of writing, it is expected that this updated plan will be presented to the Council at the July 2023 Council meeting.

Of particular concern to the Council has been the closure of the Dock restaurant in the Distillery Building. Having sought a professional analysis, it would seem that the provision of a coffee shop facility within the Distillery Building is not viable on a commercial basis and therefore an alternative solution is required. A tenant and membership survey was undertaken to assess the views of members and it has now been agreed that a subcommittee of the Finance Committee is established for the specific purpose of reviewing all options to restore a coffee area for members in the Distillery Building and to recommend a way forward in that regard to the Council.

Strategic Review of Voluntary Assistance Scheme & Denham Fellowship

Over the course of the last year, two strategic reviews were undertaken of the Voluntary Assistance Scheme (VAS) and the Denham Fellowship. The VAS is the formal pro-bono vehicle of The Bar of Ireland, matching the needs of NGO's and civil society groups with the volunteering expertise at the Bar. The Denham Fellowship aims to assist two aspiring barristers annually who come from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to professional

legal education at the King's Inns and professional practice at the Law Library. Both strategic reviews gave rise to a series of recommendations to improve the operation of both schemes. The strategic review reports were placed before the Council for their consideration and the majority of the recommendations made in both reviews were agreed. Subsequently, implementation plans to action each of the recommendations adopted were developed and are in the process of being executed.

Gratitude

My thanks to all the committed and loyal staff of The Bar of Ireland who do an outstanding job in serving the members of the Law Library to the best of their ability. Our services continue to undergo enhancement and improvement every year, doing more, doing it better all with the aim of supporting members in their day-to-day practice at the Bar.

My thanks also to all members of the Council and Committees for their input and support over the year. A number of members are stepping down from the Council this year, most likely exhausted from the demands of the Council, and yet I hope that they will all say that they enjoyed their term of office, despite the hard work required. I also wish to record my sincere gratitude to the Chair, Sara Phelan SC who has been a great support throughout the year and always on hand to offer guidance and advice to myself and the senior management team.

I look forward to serving you the members and the new Council in 2023/2024.

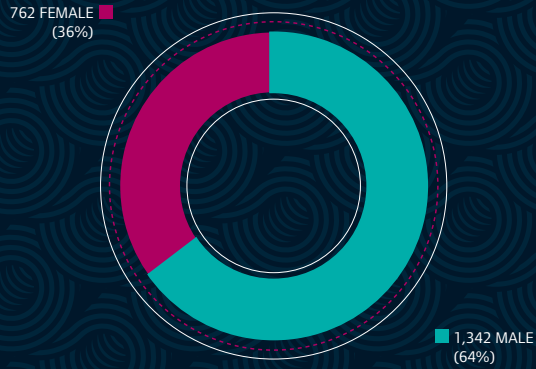


Ciara Murphy

CIARA MURPHY
Chief Executive

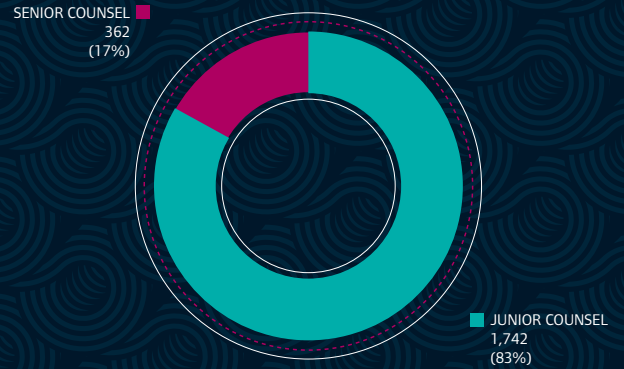
LAW LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

AT JUNE 2023
2,104



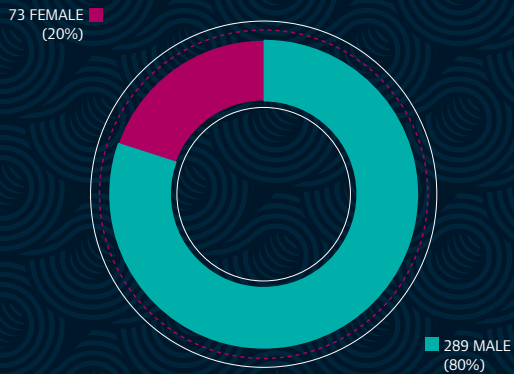
LAW LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

AT JUNE 2023
2,104



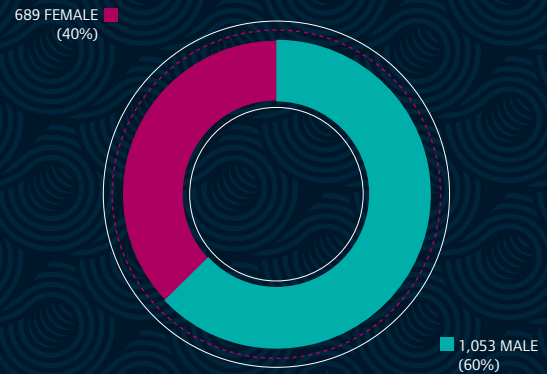
SENIOR COUNSEL

AT JUNE 2023
362



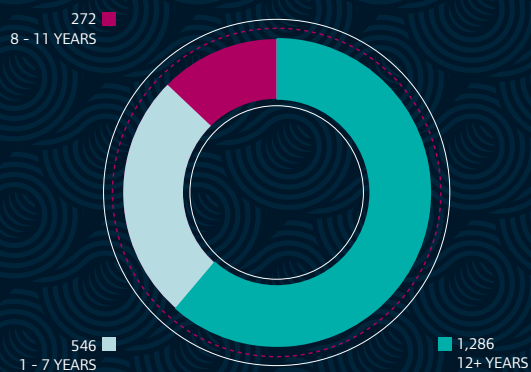
JUNIOR COUNSEL

AT JUNE 2023
1,742



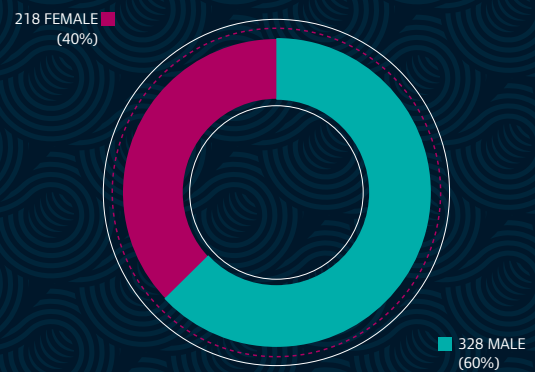
LAW LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

AT JUNE 2023
2,104



YOUNG BAR YEARS 1 TO 7

AT JUNE 2023
546



STANDING COMMITTEE

This Committee comprises the chairs of the permanent committees, the Chair and Vice-Chair, and the Treasurer. The business of the Standing Committee shall be to consider and, if necessary, determine all such matters within the competence of the Council as may be of an extremely urgent nature and require such determination between meetings of the Council.

CHAIR**Sara Phelan SC**

Denise Brett SC
Seán Ó hUallacháin SC
Séamus Clarke SC
Darren Lehane SC
Brendan Kirwan SC
Timothy Harley SC
Seán Guerin SC
Deirdre Browne BL
Mema Byrne BL
Lewis Mooney BL

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee deals with all matters relating to admission to the Law Library, and membership thereof, including matters relating to the acquisition and maintenance of the materials, whether in book or electronic form, necessary within the Library for the profession.

CHAIR**Timothy Harley SC**

Darren Lehane SC
Séamus Clarke SC
Seán Guerin SC
Murray Johnson SC
Catherine White BL
Tanya Smith BL
Mema Byrne BL
Paul Gunning BL
Jessica Bartak-Healy BL

CO-OPTEEES

William Abrahamson SC
Elizabeth Maguire SC [until January 2023]
Fergal Foley BL
George Maguire BL
Roderick Maguire BL
Conall McCarthy BL
Wafa Memon BL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This Committee deals with all matters relating to the finances of the Council and its associate companies for the maintenance and development of the Law Library, Council properties, and IT infrastructure.

CHAIR**Séamus Clarke SC**

Sara Phelan SC
Denise Brett SC
Darren Lehane SC
Seán Guerin SC
Seán Ó hUallacháin SC
Nessa Cahill SC
Aoife O'Leary BL
Catherine White BL
Roderick Maguire BL
Sean O'Sullivan BL

CO-OPTEEES

Dermot Kelly SC
Aidan Walsh SC
Nuala Jackson SC
Elizabeth Maguire SC [until January 2023]
Gabriel Gavigan SC
Joseph O'Sullivan BL
Tracy Ennis Faherty BL
John Monaghan BL

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE

This Committee monitors all matters concerning the proper professional practice of members of the Law Library and may investigate and, if thought fit, prefer and present a complaint against any member without the necessity of having the matter referred to it by any third party.

CHAIR**Darren Lehane SC**

Denise Brett SC
Timothy Harley SC
Michael D. Hourigan BL
Catherine White BL
Deirdre Browne BL
Tanya Smith BL
Cian Kelly BL

CO-OPTEEES

Emily Farrell SC [until June 2023]
Conor Maguire SC
Ronan Murphy SC
Paul McCarthy SC
Bernard Condon SC
Vincent Heneghan SC
Barry O'Donnell SC [until June 2023]
Micheál P O'Higgins SC [until January 2023]
Paul O'Higgins SC
Lorcan E Staines SC [from February 2023]
Tomás Keys BL
Arran Dowling Hussey BL
Joesph O'Sullivan BL
Carol Doherty BL
Elizabeth Gormley BL
Brendan Savage BL
Harry Brophy BL
Grainne Duggan BL
James Egan BL

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Education & Training Committee oversees training for new entrants (including master/devil relationships) and CPD for the membership at large, including ensuring that the profession's CPD requirements are met, and supports to barristers in practice are in place in light of the longer-term implications of regulation under the LSRA.

CHAIR**Brendan Kirwan SC**

Murray Johnson SC
Denise Brett SC
Darren Lehane SC
Deirdre Browne BL
Roderick Maguire BL
Lewis Mooney BL

CO-OPTees

John D Fitzgerald SC
Reg Jackson SC
Lorna Lynch SC
Úna Tighe SC
Niall F Buckley BL
Liam Carroll BL
Sharon Dillon-Lyons BL
Declan Harmon BL
Eoin Martin BL
Alison McCarthy BL
Bébhinn Murphy BL
Denise Waldron BL

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Public Affairs Committee assists in the promotion of members establishes and maintains appropriate links with all regional and Specialist Bar Associations, the Voluntary Assistance Scheme (VAS), and Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI), and fosters relations and communications between the Council and outside bodies.

CHAIR**Mema Byrne BL**

Darren Lehane SC
Seamus Clarke SC
Denise Brett SC
Sean Ó hUallacháin SC
Elizabeth Maguire SC [until January 2023]
Aoife O'Leary BL
Michael D. Hourigan BL
Aoife O'Leary BL
Catherine White BL
Aoife Farrelly BL
Lewis Mooney BL
Roderick Maguire BL
Sean O'Sullivan BL

CO-OPTees

Nora-Pat Stewart BL
Hugh O'Donnell BL
Conn McMahon BL

YOUNG BAR COMMITTEE

The Young Bar Committee provides a forum for Young Bar members, and co-ordinates initiatives directed at the needs of practitioners who practise in Years 1-7, as well as contributing to wider Bar priorities.

CHAIR**Lewis Mooney BL**

Darren Lehane SC
Morgane Conaty BL
Marguerite Kehoe BL
Ali Bracken Ziad BL
James P O'Brien BL
Róisín O'Mara BL
Cian St. John O'Leary BL
Elizabeth-Ann Kirwan BL
Robert Kerslake BL
Jack Sreenan BL
Mary Catherine Durcan BL
Alison Walker BL
Catherine Needham BL
Tanya Smith BL
Kate Ahern BL

CIRCUIT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Circuit Liaison Committee provides a forum for practitioners to address matters that arise for members practising on Circuit, as well as maintaining close library and professional development connections.

CHAIR**Deirdre Browne BL**

Tim Harley SC
Cian Kelly BL
Tanya Smith BL
Paul Gunning BL
Jessica Bartak-Healy BL

CO-OPTees

Elaine Hanniffy BL
James Egan BL
Sharon Brooks BL
Anne O'Meara BL
Adrian O'Higgins BL
James McConnon BL
Timothy Morrow BL
Aisling Wall BL
Laura Byrne BL
Katie O'Connell BL

ADR AND ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

This Committee raises awareness of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) practices among practitioners and the wider public through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, a programme of education, and its inclusion in wider Bar debates.

CHAIR Nessa Cahill SC

Denise Brett SC
Murray Johnson SC
Sean O'Sullivan SC
Mark J. Dunne BL

CO-OPTEEES

Cathy Smith SC
Michael Mulcahy SC
Arran Dowling Hussey BL
Cian P. Kelly BL
Alison Walker BL
Michael C. O'Connor BL
Mariana Verdes BL
Sinead Drinan BL
Catherine Needham BL
Niall F. Buckley BL
Hayley O'Donnell BL
Cathrina Keville BL

CIVIL STATE BAR COMMITTEE

This Committee engages with State agencies on whose behalf members are routinely briefed including the Attorney General/Chief State Solicitor's Office, the Legal Aid Board, and the State Claims Agency.

CHAIR Seán Ó hUallacháin SC

Catherine White BL
Lewis Mooney BL
Cian P. Kelly BL
Tanya Smith BL

CO-OPTEEES

David Conlan Smyth SC
Elizabeth Maguire SC [until January 2023]
Patrick R. O'Brien BL
Deirdre O'Donohoe BL
Lyndsey Keogh BL
Ben Clarke BL
Emma Ryan BL

CRIMINAL STATE BAR COMMITTEE

This Committee monitors trends and developments within the criminal Bar, liaising with key justice stakeholders on issues of concern, including the Department of Justice, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and others.

CHAIR Seán Guerin SC

Aoife O'Leary BL
Deirdre Browne BL
Sean O'Sullivan BL
Michael D Hourigan BL

CO-OPTEEES

Michael Bowman SC
Des Dockery SC
Dara Foynes SC
Vincent Heneghan SC
Fiona Murphy SC
Simon Donagh BL
Carl Hanahoe BL
Amy Heffron BL
Jane McGowan BL
Emer Ní Chúagáin BL
Amy Nix BL
Ronan O'Carroll BL
Kate Egan BL
Sinead Gleeson BL

EQUALITY AND RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

This Committee comprises the chairs of the permanent committees, the Chair and Vice-Chair, and the Treasurer. The business of the Standing Committee shall be to consider and, if necessary, determine all such matters within the competence of the Council as may be of an extremely urgent nature and require such determination between meetings of the Council.

CHAIR

Aoife Farrelly BL

Murray Johnson SC
Lewis Mooney BL
Tanya Smith BL

CO-OPTees

Nessa Cahill SC
Feichin McDonagh SC
Cathy Smith SC
Joy – Tendai Kangere BL
Jack Nicholas BL
Elaine Houlihan BL
Alan Ledwith BL
Ferga McGloughlin BL
Aoife McNickle BL
Liam O’Flaherty BL
Niall O’Neill BL
Caoimhe Ruigrok BL
Alison Walker BL
Sharon Dillon-Lyons BL

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

This Committee works to promote justice and respect for human rights through the rule of law. It monitors human rights issues on a national and international level (including those involving endangered lawyers) and participates in a number of bodies with a particular focus on human rights issues. It also co-ordinates The Bar of Ireland’s annual Human Rights Award.

CHAIR

Aoife O’Leary BL

Lewis Mooney BL
Paul Gunning BL

CO-OPTees

Thomas Creed SC
Sunniva McDonagh SC
Colm O’Dwyer SC
Anthony Moore SC
Michael Lynn SC
James O’Reilly SC
Alan DP Brady BL
Joseph O’Sullivan BL
Diane Duggan BL
Colin Smith BL
Emma Slattery BL
Gavin Rothwell BL
Marie Flynn BL
Andrew McKeown BL
Miranda Egan Langley BL
David Perry BL
Cormac J. Hynes BL
Katie Prendergast BL

REPRESENT AND DEFEND THE INDEPENDENT REFERRAL BAR

A core role of the Council is to represent, secure and protect the interests of the independent referral Bar.

Criminal Professional Fees

The priority to have the cuts applied to the professional fees of barristers who conduct criminal cases restored, was a key focus of the Criminal State Bar Committee in 2022/2023. Following on from a meeting in August 2022 where the then Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Michael McGrath TD assured the Council that he would make a decision on this matter within a few weeks. Unfortunately, such a decision was not forthcoming and in December 2022, the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform eventually responded stating that there are ‘complexities’ and that officials will continue to engage proactively with all the stakeholders, including in particular the Department of Justice.

In January 2023, the Council wrote again to the new Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD rejecting the rationale of the complexity of the issue. The Council advised that:

‘In the absence of any confirmation that a meaningful process of pay restoration can now get underway, members of the Bar will be compelled to conclude that the Government is not sincerely committed to improving the criminal justice system and the experience of victims of crime, witnesses and other stakeholders. In those circumstances, the Bar would have to revisit the question of cooperation with the improvements and efficiencies with which we have cooperated to date.’

In May 2023, criminal practitioners staged a protest over the level of fees paid to practitioners in the District Court under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme that generated media interest that coincided with media coverage focusing on the DPP warning to Government that its current level of funding was insufficient, the DPP’s difficulty in securing Senior Counsel to run a case, the matter being raised by the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party and the matter being raised in the Seanad. A series of member information meetings took place in May 2023 with over 270 in attendance to discuss the impasse. The Criminal State Bar

Committee is giving further consideration to the options available in pursuance of a resolution to this issue. A pre-budget submission was made to Government in June 2023 calling on Government to immediately restore the link with public sector pay agreements and engage in a process to unwind the cuts applied to the professional fees of criminal barristers.

Submission to the Review Group on Civil Legal Aid

A working group was convened by the Civil State Bar Committee to lead submissions on behalf of the Council in response to a public consultation of the Civil Legal Aid Review Group. The Council urged the Review Group to consider five key principles, based on seminal judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and approved by the Court of Justice of the European Union, when reviewing the types of cases and jurisdictions in which legal aid should apply:

1. The importance of what is at stake for the applicant;
2. The vulnerability of the applicant and their capacity to represent themselves;
3. The emotional involvement of the applicant which impedes the degree of objectivity required by advocacy;
4. The complexity of the relevant law or procedure;
5. The need to establish facts through expert evidence and the examination of witnesses.

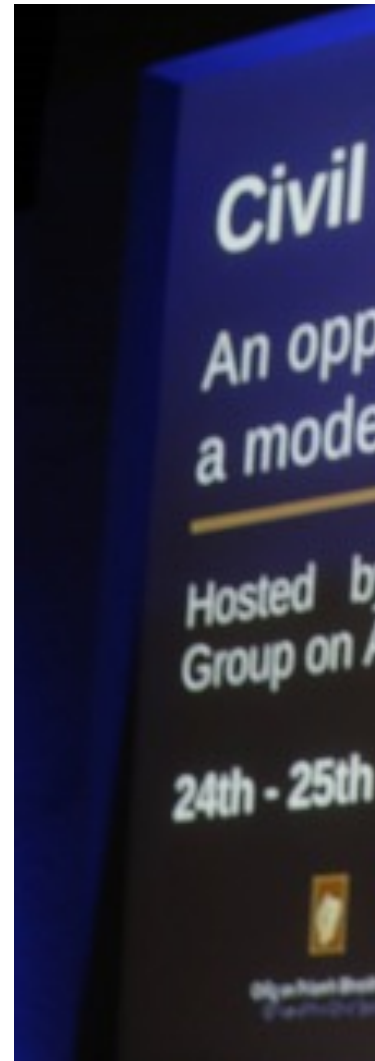




Photo above

Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell opened the now annual Access to Justice Conference at Dublin Castle in February 2023, proudly supported by The Bar of Ireland.

Among the Council's key recommendations are to expand legal aid to cover housing, debt, social welfare, equality, and employment, and in emerging areas such as environmental law, and to extend legal aid to cover legal representation in quasi-judicial settings such as the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), the Labour Court, and the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB).

The Council furthermore urged the need for a review of the 2012 Terms and Conditions for the Retention of Counsel. The current terms are wholly inadequate and constitute a severe undervaluation of legal aid work.

Barrister Accessibility to Public Tenders

An examination of current public procurement methods continues to reveal implicit and explicit barriers to barristers in tendering for work that is otherwise within their competence and expertise, resulting in a legal services market that may not be achieving the best value for the state.

The Council has been engaging with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) on this very issue since 2018 and in a meeting held with the OGP in May 2023, the OGP indicated that a process of consultation with contracting authorities will take place in the coming months with a view to modifying the scope and criteria of future tenders in a manner that proposes to enhance barrister participation, either at an individual level or through barrister-led consortia.

International Protection Applications

The Civil State Bar Committee is actively engaging with the Legal Aid Board in respect of the newly established International Protection Sub-panel. The panel, which came into effect on 7th February 2023, expands the use of counsel in international protection applications. While the Council is supportive of new opportunities for counsel, particularly junior members, it is incumbent on the Council to ensure that the scope and nature of the services to be provided align with members' obligations under the Code of Conduct.

Working closely with the Immigration, Asylum and Citizenship Bar Association (IACBA), the Council has made a series of representations to the Legal Aid Board to ensure that practices of the highest of standards are maintained and to ensure the sustainable operation of the sub-panel into the future.

Assisted Decision Making & Access to Counsel

The Legal Aid Board has opted to facilitate the provision of legal services, in both the Circuit Court and High Court, primarily through the Solicitors Private Practitioners Scheme ("PP Scheme").

The Council is of the view that the legal aid model adopted by the Legal Aid Board will ultimately disadvantage persons whose capacity is in question and serve to undermine a principal purpose of the new legislation which is to enhance such persons' rights.

The Council has raised its concerns with the Legal Aid Board regarding the absence of express provision for barristers in the legal aid scheme. As a novel piece of legislation, the 2015 Act is likely to throw up difficult legal questions, where gaining the assistance of Counsel (junior and senior) will be required for the effective administration of justice.

Unfortunately, the Board has opposed any amendment to provide for this. To raise awareness of what the Council feels are significant shortcomings in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable individuals, the Council has written to approximately 13 relevant organisations who represent the interests of "relevant persons" (as defined under the 2015 Act) to make them aware of the matter and to invite their engagement on the need to ensure relevant persons can access robust legal representation.

SUBMISSIONS IN 2023/24

June 2023	Pre-Budget Submission 2024: Investing in the Frontline Criminal Justice System
May 2023	Submission to the Joint Committee on Justice on the General Scheme of the Defamation (Amendment) Bill. The Council drew particular attention to three key areas as follows; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed removal of Juries in High Court Defamation matters; 2. The proposed introduction of a serious harm test; and 3. The proposed amendments in the areas of the Section 26 Defence (anti-SLAPP).
March 2023	Submission to the Review Group on Civil Legal Aid
February 2023	Submission to the Department of Justice and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners Joint Review Group on Examining the Role of Sheriffs in Respect of State Work
January 2023	Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Adapting Non-Contractual Civil Liability Rules to Artificial Intelligence (AI Liability Directive)
October 2022	Submission to the Joint Committee on Justice on the General Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2022

All submission may be accessed at <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/reports/>

COMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS



6

DEVIL'S EZINE ISSUES SENT
AVG. OPEN RATE: **69%**



12

CHAIR'S UPDATES SENT
AVG. OPEN RATE: **63%**



42

IN BRIEF ISSUES SENT
AVG. OPEN RATE: **64%**



11,6K

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS
INCREASE OF **2,984**



8,8k

TWITTER FOLLOWERS
INCREASE OF **687**



17

PODCASTS RELEASED
15,700 PLAYS

PRO-ACTIVE IN THE MEDIA

22

NATIONAL PRINT ITEMS,
TOTAL REACH
1,591,357

36

ONLINE ITEMS,
TOTAL REACH
7,657,986

16

BROADCASTS,
TOTAL REACH
3,481,000

10

REGIONAL PRINT,
TOTAL REACH
124,935

PRESERVE AND SUPPORT THE EXCELLENCE OF THE INDEPENDENT REFERRAL BAR

Attracting the best candidates to enter the profession and ensuring that they adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.

Ethics in Practice & Development

The Professional Practices Committee continued to engage members on a number of themes including:

- The launch of a Council of Europe HELP Course, focussing on Ethics for Judges, Prosecutors & Lawyers, drawing on international norms and trends, as well as ECtHR and CJEU case law;
- Collaboration with the Professional Regulatory & Disciplinary Bar Association in their mock disciplinary hearing, delivered in November 2022;
- A 'Common Issues to come before the PPC' was delivered by Darren Lehane SC, providing an overview of common issues and best practice for members;
- Delivery of a 'Not Coaching Witnesses' CPD in June 2023; and
- Participation on the New Practitioner Programme, providing new entrants with a clear understanding and expectation of ethical behavioural and conduct. In addition, a number of civil and criminal case studies were provided.

Professional Practice Advisory Service

A total of 17 meetings of the Professional Practices Committee (PPC) took place during the legal year. The Professional Practice Advisory Service, overseen by the PPC, responded to 332 enquiries from members who had sought the advice and guidance of the Committee in relation to matters under the Code of Conduct for The Bar of Ireland, including 32 urgent rulings between meetings.

Key Statistics:

17
MEETINGS OF
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES
COMMITTEE

32
URGENT RULINGS
BETWEEN MEETINGS

332
PPC ENQUIRIES
FROM MEMBERS



Photo above

Call to Inner Bar: In total twenty-eight barristers were called in a ceremony in the Supreme Court. Of the twenty-seven members of The Bar of Ireland who are taking silk, fifteen are female; representing a three-fold increase on the 2021 call. Pictured, Sinead McGrath SC and her mother Phyllis McGrath and daughter, Kate Andrews.

Equality Action Plan

Launched by James Browne TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice in June 2022, the Equality Action Plan sets out a series of recommended actions to build upon existing equality, diversity, and inclusion initiatives at The Bar of Ireland. Through investment and implementation of appropriate supports and resources, The Bar of Ireland aims to enhance access to the profession and the retention of a diverse membership. Areas of focus include gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and/or cultural or socio-economic background, among others.

The five primary objectives under the Plan are:

1. To enhance public awareness of a positive equality, diversity and inclusion culture at the Bar;
2. To introduce and embedding diversity awareness training at the Bar;
3. To enhance access to the profession;
4. To support fair and equitable practice development and career progression opportunities; and
5. To enhance the accessibility of member services at the Bar.

A number of initiatives, including the Equitable Briefing Policy, have been implemented under the plan this legal year, with many more in progress. Some key highlights include:

- Launch of a Diversity and Inclusion Membership Survey to better understand the Bar's membership profile and to identify any need for enhanced member supports. The survey will provide a benchmark by which the Council can assess and record change in demographics over time and to monitor the impact of the Equality Action Plan and its efforts to enhance diversity at the Bar.
- A celebration of cultural diversity at the Bar as part of UNESCO's World International Day for Cultural Diversity.
- Ongoing consultation with the Courts Service on the improvement of accessibility across the Courts' infrastructure.
- Engagement with AsIAm, Ireland's National Autism Charity, on obtaining Autism-Friendly Accreditation for The Bar of Ireland.
- Participation in panel discussions on the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion in the legal sector, such as the CIARB's Introduction to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training event, and the Dublin International Disputes Week panel on diversity.
- Launch of a new series entitled "How I came to Law" where members share their personal journeys showing prospective students the variety of traditional and non-traditional routes to the profession and the array of diverse backgrounds that exist at the Bar.

Equitable Briefing Policy

The Bar of Ireland's Equitable Briefing Policy was launched by the Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality with responsibility for Law Reform, James Browne TD, on 2nd March 2023. The initiative aims to provide equality of opportunity in the profession by asking solicitors to make all reasonable endeavours to consider gender in selecting a diverse panel of barristers with the required seniority, expertise, and experience. The Policy was approved by the Council of The Bar of Ireland in June 2022, and seeks to ensure that wide areas of legal practice benefit from the contribution of all genders. In particular, we are seeking to redress the underrepresentation of female counsel at senior levels (20%) and further improve the visibility of female expertise in certain areas of practice and before the senior courts.



Contributing to the launch event were The Hon. Mr. Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court, Rossa Fanning SC, Attorney General, Caoimhe Clarkin, Partner and Head of Litigation at DLA Piper, and Sara Phelan SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland, all of whom spoke about the value of diversity in the delivery of legal services and the administration of justice.

25 firms and briefing entities have signed up to the policy to date and we continue to work with other prospective signatories as they understand how their internal systems and process may need minor adaptation to support the policy's objectives.

As with any targeted initiative, measuring its success and progress will be key. Signatories to the policy will be invited to share information annually on the gender distribution of briefs, including a brief narrative on the measures taken by the briefing entity to implement the policy, with a view to promoting best practice in briefing practices, and to identify any necessary future supports that may be required.

The Bar itself also has a body of work to do in encouraging members of the Law Library to promote diversity when transferring briefs between counsel and in their recommendations of counsel to solicitors and other briefing entities.

TY Back in Action

February 2023 saw the return to in person TY programme; supplemented by a part-online component for those participants, 40% of places being afforded to DEIS schools. In order to retain the Programme prominence, a new 'bitesize' offering was also provided.

The week concluded with a Big Legal Q&A – involving a live panel of barristers online with student audience across the country of almost 100 schools.

The Look Into Law TY Programme represents one of the Bar of Ireland's key public legal education engagements with future talent; and continues to be revised to ensure that its design is relevant and engaging to younger people.





University Outreach

The Bar continues to formalise and invest in its University Outreach, in a competitive environment for future legal talent. Arising from series of interviews with faculties, an action plan was drafted and commenced in 2022 under the auspices of the Public Affairs Committee and Education and Training Committee.

Participation in events such as the UCC-led Intersvarsity Summit, the DCU Legal Speed Meet and various careers fairs figures as initial actions. The Sub Committee in 2023 look forward to formalising our approach and developing a greater awareness of the Bar amongst students, as well as capacity for members to attract and engage students.

Other developments included hosting our fourth annual Intersvarsity Debate between all the main faculties, finalising our University Prospectus and having a deeper engagement with the Honorable Society of King's Inns.

Covering the Country: Delivering for the Circuits

The Chair, together with the CEO undertook a series of visits to the circuits, coinciding with an opportunity for professional development. Members were updated on Council priorities and progress on an number of initiatives. Visits were made to Waterford, Cork, Galway and Donegal; and it is hoped to continue this series in the year ahead. The Circuit Liaison Committee continues to be a valuable forum to advance and articulate the needs of circuits practitioners.

PROMOTE AND MARKET MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REFERRAL BAR

A key area of expansion has been the increased adoption of digital campaigns to promote The Bar of Ireland as a brand, to market member legal services, and to develop Specialist Bar Associations to be more market-facing.

A focus on Digital Marketing & Thought Leadership

Increasing the promotion of the knowledge and expertise of the independent referral bar has been executed through;

- Launch of the new “Legal Edge” newsletter specifically directed towards solicitors, inhouse counsel and professional services;
- Continued growth of our Viewpoints Blog;
- Bar Review Podcast Series;
- Paid promotion on LinkedIn; and
- Digital advertising in Irish Legal News, Business Post, Law Society Gazette and Garda Journal.

Beyond the Bar Alumni Launch

Our own **Alumni Network**, comprising former members of the Bar was launched in October 2022. Many of our former colleagues continue to work in legal practices and settings, whether in the private and public sector. The networks seeks to strengthen these connections from a personal and professional point of view, as well as aid practice development.

Launch of Marketing Course

An inaugural Marketing Essentials CPD course was run from May to July 2023, where, in three interactive sessions, members had an opportunity to learn how to promote and position their practice in the Irish legal market, the role of networking, and techniques such as thought leadership as a means to demonstrate their expertise. Overcoming the challenges of time, content and confidence as well as how to expand ones network were identified as key challenges to our members.

Communications Consultations & Resources – Building Member Capacity

We continue to offer one to one sessions to members where members are guided through building out their Law Library website and LinkedIn profiles. Members are provided with Bar of Ireland professional branding and receive best practice on how to showcase their practice.

The sessions have been very successful so far, with 130 sessions. In May, a helpdesk session was run in Cork, the first of many planned sessions to be run on various circuits throughout the country.

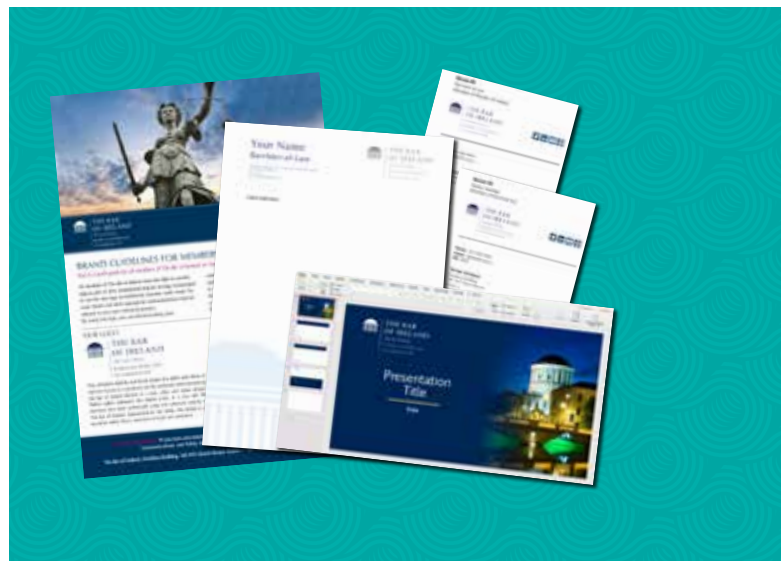




Photo right

A Welcome House!

Orla O'Donnell, Legal Affairs Correspondent with RTE opens the Beyond the Bar Alumni Network; which featured contributions from Damien Maloney of the Office of the Attorney General, Melissa English SC, of the Houses of the Oireachtas, and Robert A. Bourke, of New Relic.

17

PAID SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

214,400 IMPRESSIONS

5

GOOGLE SEARCH AD CAMPAIGNS

INCLUDING PODCASTS, DIRECT PROFESSIONAL ACCESS, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, LEGAL EDGE

24

EVENT EMAIL CAMPAIGNS

58% OPEN RATE

24% CLICK-THROUGH RATE

21

ADS IN PUBLICATIONS

INCLUDING BUSINESS POST, IRISH LEGAL NEWS, LAW SOCIETY GAZETTE, GARDA JOURNAL



Photo top right

Pictured is Cliona Kimber SC, Chair, Climate Bar Association opening the Environmental Law conference proceedings in the Imperial Hotel, Cork.

Photo bottom right

Pictured is Sara Phelan SC, Chair, Council of The Bar of Ireland and Jonathan FitzGerald BL, Chair, Construction Bar Association at the Construction Bar Association conference in May 2023

Photo right

Pictured at the inaugural Corporate & Insolvency Bar Association conference in March 2023 were (l to r) Kelley Smith SC, Chair, Ruari Rynn, Partner, William Fry, David Baxter, Partner, A&L Goodbody LLP and Declan Murphy BL.



SPECIALIST BAR ASSOCIATIONS HIGHLIGHTS 2022/23 LEGAL YEAR

The Bar of Ireland now supports 17 Specialist Bar Associations (SBAs) and continues to support their enhanced profile and provide awareness to their wider legal community and industry sectors.

An external, market-facing focus has been supported through a programme of annual conferences and dedicated websites, as well as associate membership to solicitors and firms for some of the Specialist Bar Associations.



CLIMATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Chairperson
Cliona Kimber SC



- Environmental Law Conference held in Cork on 27th January 2023.
- Submission sent on the Draft Planning & Development Bill 2022.
- Hosted a Lawyers and ENGOs networking event and workshop on 16th June.

www.climatebar.ie

CONSTRUCTION BAR ASSOCIATION (CBA)

Chairperson
Jonathan FitzGerald BL



- Annual Construction Law Conference took place on 5th May 2023 with over 100 attendees.
- 5-part Tech Talk series delivered from October 2022 to March 2023.
- A Junior Practitioners' focused CPD with those interest in practicing construction law on 19th January.
- Launched a new website in October 2023.

www.cbaireland.ie

CORPORATE & INSOLVENCY BAR ASSOCIATION (CIBA)

Chairperson
Kelley Smith SC



Corporate & Insolvency
Bar Association

- Newly established in Summer 2022.
- Ran a three-part topical breakfast briefing series on
 - Protection of Company Capital
 - Personal Insolvency; creditor friend or foe?
 - Understanding SCARP and Small Company Restructuring
- Held their inaugural conference on 31st March 2023.

www.corporateandinsolvency.ie

CUMANN BARRA NA GAELIGE

Chairperson

Cormac Ó Dúlacháin SC



- Bhí Ollmhór Forbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach (FGL) ar an 28ú Meán Fómhair.
- Bhí léacht ar an 29ú Samhain chun an European Super League v UEFA & Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh a phlé.
- Reáchtáil an coiste seimineár i nGhaeltacht na Mí ar an 12 Márta.
- Bhí Maidin Caifé Cumann Barra na Gaeilge ar siúl ar 15ú Márta 2023. Bhí sé seo chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh.
- Reáchtáil an coiste comhdháil chun ceiliúradh 'Éire – 50 bliain de Dhír na hEorpa' i Leuven, An Bheilg ar an 1 agus 2 Meitheamh 2023.

www.cumannbarra.ie

EMPLOYMENT BAR ASSOCIATION (EBA)

Chairperson

Niamh McGowan BL



- Extensive series of breakfast briefings run throughout the year.
- Annual conference on 15th December 2022 with over 200 attendees online and in person.
- A CPD on Recent Developments in Employment Law took place in Cork on 11th May 2023.
- The first bursary recipient was awarded and 6 King's Inns Diploma scholarships were also awarded to junior practitioners in 2022.

www.eba.ie



EU BAR ASSOCIATION (EUBA)

Chairperson

Brian Kennedy SC

The EU Bar placed a focus on joint events this year, including

- 9th May 2023 with Amicale des référendaires et des anciens référendaires de la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne.
- 5th December 2022 with the European Circuit to discuss practitioners' perspectives on advocacy before the European Courts.
- 23rd March 2023, with Arbitration Ireland to discuss the CETA judgment.
- Held joint event with Ireland for Law and the London Irish Lawyers Association on 9th March 2023 at the London Embassy.

www.euba.ie

FINANCIAL SERVICES BAR ASSOCIATION (FSBA)

Chairperson

John Breslin SC

- Inaugural conference held on 3rd November 2023.
- Newly established Specialist Bar that has seen rapid growth in its membership to 185 including a number of solicitor firms.
- Extensive involvement in podcasts, articles, publications and several events on the topic of crypto-assets.
- Hosted Pierce O'Donnell, Of Counsel at Greenberg Glusker LLP in Los Angeles for an update on crypto and bitcoin litigation.

www.fsba.ie



Photo top left

Míle buíochas do gach duine a tháistil go Leuven chun 50 bliain de dhli na hEorpa a cheiliúradh le Cumann Barra na hÉireann.

Photo bottom left

The hot topic in financial services regulation: the enforcement processes of the Central Bank of Ireland as applied to individuals, and Central Bank (Individual Accountability Framework) legislation's far-reaching changes, were all under consideration at the Financial Services Bar Association's Annual Conference. Pictured are John O'Riordan, Dillon Eustace, Karen Reynolds, Matheson, John Freeman BL, Robert Cain, Arthur Cox and Margaret Gray SC KC.

Photo left

EBA Breakfast Briefing with Niamh McGowan BL, Chair, EBA, & Ruth Mylotte BL in November 2022



Photo right

Pictured with Michael Conlon SC, Chair, IACBA are Arlene Walsh BL and Keivon Sotoodeh BL, the recipients of the 2022/23 IACBA bursary.

Photo top right

Probate Bar essay competition winner Niall Fahy BL, and runner-up Rosemarie Carroll BL, accepting their prizes from Catherine Duggan BL, Chair, The Probate Bar Association

Photo bottom right

The Planning, Environmental & Local Government Bar Association seminar on the Draft Planning and Development Bill 2022, featuring Sonja O'Connor BL, Tom Flynn SC (Chair), Aoife Carroll BL and The Hon Mr. Justice David Holland.

IMMIGRATION, ASYLUM & CITIZENSHIP BAR ASSOCIATION (IACBA)

Chairperson

Michael Conlon SC



- Awarded the second annual IACBA bursary in October 2023.
- Held their 4th Annual Conference on 25th November with both national and international speakers presenting.
- Extensive year long CPD programme with several events held in conjunction with the Young Bar committee and the ICBA.
- Special guest, Sally Hayden, an award-winning journalist and photographer, spoke with members in July 2023 and this was held in conjunction with the 2023 AGM and member social event.

IRISH CRIMINAL BAR ASSOCIATION (ICBA)

Chairperson

Simon Donagh BL



- Annual conference took place in Athlone on 1st July.
- Ran several joint events with IACBA and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.



PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT BAR ASSOCIATION (PELGBA)

Chairperson

Stephen Dodd SC



- Held a public event to discuss the new judicial review provisions, development and other plans, new consent procedures, enforcement and costs covered in the new Planning & Development Bill in March 2023.
- Held several CPDs on Section 160 planning injunctions and on recent developments in Access to Environmental Information.
- PELGBA held a joint event with EUBA on the 7th February 2023 to discuss Article 267 references and recent EU related planning judgments.
- Annual Conference on 7th July 2023.

www.pelgba.ie

PROBATE BAR ASSOCIATION (PBA)

Chairperson

Catherine Duggan BL



- This year, opened membership to others outside the Law Library. Membership has since grown significantly.
- Annual Conference took place on 9th December 2022.

www.probatebar.ie

KEY SPECIALIST BAR ASSOCIATION STATISTICS



70% OF EVENTS FACILITATED HYBRID ATTENDANCE (ONLINE & IN PERSON AT SAMETIME)

17

SPECIALIST BAR ASSOCIATIONS

80

SBA EVENTS

65%

OF ALL EVENTS AT THE BAR OF IRELAND ARE **SBA EVENTS**

4.5k

ATTENDEES AT SBA **EVENTS & CONFERENCES**

102

BAR OF IRELAND & SBA EVENTS (OCT 2022 – JULY 2023)

15

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

218

SBA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

124

CPD HOURS

40%

SBA EVENTS OPEN TO **WIDER LEGAL SECTOR** IN THE LAST YEAR



Photo top left

At the PRDBA Annual Conference on Applications for privacy in the context of statutory regulation, were the Hon. Ms. Justice Emily Egan, Brian O'Doherty, CEO of the LSRA, Frank Beatty SC, Chair of PRDBA and Caoimhe Daly BL.

Photo left

This Sporting Life – Three panels on integrity, regulation and athlete welfare all figured as part of the Sports Bar's Winter Conference. Pictured are His Honour Judge Graeme Mew, Superior Court of Ontario, Kate Hills, Swim Ireland, Catherine Pitre, Sport Resolutions.



PROFESSIONAL, REGULATORY, DISCIPLINARY BAR ASSOCIATION (PRDBA)

Chairperson

Frank Beatty SC



- Annual Conference took place on 21st October 2022.
- Ran several joint events with Hayes Solicitors, Fieldfisher and Mason Hayes and Curran during the year.
- First mock hearing took place on 15th November 2022 with a large attendance joining in person and online.

www.pelgba.ie

SPORTS LAW BAR ASSOCIATION (SLBA)

Chairperson

Tim O'Connor BL



- Ran a joint event with TIBA to discuss the Law Reform Commission (LRC) consultation on unincorporated associations and there was significant interest from the general public.
- Conference took place on 7th December with contributors and panelists from Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand & the UK.

www.slba.ie

SPECIALIST BAR HIGHLIGHTS

Photo top left

Pictured outside Kylemore Abbey, Galway are the attendees of the inaugural Tort & Insurance Bar Association Conference, which took place on 13th May 2023



Photo bottom left

Left to Right: Martin Waldron BL, Imogen McGrath SC and Sara Phelan SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland speaking at the Construction Bar Association Conference on Friday 5th May 2023.



Photo right

Left to Right are Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC (Special Rapporteur on Child Protection), Claire Rush (Meta), Michael Madden (Mason Hayes & Curran LLP), Claire Hodnett (Online Safety Commissioner) and speaking on the regulation of online harm at the inaugural Media, Internet and Data Protection Bar Association (MIDBA) conference on Friday 23rd June 2023



TAX BAR ASSOCIATION (TBA)

Chairperson

Ciaran Ramsay SC



Tax Bar Association

- Newly established association that commenced a briefing series on topics such as expert evidence.
- A conference on Recent Developments in Tax Litigation. The Association was delighted to welcome the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell, Ms Justice Stack, Judge of the High Court, Ms Marie-Claire Maney, Chairperson of the Tax Appeals Commission, Ms Grainne Clohessy SC and Mr Michael Ashe SC KC to discuss recent developments in the area.

TORT & INSURANCE BAR ASSOCIATION (TBA)

Chairperson

Maura McNally SC



Tort & Insurance Bar Association

- Inaugural conference was held in Connemara on 13th May with special guest speaker, Prof. John H Shepherd FRCS FRCOGR who discussed duty of candour from a medical perspective.
- Ran an extensive CPD programme during the year with guest speakers from the judiciary and the Central Bank.



MEDIA, INTERNET & DATA PROTECTION BAR ASSOCIATION (MIDBA)

Chairperson

Claire Hogan BL



- Over 250 legal professionals attended the launch of MIDBA in the company of the Attorney General, Rossa Fanning SC, Sara Phelan SC, Chair of the Council of the Bar of Ireland and Claire Hogan BL, Chair of MIDBA speaking.
- The launch also attracted significant media attention and was reported by RTÉ and Irish Legal News.

www.midba.ie

FAMILY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (FLA)

Chairperson

Alan Finnerty, Solicitor



- The Family Lawyers Association seeks to represent the interests of legal professionals practising in the area of family law. The Association has a research and law reform role, making representations in this regard in relation to proposed legal developments in this area.
- Annual Conference took place on Monday 15th May 2023; chaired by Her Honour Judge Alice Doyle together with a line up of speakers from the Bar that included: Eithne Hegarty BL on Rights of Cohabitants on Death of a Partner, Dervla Browne SC on Recent Decisions of Family Law in the High Court and Sara Phelan SC on Family Law Reform & Practice.

www.familylawyers.ie

SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO FACILITATE PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

Identifying and expanding professional opportunities for our members in support of the future sustainability of the profession.

Law and Women Mentoring

26 female mentees have been mentored for the year by female and male mentors. The programme delivered seven training sessions for mentees and mentors across the year. In addition, a fireside chat between a former and a sitting judge on the theme of Women in Practice: Perspectives from the Bench. A novel addition of 'Lifting Together' saw participants undertake two weight and resistance training classes.

The programme continues to develop and refine, with an increasing focus on how the learnings and techniques can be shared with those not formally subscribed on the programme.

A Growth Opportunity: Mediation

Mediation is a growing alternative to litigation. It is given special recognition by virtue of the Mediation Act of 2017; and as such the barrister profession is ideally suited in respect of its intersection with litigation, and the skill sets of advocacy and negotiation.

In May, The Bar of Ireland in partnership with The Honorable Society of King's Inns, hosted an in-person conference on "Forging a career as a Mediator: what next?". In addition to a number of individual speakers, a fascinating panel discussion on When and where does mediation work well? Developing a Mediation Practice. Panellists included Cathrina Keville BL (Panel Chair); Arran Dowling Hussey BL; Cathy Smith SC; Karyn Harty, Partner and Head of Litigation at Dentons; Ciarán Breen, State Claims Agency; Cormac O'Dualachán SC; Alison Walker BL; Keelin O'Reilly, KOR Mediation.

This is an area of practice that The Bar is committed to continue to develop and nurture.



Alternative Dispute Resolution in focus

Similar to the growth of Mediation, the role and prominence of arbitration in practice increasingly comes the fore. Across a number of initiatives, members were provided with an opportunity to engage with developments including

- A joint Arbitration Ireland and EU Bar Association CPD on the judgement in *Costello V Ireland*, which considered ratification of CETA under Article 29 of the Constitution, the approach of the CJEU to investor state dispute settlement, and whether an amendment to the Arbitration Act was workable solution.
- The Corporate and Insolvency Bar Association, as part of its Annual Conference, considered the Uncitral model of Recognition and Enforcement, in the context of restructuring and examinerships.
- The topic of alternative dispute resolution figured as a full panel discussion at the Annual Construction Law Conference, with the Construction Contracts Act, adjudication and the loss of the arbitration clause being considered.
- The Arbitration Committee also revived the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) in New York. The internship runs for approximately 4 weeks. The ADR Committee will contribute sponsorship of flights and stipend to the successful candidate.



Photo above

The Hon. Ms. Justice Niamh Hyland,
 The Hon. Ms. Justice Fidelma Macken (retired);
 interviewed by Emer Woodfull BL on the theme of
 Women in Practice: Perspectives from the Bench, in
 June 2023.



Ireland For Law

Our continued participation and sponsorship of Ireland for Law placed a strong focus on outreach over the course of the year. With delegations focussing on particular areas of law, the programme this year boasted a strong presence of the President of the High Court, Mr. Justice David Barnville, the Attorney General, Rossa Fanning SC, as well as contributors from The Bar of Ireland. Missions included engagements in London, New York, Madrid, California and San Francisco. In addition the second Dublin International Disputes Resolution week was held in June 2023 with over 450 delegates in attendance.

The Bar Review – A Tool in Practice Development

The Bar Review – under the new Editor Helen Murray BL - continues to provide a definitive source of thought leadership and well as showcase subject matter experts in the Law in Practice Section. Topics such as Crypto-Assets; Artificial Intelligence; Liability for defective buildings, and the Planning and Development Bill 2022 are just a number. These contributions from our members aim to contribute to the understanding of legal issues for the benefit of colleagues in legal practice, the public, and the media. A number of these article are also presented in podcast format.

We had the pleasure of interviewing some of Ireland’s leading justice sector figures – The Hon. Mr. Justice Donal O’Donnell, Chief Justice, The Hon. Mr. Justice David Barnville, President of the High Court, and Hilka Becker, Chair of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, including insightful contributions from Press Ombudsman Susan McKay, and retiring Father of the Bar Ronnie Robins SC.



ENHANCE ACCESS TO ONLINE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Access to online resources and information through the Library & Information service is a core benefit of membership.

Launch of Legal Search Connect

“invaluable”, “indispensable” and “transformative”.

This new resource was added to the suite of digital Library services in October 2022 to coincide with the start of the new legal year. This federated search engine allows multiple databases to be searched together from a single interface.

New and Enhanced Content

Services with enhanced online availability include:

- Industrial Relations News.
- Kluwer Arbitration.
- The Irish Times Archive.



Additional library resources now include;

- Jordan’s material.
- Immigration & Nationality Law Reports.
- The Education Law Reports are now included on Lexis Library.
- Common Market Law Review.

This expansion provides access to a wider range of research content. In addition, we continue our collaborative agreement with Vizlegal, and members have access to new features as it develops.

Legal Information Broker

To address the challenge of information overload, and in response to member feedback, the Library produces a suite of consolidated and targeted publications. This includes:

- 18 issues of the DLÍ Nua eZine.
- 6 editions of the Legal Update for *The Bar Review* and a variety of subject-specific training guides.
- 287 subscriptions to our 4 practice area bulletins



Photo above

CCJ Renovation: A fresh start to the legal year at the CCJ as the Library’s collection was moved from the 7th floor to the 6th, along with the enquiries desk. Facilities on the 7th floor have been enhanced using the extra space, including extra seating, new lockers and the addition of bookable consultation pods.

DLÍ
Nua

963

AVG..READERSHIP IN '21/'22 +7%



109
Bulletins

54 ISSUED IN '21/'22 +139%



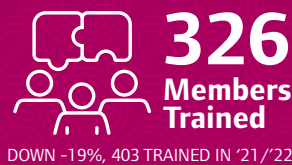
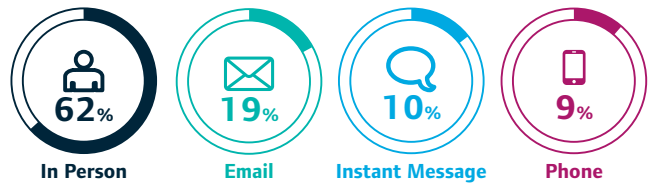
Information & Research Skills Training

2022 has seen the return of on-site training, with the re-introduction of ad-hoc training clinics, hybrid events and a brand new breakfast workshop.



A new suite of **five** interactive training tutorials was published in 2023, allowing members to practice and test their legal research skills while working from home.

How You Contact Us



DELIVER BEST-IN-CLASS EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

High-quality education and training opportunities are core benefits of membership.

A Quality Charter

As part of The Bar of Ireland's commitment to provision of high-quality CPD a quality charter has been developed setting out what members can expect from our CPD offering.

Member CPD Consultation

Member views and feedback on the programme are essential for the continued improvement of the CPD Programme. 2022/23 saw the introduction of a new annual learning needs consultation. The consultation involves a range of different methods, such as interviews, focus groups, and event feedback forms to gain insights into how the programme can be improved and continue to meet the needs of members. We had an excellent response in 2022/23 and would encourage all members to avail of the opportunity to participate in these initiatives in future.

CPD Audit – Michaelmas 2024

The Education & Training Committee provided input on the Professional Practices Committee subcommittee to develop a set of recommendations for Council regarding CPD Audit.

Pupillage Research Project

To support the continued development of the pupillage year a 12-month mapping project was commenced to gather information on the typical pupillage experience. Pupils were invited to record details of the practical learning opportunities via entries in an electronic journal. Twenty pupils participated in the project. Phase two of the project involves a series of focus groups with pupils and masters which will take place in September 2023.

New Practical Courses

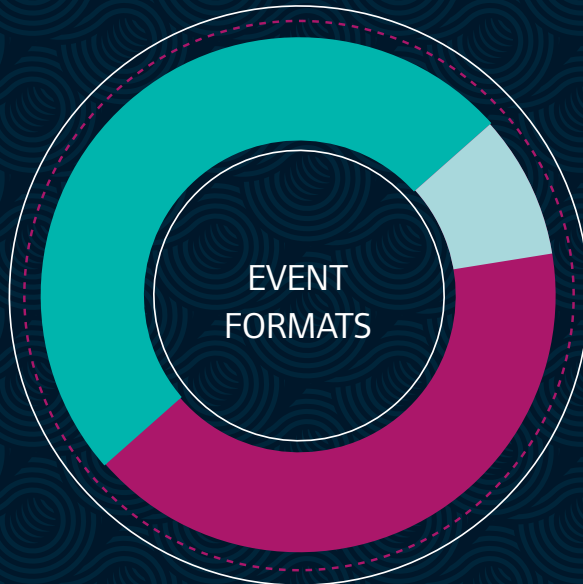
Following the successful pilot of Advanced Negotiation Course in November 2022 the focus has now turned to the development of additional offerings, with two new courses now in the advanced stages of development: Advanced Drafting – Affidavits & Practice Management Essentials.

A 3 session Marketing Essentials programme was also delivered in the Easter and Trinity terms. Over 50 members participated in the sessions which addressed key marketing skills such as thought leadership, building relationships and making the most of their Law Library profile.

Review of Mentoring Supports for Members

A mentoring review committee was established to review the new entrant mentor programme. Arising from the review a revised and expanded programme will be launched in January 2024 which will be open to members in years 1 to 8 initially.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS



EVENT DELIVERY

- 50% IN PERSON
- 41% HYBRID
- 9% ONLINE

2,760

LIVE PARTICIPANTS WITH
61 PARTICIPANTS
ON AVERAGE PER EVENT

435

HOURS OF CONTENT
IN TOTAL ON
MY CPD SYSTEM

73

HOURS OF **NEW**
FORMAL STRUCTURED
CPD ACTIVITIES

112

HOURS OF
NEW ON DEMAND
CONTENT

+18.3%

IN ENGAGEMENT WITH **CPD**
PROVIDED BY THE BAR OF IRELAND

Core Skills: Negotiations

Recognising the centrality of negotiations in respect of litigation and alternative dispute resolution, a bespoke course for practitioners was delivered.

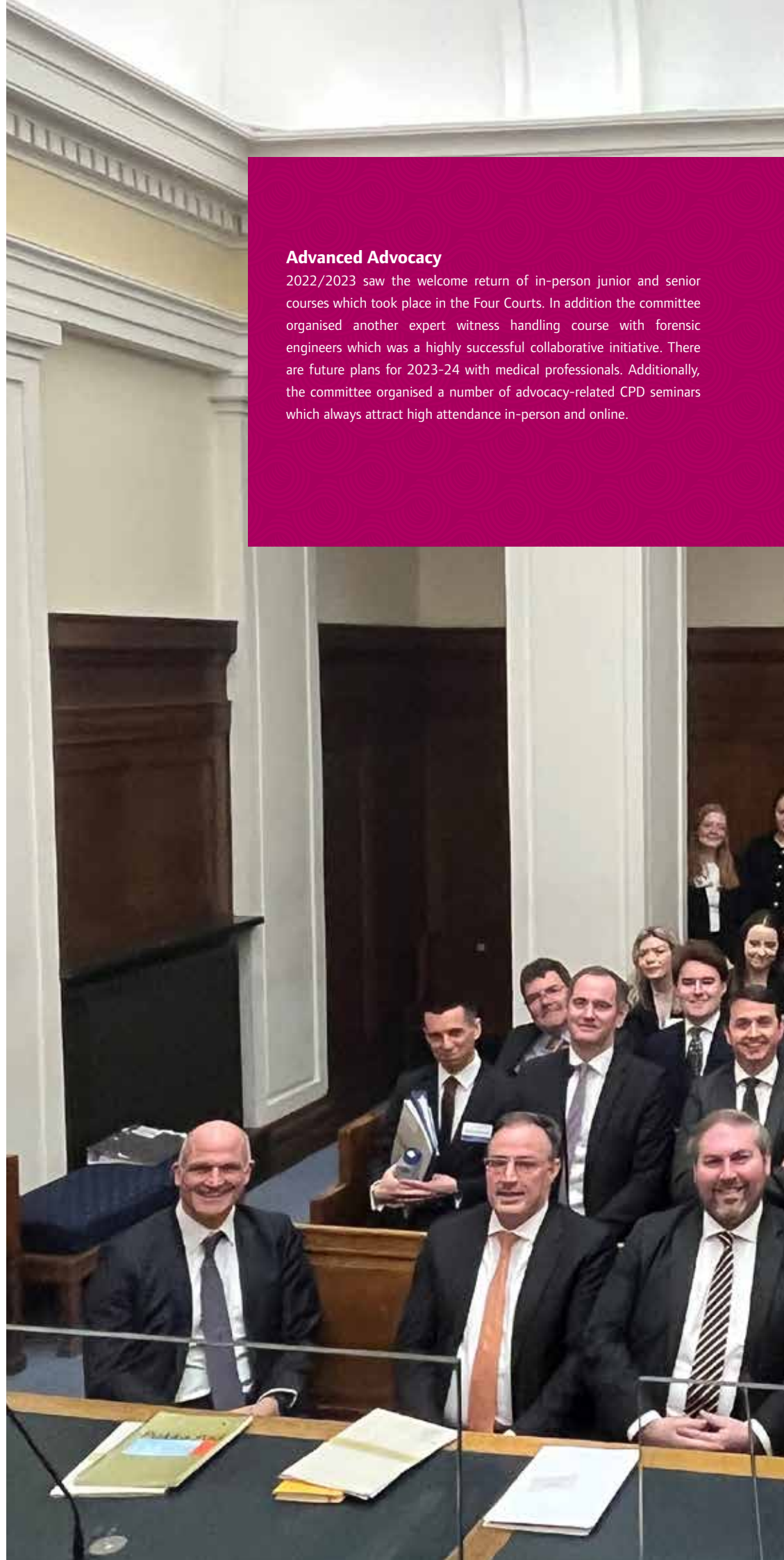
Targeted at those between years 3 and 10, it involved two case files (one on the eve of an injunction, the other a tri-party commercial mediation). The course has been delivered twice over 2022/23.

Key statistics:

- 23 faculty members
- 37 participants
- 2 case files
- 3 lectures

Advanced Advocacy

2022/2023 saw the welcome return of in-person junior and senior courses which took place in the Four Courts. In addition the committee organised another expert witness handling course with forensic engineers which was a highly successful collaborative initiative. There are future plans for 2023-24 with medical professionals. Additionally, the committee organised a number of advocacy-related CPD seminars which always attract high attendance in-person and online.



APRIL - JUNIOR COURSE

Faculty **23**

Participants **20**

Volunteers **12**

1 Judge

**JUNE EXPERT WITNESS
HANDLING COURSE
WITH FORENSIC
ENGINEERS**

Faculty **21**

Participants **37**

Volunteers **10**

Engineers **11**

SEPT - SENIOR COURSE

Faculty **19**

Participants **31**

Volunteers **17**

2 Judges

SEMINARS ADDED:

- Advocacy in the Medical Council & other professional regulatory bodies
- Advocacy in inquests
- Advocacy in cross examinations



Photo top right

Chair of The Bar of Ireland's Human Rights Committee, Aoife O'Leary BL and Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland, Sara Phelan SC presenting the 2022 Bar of Ireland Human Rights Award to members of the National Traveller Mental Health Network; John Paul Collins, Suzie McCarthy, Thomas McCann, Mags Casey and Thomas McDonagh.



ADVOCATE FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Bar of Ireland has an important role in advocating for the rule of law and access to justice.

Traveller Mental Health – “a justice issue”

The 2022 Bar of Ireland Human Rights Award was conferred on The National Traveller Mental Health Network (N.T.M.H.N) – in recognition of its community-based work and advocacy in the area of mental health of the Travelling Community.

As part of the Award, The Bar of Ireland's Human Rights Committee has committed to contribute time and effort on a number of the Movements priorities, particularly around the access to justice and legal services by Travellers, and information on key issues.

The N.T.M.H.N, officially launched in 2019, comprises 26 representatives from around the country. The network is a collective of Travellers and Traveller Organisations whose goal is to develop a collective space that is Traveller-led, where local, regional, and national Traveller mental health issues are highlighted, discussed, and addressed. As well as engaging in policy progression, the Network also has volunteers and social workers across the country engaging with and supporting the Travelling Community.

According to research, risk of suicide is six times higher for Travellers than the general population, with 82% of the community having been directly affected. A recent report undertaken by University of Limerick found that attitudes and trust in the criminal justice system are significantly lower in the Travelling Community.

Our Legal Community: Fellowships & Sponsorship

The Bar of Ireland continues its record in sponsoring and contributing to a number of civil society groups, to assist them in advancing their work in the field of human rights, advocacy and empowering lawyers to make a vital contribution to issues of social justice.

Organisations that we continue to work with include Free Legal Advice Centres, Community Law & Mediation, Irish Council of Civil Liberties, and the Irish Rule of Law.



**CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS
ALLIANCE**



**Community
Law & Mediation**



**Irish Council for
Civil Liberties**



flac

promoting access to justice

Afghan Judges: Day of the Endangered Lawyer



To mark the Annual International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, the Human Rights Committee convened an event entitled “Afghan Judges Speak”.

This day was first marked in 2009 by the international community and each year the day is dedicated to a particular country where lawyers face threats due to their work. This year the country chosen was Afghanistan.

Three Afghan judges now living in Ireland spoke movingly about their professional roles in Afghanistan, and the abrupt and traumatic change to that arising from the rise of the Taliban in August 2021, where females in particular were targeted.

Ten Afghan female judges, along with their families continue to be supported by members of the Bar, the Judiciary and the solicitors profession; in respect of housing, education and professional development.

Advocating for Endangered Lawyers

Each year the number of lawyers being prosecuted or assassinated for upholding the rule of law, or their commitment to their clients, increases.

The Human Rights Committee has written to the Ambassadors of the States concerned to remind States of their obligations under international human rights to defend and safeguard lawyers in their work, arising from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966

Country	Lawyers concerned	Types of violation and summary of case
China	Ding Jiayi and Xu Zhiyong	<p>Conviction</p> <p>On 10 April 2023, a court in Shandong province sentenced lawyer Xu Zhiyong to 14 years' imprisonment and lawyer Ding Jiayi to 12 years' imprisonment after finding them guilty of "subversion of state power". It is reported that their trials were conducted behind closed doors, with many procedural problems and allegations of mistreatment.</p>
Israel	Salah Hammouri	<p>Deportation</p> <p>Salah Hammouri is a French-Palestinian human rights defender, lawyer and field researcher at Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association based in Jerusalem. Through his human rights work, Salah Hammouri actively seeks justice and accountability for violations of Palestinian rights. On 18 December, Israeli authorities deported Salah Hammouri to France following nine months in administrative detention without charge or trial.</p>
Mexico	Ricardo Arturo Lagunes Gasca	<p>Disappearance</p> <p>Ricardo Arturo Lagunes Gasca has played a fundamental role in legally representing the community of Aquila in the negotiations over the operation of the Aquila mine related to its environmental, social and health effects on the community. It is believed the disappearance of Ricardo Arturo Lagunes Gasca and his fellow human rights defender, in January is linked to their legitimate activity in the defence of human rights.</p>
Pakistan	Dil Nawaz Kundi, Latif Afridi and Sheikh Imran Mustafa Marwat, Ibrar Kundi and Balkh Sher Khosa (Source: CCBF)	<p>Murder and Attempted Murder</p> <p>On 10 January 2023, Dil Nawaz Kundi, a senior lawyer from southern Tank district, was shot dead while lawyers Mustafa Marwat and Ibrar Kundi, who were traveling with him, were wounded after unknown motorcyclist opened fire on their car. On 16 January 2023, it is reported that former Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior lawyer Latif Afridi was killed during a firing inside the Peshawar High Court (PHC) bar room. It is reported that the police have already arrested the attacker. On the same day, 16 January 2023, it is reported that lawyer Sheikh Imran, from the Rawalpindi District Bar, was shot dead by unidentified suspects in the Dheri Hassanabad area while he was driving his children to school. We understand that an investigation is also underway. On 23 January 2023, lawyer Balkh Sher Khosa was shot injured by unidentified armed men while visiting the Punjab University to meet his clients.</p>
Zimbabwe	Kudzai Kadzere	<p>Assault and Arrest</p> <p>On 14 January 2023, lawyer Kudzai Kadzere was beaten up by the police and temporarily arrested while he was attending to his clients, members of the organisation Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) who were arrested and detained at Budiriro 2 Police Station.</p>

**Voluntary Assistance Scheme
– Strengthening our pro-bono values**

The mission of the VAS is to address unmet legal need in the community through the facilitation of pro-bono legal services by barristers who are members of the Bar of Ireland, in collaboration with NGOs and charities.

In October 2022, VAS delivered its Law & Social Change conference, featuring papers from across the Bar, a judicial panel and valuable involvement of civil society groups. Representatives of VAS also contributed to a number of external events and discussions on the theme of access to justice.

Over the course of the year VAS has received 38 requests for assistance, and this can only be responded to with the volunteering commitment of our members.

In addition, a strategic review was conducted of the Voluntary Assistance Scheme and those recommendations are being implemented.

Recommendations from that review included:

- Focussing on stability over growth; in respect of strengthening structures and processes in order to preserve the high quality service that it continues to deliver
- Review of caseload types, sources and services delivered in order to equip VAS with a clear understanding of where demand is emerging from, and so that supply of volunteering barristers can be assured
- Continue to strengthen relationships with NGOs and charities, so that changes to the sector can be understood, and efficiencies achieved.
- Review resourcing and supports to the Scheme, as well as raise awareness of the Scheme with Council and membership

Key Statistics:

4 128

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BARRISTERS ON THE VAS PANEL

183 38

ATTENDEES AT 'LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE'

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

3 STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCES, INCLUDING:

- PILNET - PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CONFERENCE DUBLIN
- ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE – REVIEW OF CIVIL LEGAL AID
- PRO BONO WEEK 2022



Photo clockwise from left

Addressing the Judicial Panel of the VAS Conference were

The Hon. Ms. Justice Siobhán Phelan, The Hon. Mr. Justice Gerard Hogan, The Hon. Ms. Justice Iseult O'Malley, The Hon. Mr. Justice David Barniville

Cab-Rank Rule: Statement of the Four Bars

In May 2023, the Four Bars of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales reaffirmed their collective commitment to the cab rank rule and its centrality to access to justice.



Photo

Chair Co-signatories on behalf of the respective Bars were Roddy Dunlop KC, The Faculty of Advocates Scotland, Sara Phelan SC, The Bar of Ireland, Nick Vineall KC, The Bar Council of England and Wales and Moira Smyth KC, The Bar of Northern Ireland.

The cab rank rule promotes access to justice. It means that clients will not be deprived of the advocate of their choice because the client or the client's cause could be seen as objectionable or unpopular. People with unpopular causes or accused of serious offences do not need the additional challenge of having first to persuade a lawyer to take them on.

Barristers do not choose their clients nor do they associate themselves with their clients' opinions or behaviour by virtue of representing them.

ADVANCE THE ROLE OF THE PRACTICE SUPPORT & FEE RECOVERY SERVICE

Over the last 12 months our Practice Support and Fee Recovery Service has seen a continued growth in the number of members engaging the fee recovery service

Additional Supports Added

A significant number of new practice managements supports have been developed and available on the member's 'Practice Support and Fee Recovery' hub. These include resources, templates and tools for members in the area of:

- Revenue and Tax
- Recording Keeping Best Practice
- Billing & Fee Collection
- Cash Flow Management
- Insurance
- Retirement Planning

Developing Business Acumen

The Education and Training and the Practice Support departments collaborated to develop a new practice management programme which will be delivered via a series of seminars, and e-learning activities. When combined the programme will cover the essentials relevant to practice management and establishing a viable practice at the Bar.

The programme outline has been approved by the Education & Training committee and it is anticipated the roll out of the new program will commence in the forthcoming legal year.

 THE BAR OF IRELAND
Practice Support & Fee Recovery

Fee Recovery Service

Overdue fee note?

The fee recovery team are here to help, get in touch with the team for more information.

For more information:
feerecovery@lawlibrary.ie
(01) 817 5409

PRACTICE SUPPORT & FEE RECOVERY SERVICE STATISTICS

3

YEARS SINCE SERVICE WAS LAUNCHED (JULY 20)

€140k

SETTLED VIA COMPLAINTS TO THE LEGAL SERVICES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (LSRA)

€1.2M

RECOVERED IN **OVERDUE FEE NOTES** FOR MEMBERS, REPRESENTING **239** FEE NOTES

219

FEE NOTES ACTIVELY PURSUING WITH A VALUE OF **€2.3M**

350+

RECOVERY CONTACTS DEALT WITH ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS **EACH MONTH**

+9%

OF THE **MEMBERSHIP** NOW SIGNED UP TO THE SERVICE (200 MEMBERS) (PRIOR YEAR 7% 162 MEMBERS)

40+

ACTIVE LSRA COMPLAINTS RELATING TO **NON-PAYMENT OF FEES** ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS BEING MANAGED

OUR OPERATIONS

To deliver on our services the core operational capabilities required by the organisation are strong finances, appropriate systems and IT, a skilled and agile workforce, fit-for-purpose workspaces and physical infrastructure, and good governance.

FINANCE

Financial Performance – Half year to 31st March 2023

In the half year October 2022 to March 2023, The Bar of Ireland Group reported a **consolidated income and expenditure surplus of €842k**, which is 4.8% behind budget for the period.

TBOI Consolidated Income & Expenditure					
Period ended 31st Mar 2023	Current Year Actual €'000	Prior Year Actual €'000	% Diff	Budget €'000	% Diff
Income	8,566	8,136	5.3%	8,628	-0.7%
Operating Expenditure	(7,001)	(6,552)	6.8%	(7,023)	-0.3%
EBITDA **	1,565	1,584	-1.2%	1,605	-2.5%
Depreciation	(218)	(242)	-10.1%	(330)	-34.0%
Bank Interest	(362)	(213)	70.3%	(187)	94.3%
Surplus Before Tax	985	1,129	-12.8%	1,088	-9.5%
Taxation	(143)	(199)	-28.4%	(204)	-29.9%
Net Surplus	842	930	-9.4%	885	-4.8%
%Net Surplus	10%	11%		10%	

EBIDATA = Earnings before Interest, Depreciation, Taxation and Amortisation

The key reason for this below budget performance is the increase in bank interest cost in Law Library Properties Ltd. (LLPL) where the ECB base rate has increased from -0.5% to 3.5% between July 2022 and June 2023. As a result, interest paid in the half year at €362k is €149k (70%) higher than last year and €175k (94%) higher than budget.

Some key points to note from the half year results:

The Bar of Ireland

Subscription income at €5.5m in on budget and 8% ahead of last year. Overall, expenditure is marginally lower than expected at half year leading to a positive financial position with TBOI recording a net surplus of €209K compared to a budget surplus of €48k.

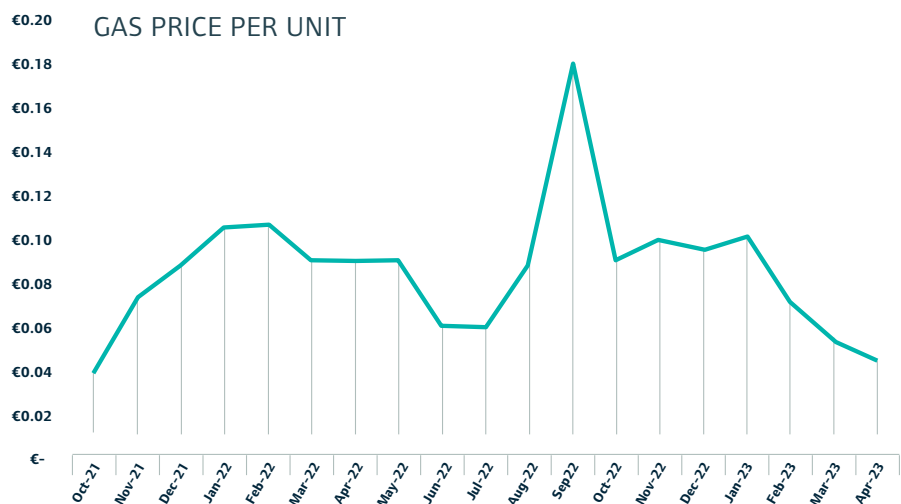
Law Library Properties Ltd.

LLPL finances have been impacted significantly by global economic challenges, notably the increases in energy costs and interest rates.

■ **Energy Costs**

In the years leading up to 2021, energy costs had been reasonable stable, certainly for the previous 10 years the average cost of gas and electricity in LLPL was €402k per annum. Last year this changed radically because of the global economic crisis.

Below is a graph of gas unit prices invoiced to LLPL over the last 19 months. When considering this graph, please note that between 2014 and 2021, the average price per kWh was quite stable, averaged €0.0186 over the 7 period.



	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23
Gas Price Per Unit	€0.04	€0.07	€0.09	€0.11	€0.11	€0.09	€0.09	€0.09	€0.06	€0.06	€0.09	€0.18	€0.09	€0.10	€0.10	€0.10	€0.07	€0.05	€0.04

Over the course of the last 19 months, the average rate per kWh was €0.091. This is almost 5 times that of the previous 7-year average. This increase led to the necessity to increase services charges in Church Street and Distillery buildings by 10% in 2022.

This could have been significantly worse for LLPL & tenants had the same increase applied to electricity costs. The total energy costs of the company consist of Gas (33% of energy costs) and Electricity (67% of energy costs). In March 2019, LLPL entered a fixed price agreement with Airtricity for electricity supplies, which protected the company from the volatile pricing until March 2023.

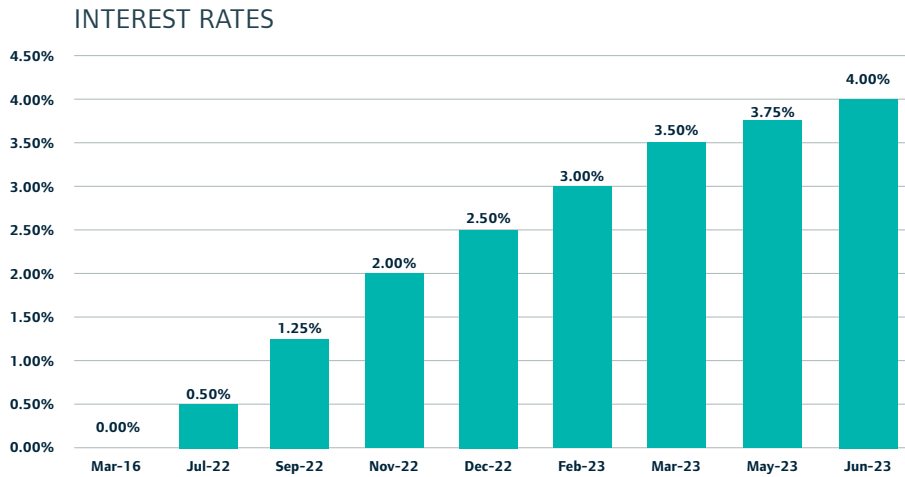
In recent months, global gas and electricity costs have reduced from the highs of 2022 but the new rate that LLPL will pay for electricity will still increase by more than double from April 2023. Our monthly electricity costs increased from €20k March 2023 to €43k in April 2023, which – when annualised – increases the cost of electricity by €276k. Gas prices are expected to be lower for 2023 than 2022, which will reduce the negative impact of the increase in electricity prices.

In order to cover this additional cost, service charges will need to increase again to all users of the buildings from August / September 2023.

■ **Loan Interest**

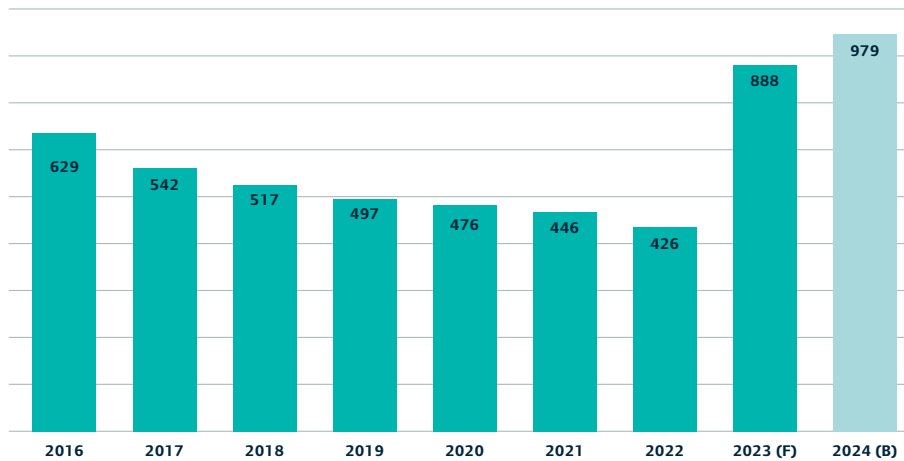
There have been 8 interest rate increases since the ECB policy to counter inflation commenced in July 2022. LLPL has €18m in debt and the impact on LLPL's profitability and net cash flow as a result is significant. The following table is a summary of base rate interest movements:

As can be seen in the table below, the interest cost in 2021/22 was €426k and this will increase to €888k for 2022/23, reducing cash/profit by €462k.



When the interest costs reduced in 2016, and with occupancy increase in LLPL, profits improved providing LLPL with additional funding to reduce debt. It also provided an opportunity to support members and over the course of 2018 and 2019 budgets, LLPL stopped charging rent to TBOI for use of space in the Distillery building, thereby reducing costs and avoiding or reducing the subscription rate increases, a key benefit to members.

LLPL - Loan Interest



Unfortunately, the interest rate increases require removal of this concession and LLPL will need to start charging rent to The Bar of Ireland in order to increase the cashflow for debt financing and capital expenditure requirements.

The net impact of these higher costs is that **LLPL's net profit** for the half year at €533k is 17% down on last year and 24% lower than budget.

Law Library Properties Ltd. (LLPL) 7 year loan facility with AIB expired on 26th January 2023 AIB was successful following a competitive tender process, which benefitted LLPL by reducing costs.

■ Other Entities

The **Sheds** has returned to normal level of post pandemic activity from April 2022. In the first half of the year, bar sales have increase to €107k, which is 97% higher than the pandemic influenced previous year, and 16% higher than budget. The Sheds has returned to a positive net surplus, having incurred losses last year.

Room hire income in **DDRC** at €200k has fallen from last year's record income of €260k over the 6 months. The DDRC had a higher number of large bookings last year and income has been impacted due to competition from use of Law Society rooms at The Four Courts, where activity increased following a full return to normal post Covid in 2022.

In summary, the impact of interest rates on LLPL has been a challenge, but overall the financial performance remains stable as the half year surplus of €842K to be within 5% of budget, given the aforementioned challenges, is positive.

Net Surplus By Entity				
Period ended 31st Mar 2023		Actual 2023/24 €'000	Budget 2023/24 €'000	% Diff
The Bar of Ireland	Entity 1	209	48	77%
Law Library Services	Entity 2	21	21	1%
Church Street Club	Entity 3	9	12	-33%
Total Member Service Entities		239	81	45%
Law Library Properties	Entity 4	547	703	-29%
Law Library Finance	Entity 5	23	22	4%
DDRC	Entity 6	33	78	-134%
Total Commercial Companies		603	803	-25%
Total Group Summary		842	885	-5%

Membership Subscriptions 2023/24

The Finance Committee oversees the preparation of annual budgets for the organisation. When considering the budget for 2023/24, there were several challenges arising from the current highly inflationary economic environment.

Factoring in the challenges of inflation, and several service enhancements, the cost of delivery services are projected to increase in the 2023/24 legal year and in order to recoup the necessary subscriptions to cover the budgeted expenditure, a subscription increase of 3.4% will be required from October 2023.

GOVERNANCE

The Bar of Ireland External Auditors, HLB Ryan & Co., have been in place for many years. From a good governance perspective, it is recommended practice to carry out a tender process on average at 5 yearly intervals. In 2022, the Finance Committee established the Audit Tender Working Group to consider a detailed Request for Tender, to approve a list of target auditors, and conduct the selection process.

In March 2023 the working group selected a preferred auditor and reported their recommendation to the Finance committee.

At its meeting on 27th April 2023, the Council approved the appointment of PKF as auditors to The Bar of Ireland for a period of five years commencing with the audit for all entities financial statements for year ended 30th September 2023.

ESTATES SERVICES

In the last 12 months the Estates Services Team primary focus has been on the efficient, sustainable, and safe running of the property portfolio and investing in key projects that will result in short and long terms gains for all the Members.

Following this review, a number of changes to the service operation have already commenced, including but not limited to

- **A centralised service** now ensures better collaboration, proactive planning and a more coordinated approach to estates management, dealing with issues and contractor management across the full portfolio.
- The organisation now has a **dedicated service desk officer** to log enquiries & issues and coordinates the resolution of issues.
- A new **technical facilities officer** to better manage the day to day mechanical and electrical services, manage the building management systems, and manage the on-site contractor's work.
- A **Environmental Health & Safety** co-ordinator now provides essential support in this key area across the estate's portfolio and to progress urgent priorities.
- We have invested in systems to improve how estates issues are recorded and managed. We plan to invest in a **new Computer Aided Facilities Management System** for management of our estates maintenance programmes.

Restaurant in Distillery

In September 2022, the owners of the Dock decided not to renew their licence having experienced poor trading conditions dating back even to pre-covid times. Since then, the Council have been reviewing how to address this challenge and recently engaged with members by surveying both tenants of the building and the general membership about their views on the facility. The Council is currently considering these surveys and next steps, and has engaged a professional review of the space.

Barristers Tea Rooms

Since September 2022, a new provider has taken over the running of the Barristers Tea Rooms, ensuring that this key service remained in place for members. We entered in to a new 5-year licence and the feedback has been hugely positive.

Following an inspection by an Environmental Health Officer on behalf of the HSE several issues require attention. These include a replacement of part of the floor and the associated works may be challenging both operationally and financially. In conjunction with the new operator and the OPW, we are implementing short term remediation works to address the risks and keep the Tea Rooms operational. A major renovation has been earmarked for 2024 by the OPW in conjunction with LLP and in the Barristers Tea Rooms.

Building Structural and Fire Safety Surveys

As a condition of refinancing, The Building Consultancy were engaged by AIB to carry out inspections of each property. The purpose of this inspection was to provide AIB confirmation that the buildings are sound condition with no major/significant issues noted and confirmation that fire safety measures are in place in the buildings.

The Building Consultancy delivered their reports in January 2023 and in the case of all 3 buildings they confirmed that they were "in sound condition with no major issues, however we note some areas of concern". In each building they identified a list of findings requiring further attention summarised under "Structure" and "Fire Issues".

LLPL is now actioning the recommendations of appointed structural engineers and fire safety consultants. Currently LLPL is reviewing the budget required and will then set about addressing rectification works identified.

Seating Supply

Library Committee successfully reduced the seating gap from 285 to 193 seats and continue to review seating provision and emerging trends for 2023-24. In addition to the increased 34 seats at the CCJ, 72 out of 88 seats in the Rear Atrium of the Distillery Building were assigned via the new lottery system in Oct 2022.

This lottery assignment meant that 96% of the allocations were to members in years 1 to 7 and all members who applied for a seat in this area were successful.

SYSTEMS & ICT

The IT department continued to update our technology offering to members throughout the year, thereby ensuring that the return to full post-Covid activity could be supported for all members.

MFA – Creating Efficiencies

The non-expiring password offering arising from Multi Factor Authentication has resulted in a 61% decrease for password reset calls to the helpdesk.

New Membership Management System

Our new membership management system went live in June 2023 and is in use across many of our staff teams. Additional functionality to improve our CPD offering and committee administration is coming online shortly. Once staff training and familiarisation is complete, it is intended to open an extended self-service portal to enable members manage their own individual online profiles, requests for Certificates of Good Standing and uploading of PII information. The new system brings together several disparate systems across the organisation that were no longer fit for purpose and will assist in improving and streamlining our communications with members.

24/7 Cyber Security

We extended our cyber security service to a 24x7 offering, a development which has already paid dividends as several potential data breaches were identified and caught before data was compromised.

IT infrastructure upgrades are continuing and our entire WiFi network has now been upgraded. Additional security controls are on the way as we strive to keep ahead of threat actors.

Printers

We have also upgraded 14 of our larger printers, and these new machines are more economic to run and are in keeping with our policy to reduce energy consumption where at all possible. A clear indication as to the extent of the lawlibrary.ie services adoption is the continuing rise in the use of OneDrive, which is up 32% this year over last year.

Phone System

Our new phone system upgrade will offer Members a combination of deskphone, PC softphone or app with which to consume their phone service. This is especially useful for members who work from several locations and who want to access their published phone number on-the-go. This new technology will also enable members to have their own dedicated business number regardless of location.

IT Clinics

Throughout the year, we conducted 200 individual one to one clinics with members, to guide them through the lawlibrary.ie family of online services and other IT needs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Effective resourcing and ongoing professional development continues to be a key focus of our people strategy. Our commitment to employee development and continuous learning ensures we are strongly placed to deliver a consistently high level of service to our members.

This legal year saw the establishment of the Education and Professional Development department, whose purpose is to provide continuous learning and training opportunities for our members. The department has a team of 4 (FTE 3.33).

In 2023, we had one colleague celebrate 25 years with the organisation and four colleagues marking 15 years' service. We bid farewell to two other colleagues on their retirement, Anne O'Regan and Dermot Canning.

The staff Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee which was set up last year continues to meet regularly to spotlight and promote inclusion across the organisation. The organisation has been awarded the Investors in Diversity Bronze Award from the Irish Centre for Diversity which recognises that we have built a strong foundation from which we can now continue to embed Diversity and Inclusion into wider organisational systems.

The staff of The Bar continue to demonstrate their commitment to our 'member-first' ethos and delivering a best-in-class service.

FTE Report 30th June 2023

Department	Head Count	Full Time Equivalent
CEO	1	1
Communications & Member Services	8	8
Education & Professional Development	4	3.33
Estate Services	6	5.53
Finance & Member Relations	9	8.6
Human Resources	1	1
IT Department	7	7
Practice Management & Fee Recovery	1	1
Reception	5	4.56
Regulation	2	2
Sheds Club Bar	3	2.06
Library & Information Services	27	24.37
DDRC	2	2
Ireland for Law	1	0.4
Totals	77	71.85

Over the past 5 years, the total headcount has increased from 74 staff members employed to 77 – an increase of 3. Every effort is made to align the staff resources towards support for the additional services that members have sought primarily in the areas of Practice Support and Fee Recovery, Education & Training, Specialist Bar Associations and communications and marketing.

Work Pattern Split:	25% Part Time	75% Full Time
Gender Split:	60% Female	40% Male
Staff Turnover: (1 Oct '22 - 30 Jun '23)	6.5%	
CPD		
Courses/Seminars Run:	21	
Hours Completed:	539	

THE BAR OF IRELAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP

The Bar of Ireland’s strategy reflects an understanding that change is needed in how we manage our organisation in order to work towards a carbon neutral future. We are passionate and excited about making changes that will make our future safer and environmentally sustainable.

Our four core themes which will enable us to that are:

- Act as a sustainable organisation
- Empower our People
- Reduce our GHG emissions
- Inclusion of Biodiversity

2022 MILESTONES

We have already made significant progress in our aims to act as a sustainable organisation.



Electricity (LLPS) procured from 100% renewable energy



Member printing & copying 2022 - 2.9M sheets
A reduction of 19% on full year pre-covid 2019



132.6 tonnes of paper waste shredded



6 tonnes of Ink cartridges recycled



Energy consumption (LLPL) 2021 - 4.7M kWh
2022 - 3.9M kWh
Consumption saving 17%



84 tonnes of glass recycled (estimated)



247 Kg of fluorescent light tubes recycled



334Kg electrical waste equipment recycled



7 Remote Hearing Pods installed reducing the need to travel



Hybrid working hours introduced contributes to the reduction of our overall carbon footprint

OUR 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We have set out clear targets and goals, in order for us to reduce our carbon footprint from 2.85¹, protect the planet and make a positive impact on people’s lives. Some of the projects planned in furtherance of our aims are:

Note: ¹ Level one carbon footprint only based on the consumption of energy and number of persons using the building.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Review of Financial Performance for The Bar of Ireland & Related Entities for year ended 30th September 2022.

The Bar Of Ireland Financial Accounts

For the legal year ended 30th September 2022, the financial performance was only partly influenced by the pandemic as restrictions eased off in the early part of the year with normal activity returning during the year. The organisation's finances were impacted negatively by the global economic crisis which increased energy costs significantly in the year.

Overall, The Bar of Ireland recorded a minor deficit of €2k with income returning to pre-pandemic levels of €10.1m. This is income required to pay for the provision of services and operations of The Bar of Ireland for the year, and in doing so, the overall financial objective for TBOI, which was to break even for the year, was achieved

Review of Income & Expenditure

Income at €10.1m was 18.3% higher than the previous year. Income in 2020/2021 was lower as the organisation provided a second Covid credit to the value of €1.7m which, as noted in previous reports, was funded from a combination of savings achieved in operational expenditure. **Expenditure at €10.1m** was 13% higher than prior year as the various pandemic related supports ceased and activity returned to normal levels.

Referring to the income and expenditure account for year ended 30th September 2022, the following analysis explains the key variances in expenditure categories between this 2021/2022 year and prior year.

- In general, many of the year-on-year increases in expenditure are related to the ending of the pandemic. In 2021/22, the organisation returned to running a full schedule of events, explaining the increase in Marketing & Events, representation of The Bar of Ireland, and the return to having in person meetings, CPD events, etc. In addition, there were no placements during the pandemic, and these returned in 2022.
- **Member Services** increased from €1.25m to €1.41m. Most of the increases arise from a return to normal post pandemic activity including DX & Post room services, where temporary cost reductions for these services were put in place. Clubs and Societies stipends were paid to each club having been suspended the previous year, and subvention to The Honorable Society of Kings Inns was restored after they provided an 18% reduction in the previous year in recognition of the pandemic challenge. In 2022, the organisation paid for the members pocket diary. Prior to this, production of the pocket diary was covered by Thomson Reuters as part of a previous agreement which ended several years ago.

- **IT Service** costs increased as more members used the full suite of systems available in Office 365 and the organisation entered a new three-year agreement with Microsoft in June 2022 where price increases impacted the total cost of providing this key service. In addition, the new member management system project was being progressed throughout the year.

- **Estate Service** costs were affected by the impact of the global economic crisis, which led to a major increase in the energy costs. Estates Service costs are detailed in schedule 4 of the financial statements and in this schedule, Light & Heat increased from €17k to €45k in 2021/22, an increase of 270%. This is just for our use of space in Four Court as energy costs for other lettings are included in the services charges. The problem impacted Law Library Properties Ltd. significantly worse, which is explained in more detail later in this report. Rates also increased from €161k, to €200k as the State provided a commercial rate credit the prior year as a further Covid19 support measure.

- **Staff Costs** at €3.8m increased by 37%. Almost all of this variance arises because in the prior year, the organisation was in receipt the state supported Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS). In addition, during the pandemic, there was freeze on recruitment for vacant positions and senior management salaries were temporally reduced.

Summary

For year ended 30th September 2022, The Bar of Ireland incurred an income and expenditure deficit of €2,268. This is a significant improvement on the pandemic influenced previous year. When setting the budget for the year, the Council wanted to avoid a subscription increase if possible and approved a budget with a minor budget deficit of €50k for 2021/22 so, overall, the performance was marginally better than expected and a positive stable financial year post pandemic.

Reserves for The Bar of Ireland at 30th September 2022 are €7,553,351.

THE BAR OF IRELAND GROUP CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Table 1 below summarises the consolidated income and expenditure position of The Bar of Ireland Group the year ended 30th September 2022.

TBOI Group Consolidated Income & Expenditure		
Year Ended 30th September	2022 €'000 Actual	2021 €'000 Actual
Turnover	15,673	14,185
Administrative Expenses	(13,079)	(11,330)
Operating Surplus	2,594	2,856
Interest Payable and Similar Chargers	(420)	(446)
Surplus on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	2,168	2,410
Tax on Surplus on Ordinary Activities	(76)	(449)
Surplus on Ordinary Activities After Taxation	2,092	1,961
Payment of LSRA Levy for 2021	(127)	(405)
Retained Operating Surplus for Year	1,965	1,556
Exceptional Items		
Loss on Investment Property	(4,530)	0
Retained Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	(2,565)	1,556
Reserve Movement		
Opening Reserves	42,057	40,501
Retained Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	(2,565)	1,556
Closing Reserves	39,492	42,057

The Bar of Ireland and Subsidiary Entities recorded a **consolidated operating surplus of €1.97m** for year ended 30th September 2022, an increase of 36% on 2020/21.

The loss on Investment property arises from a reduction in the valuation of the three properties owned by Law Library Properties Ltd., which is explained in more detail below.

Review of Income:

Consolidated income at €15.7m is 11% higher than the prior year, returning to pre-pandemic income levels. By way of comparison, the last financial year prior to Covid was year ended 30th September 2019 and consolidated income in that year as €15.6m.

The €15.7m income is made up mainly from subscriptions income (€10.1m), and income from rent and service charges in Law Library Properties Ltd., which was €4.6m in 2021/22, an increase of 2% on the previous year.

Income in Law Library Finance Ltd. consists of commission income on agreements with Aon and Bank of Ireland and minor deposit interest income, where negative interest rates have led to reduced income in recent years. As part of their general branch closure programme, Bank of Ireland closed their branch in the Four Courts and ended their long-standing agreement with The Bar of Ireland. Annual income from this arrangement averaged €255k over the past number years and this income is no longer available from January 2022.

For the second year, Income in the Sheds was heavily impacted by the pandemic restrictions. In the early part of the year, the 8pm closing time led to lower sales

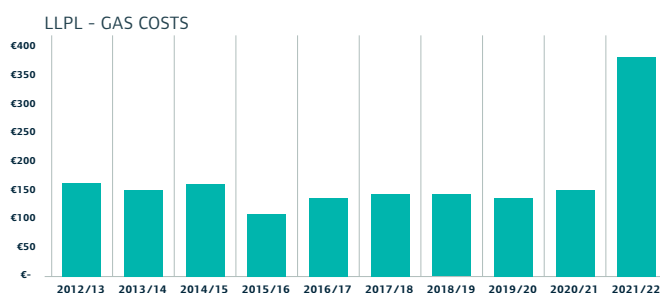
during December 2021 and March 2022. However, when the restrictions were lifted, income returned to normal levels for the second half of the year.

Room Hire Income in DDRC reached a new high at €462k, an increase of 8% on the prior year as usage of this facility continues to grow.

Review of Expenditure:

Consolidated administrative expenses at €13.1m is 16% higher than last year. The main variances are already explained under The Bar of Ireland review, which accounts for 77% of the total group expenditure.

The global economic crisis led to a major increase in energy costs, in particular. Law Library Properties Ltd. spends circa €1.9m in building service costs for the Church Street & Distillery buildings and in 2021, 22% (€0.42m) covered costs of electricity and gas. This crisis led to a major increase in energy costs. As can be seen in graph 1 below, the company was badly impacted by the sharp rise in gas prices. In year ended September 2022, expenditure on gas was €364k, 251% higher than the previous year. With regard to electricity, fortunately, LLPL were on a 3-year fixed price agreement with Airtricity which commenced in March 2019 which protected the company from major increases on this cost. This arrangement expired in March 2023, so it is now impacting negatively on the company.



Reduction in Property Valuation

As part of our property loan arrangement with AIB, Law Library Properties Ltd. is required to engage a professional valuer to assess the property valuations on a regular basis. Lisney were engaged to carry out the valuation of our buildings on 30th September 2022. The result, summarised in table 2 below, is a total combined valuation of €49.1m, which is a reduction of €4.5m from the previous Lisney valuation provide in September 2019.

Table 2 summarises the original cost, the valuations over the years and the Loan to Value (LTV), which despite the fall in value, will remain low at 37.9%. The following are some of the reasons noted by Lisney explaining why the valuations have reduced from the last valuation in September 2019.

LLPL - Property Cost, Valuations & LTV							
	Original Cost	Valuations					
		Dec-10	Jan-14	Jan-15	Sep-17	Sep-19	Sep-22
	€M	€M	€M	€M	€M	€M	€M
Church Street	6.5	9.8	10.5	11.6	12.6	12.8	10.6
Distillery	38.4	30.0	30.0	31.5	37.8	38.4	36.9
Jameson	7.3	2.5	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.3	1.6
Total	52.1	42.3	42.2	44.3	52.1	53.5	49.1
Debt	33.0	33.0	29.0	25.0	23.8	21	18.6
LTV	63.3%	78.1%	68.7%	56.4%	45.6%	39.3%	37.9%

- The market is vastly different from 2019. It has been affected by the consequence of the Ukraine war, which has ultimately resulted in recent increases in interest rates.
- Lower values on the expectation of increase yields.
- Investors preference towards investments moving towards ESG.
- Lisney also noted a reduction in value as a result of LLPL formally providing tenants with a 3-month break option.
- The Jameson building was valued in 2019 based on a 25-year lease. The year-to-year licence agreement has resulted in a reduced valuation in 2022.

The impact of this will mean a reduction of €4.5M in LLPL reserve. The key point is that our LTV remains below 40% and this is welcomed by AIB.

Law Library Properties Limited – Note on Property Debt Refinancing

Law Library Properties Ltd. (LLPL) property debt facility agreement with AIB expired on 26th January 2023, seven years after entering this agreement. Over the last seven years, the company reduced debt from €25M to €18.8M at year end. In 2022, following a tender process, LLPL had agreed heads of terms with AIB to refinance the arrangement in January 2023, by which time the loan had reduced to €18.4M. The loan agreement was approved by AIB credit committee subject to receipt of an independent valuation and an independent building survey.

AIB engaged The Building Consultancy to carry out a building survey on each property. The purpose of the survey was to receive confirmation that the buildings are in sound condition with no significant issues and to confirm that fire safety measures are in place. They issued their reports on 6th January 2023 and the reports did confirm that the buildings were in sound condition and fire safety measures were in place. However, they noted some areas of concern which required further consideration.

In order to allow time to review the matters raised, AIB and LLPL agreed to extend the existing facility agreement until 26th July 2023.

Over the last number of months, LLPL engaged a fire safety specialist and a structural engineer to review the findings of AIB's surveyor. Both consultants have completed their reports and the company has provided this information to AIB. At the time of writing this report, LLPL are engaged with AIB in order to complete the refinancing of the property debt. Both LLPL and AIB are expecting this new arrangement to be in place on 26th July 2023.

For technical reasons, the directors of LLPL have decided to sign the Financial Statements for LLPL for year ended 30th September 2022, at the end of July 2023, when it is expected the refinancing will be completed.

The draft financial statements will be made available in advance of the AGM. Final approved financial statements will be issued once signed at the end of July 2023.

Summary

For year ended 30th September 2022, The Bar of Ireland earned a consolidated income and expenditure surplus €1.97m before the exceptional valuation reduction adjustment.

Table 3 summarises the net surplus by entity. The "member service" entities recorded a break-even position and the "commercial" entities generated gains of €1.95m.

Despite the partial impact of the pandemic earlier in the year and the global economic crisis which impacted on costs during the year, the organisations overall financial position remains stable.

Net Surplus By Entity			
Entity		Actual 2021/22 €'000	Actual 2020/21 €'000
The Bar of Ireland	Entity 1	(2)	(352)
Law Library Services	Entity 2	41	47
Church Street Club	Entity 3	(21)	1
Total Member Service Entities		14	(304)
Law Library Properties	Entity 4	1,752	1502
Law Library Finance	Entity 5	94	239
DDRC	Entity 6	105	119
Total Commercial Companies		1,950	1,860
Total Group Summary		1,965	1,556



SÉAMUS CLARKE SC

Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES AND BENEFITS

LIBRARY SERVICES

- Barrister's Desktop: legal information portal
- Information and research service by professionally qualified staff, onsite and online
- Live chat service, 8am to 6.30pm
- Access to all major legal databases with on-demand support
- Access to 'Legal Search Connect' a federated search platform that allows searching of multiple databases with one search
- Four modern legal libraries in close proximity to the courts in Dublin and Cork
- Strategic partnerships with Atlantic Technological University (Letterkenny) and Waterford Public Library
- Information literacy and legal research skills training
- Live current awareness service including weekly practice-area bulletins and fortnightly e-zine
- Mobile services: text and library app
- Inter-library loans and document delivery service

IT AND REMOTE WORKING SUPPORTS

- Office 365 secure, encrypted email and file storage service (on up to five separate devices) to meet data protection requirements
- Entire Microsoft package
- Managed Wi-Fi access in all Law Library premises with IT Helpdesk and support
- Unique IT system account for each member
- Multi-purpose membership cards
- Printing and copying facilities at a rate of 3 cent per page
- 24/7 Cyber Security

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE & SUPPORT

- Professional practice advisory service
- Practice Support and Fee Recovery service
- Law & Women Mentoring Programme – Promoting Equality
- Consult a Colleague helpline
- Benevolent Society of The Bar of Ireland

COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Annual programme of in-person and online CPD
- 435 hours of online on-demand webcasts, papers and presentations
- Access to Advocacy training
- Specialist Bar Associations and committees
- Opportunity to contribute to the research, policy and advocacy work of The Bar of Ireland
- Participation in our pro-bono Voluntary Assistance Scheme (VAS)
- Media relations
- Conferences and events
- www.lawlibrary.ie – website and members' section
- *The Bar Review*
- In Brief – weekly member information e-zine
- Fortnightly education and training bulletin
- Member promotion through media relations and Direct
- Professional Access Scheme
- Access to scholarships, fellowships and bursaries

PREFERENTIAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Dedicated insurance advisor – AON
- The Bar of Ireland Retirement Trust – JLT Financial Services
- The Bar of Ireland Critical Illness and Accelerated Death Benefit Scheme, covering all members up to age 65 for €100,000 life cover and up to €40,000 critical illness cover

ON-SITE FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Fully staffed reception and security service
- DX Services
- Confidential shredding service
- Access to seating and office accommodation
- Access to room hire
- Access to car parking
- Locker and changing room facilities

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE BAR OF IRELAND YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Trustees

Conor J Maguire, SC
Denis McCullough, SC
Turlough O'Donnell, SC

Bankers

Bank Of Ireland,
Law Library Financial Services,
Four Courts,
Dublin 7.

Auditors

HLB Ryan,
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditors,
5 Clarinda Park North,
Dun Laoghaire,
County Dublin

Solicitors

McKenna Durkan Solicitors,
66 Lower Leeson Street,
Dublin 2.

Fieldfisher Ireland
The Capel Building,
Mary's Abbey,
Dublin 7.

McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors,
Riverside One,
37-42 Sir John Rogersons Quay,
Grand Canal Dock,
Dublin 2.

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Statement of Committee's Responsibilities

The constitution of the entity requires the members of the committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity and of its income and expenditure for that period.

- In preparing the financial statements the members of the committee are required to:
 - select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
 - make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
 - prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the entity will continue in business.

The members of the committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the entity and to help them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the entity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the entity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Council of the Bar of Ireland for the year ended 30 September 2022, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Schedules on Accounts and the related notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the entity as at 30 September 2022 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland",

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Committees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Committee have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the entity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other Information

The Committee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Committee Report and financial statements other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that in our opinion:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations that we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit,
- proper books of account have been kept by the Committee,
- the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account and
- the information given in the Committee Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Committee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Committee Responsibilities, the Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

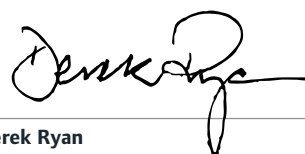
In preparing the financial statements, the Committee is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Committee's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Committee's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the entity and the Committee's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Derek Ryan

HLB RYAN LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
5 Clarinda Park North
Dun Laoghaire
County Dublin

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year Ended 30th September 2022

		2022	2021
		€	€
INCOME			
Entrance & Application Fees		161,740	111,150
Junior Subscriptions		7,403,002	6,176,262
Senior Subscriptions		2,450,596	2,124,300
Parental/Personal Leave Subscriptions		40,347	46,354
EU Lawyer Registration Fees		-	3,000
Other Income		75,004	99,004
		-----	-----
		10,130,689	8,560,070
		=====	=====
EXPENDITURE			
Library Services	Schedule 1	1,269,241	1,259,457
IT Services	Schedule 2	1,167,420	1,033,267
Member Services	Schedule 3	1,419,057	1,254,235
Placement/Representation		16,000	-
CSR Schemes		117,833	76,175
Communications & Policy		182,238	170,527
Marketing & Events		60,579	18,373
Participation International Forums		54,250	20,526
Bar Council & Committee meetings /expenses		25,130	27,695
Membership of Professional Associations		12,967	11,077
Education & Training		30,413	10,615
Regulation		80,145	177,287
Properties & Facilities	Schedule 4	1,469,399	1,423,225
Administration Expenses	Schedule 5	263,021	240,236
Staff Costs	Schedule 6	3,837,794	2,783,195
		10,005,487	8,505,890
Exceptional Expenses	Schedule 7	127,470	405,812
		-----	-----
Net (Deficit) Surplus to Reserves		(2,268)	(351,632)
		=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET
Year Ended 30th September 2022

	Note	2022 €	2021 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	4	2,580,212	2,578,138
LONG-TERM ASSETS			
Amount due from LLPL		900,000	900,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Subscriptions in Arrears	5	146,295	267,244
Amounts due from Related Entities	6	6,381,727	6,661,077
Prepayments and Sundry Debtors		1,348,886	1,072,261
Cash at Bank & On Hand	7	413,159	611,522
		8,290,067	8,612,104
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Subscriptions Paid in Advance		501,154	1,029,959
Creditors & Accruals	8	3,592,231	3,380,130
Taxation Creditors		123,543	124,534
		4,216,928	4,534,623
TOTAL NET ASSETS		7,553,351	7,555,619
FINANCED BY:			
Reserves	9	7,553,351	7,555,619
		7,553,351	7,555,619

Signed: _____

Date: 22 / 06 / 2023

Signed: _____

Date: 22 / 06 / 2023

SCHEDULES ON ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 30th September 2022

SCHEDULE 1	Note	2022 €	2021 €
LIBRARY SERVICES			
Books		332,450	404,142
Book Binding / Storage		23,515	10,090
Legal Databases		760,828	687,122
Law Reports & Pink Sheets		150,000	150,000
Library System Maintenance		39,815	38,079
Library Printing & Stationery		1,773	3,689
Other Library Costs		484	1,219
Commission on JILL Database		(39,624)	(34,884)
		-----	-----
		1,269,241	1,259,457
		=====	=====

SCHEDULE 2	Note	€	€
IT SERVICES			
Software Licensing		628,818	541,183
Managed Services		66,140	89,338
Bandwidth		56,223	69,861
Software Maintenance		49,538	52,380
Web Services		8,483	6,796
GDPR Expenses		-	3,309
Cyber Security		45,730	66,827
Member System Development		157,502	31,949
Depreciation Charge (LLSL)		4,547	48,941
Depreciation		150,439	122,683
		-----	-----
		1,167,420	1,033,267
		=====	=====

SCHEDULE ON ACCOUNTS
Year Ended 30th September 2022

SCHEDULE 3	Note	2022 €	2021 €
MEMBER SERVICES			
Document Exchange Service		627,417	543,031
Bar Group Life Assurance		454,336	476,274
Subvention to Kings Inns		87,418	72,000
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion		42,510	12,406
Practice Support & Fee Recovery		159,898	144,755
Young Bar Association		12,314	2,409
Specialist Bar Association		5,169	-
Members Clubs & Societies		29,995	3,360
		-----	-----
		1,419,057	1,254,235
		=====	=====

SCHEDULE 4	Note	€	€
ESTATE SERVICES			
Distillery Usage Fee & Service Charge		244,000	240,000
Criminal Courts of Justice Rent		479,669	463,434
Cork Rent		49,866	50,080
Rates		200,985	161,700
Light & Heat		44,905	17,527
Security		167,834	215,126
Repairs & Maintenance		41,239	28,794
Cleaning & Laundry		46,507	38,357
Removals, Storage & Shredding		33,015	24,141
Property Insurance		5,237	5,000
Depreciation		156,142	179,066
		-----	-----
		1,469,399	1,423,225
		=====	=====

SCHEDULES ON ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 30th September 2022

SCHEDULE 5	Note	2022 €	2021 €
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Telephone, Printing, Stationery, etc		58,542	42,255
Travel & Meeting Expenses		3,164	1,251
Professional Subscriptions		3,768	2,906
Audit Fees		7,626	7,502
Legal & Other Consultancy		48,471	148,170
General Insurances		82,424	69,631
Bank Charges		28,189	20,916
Provision for Bad Debts		6,360	(68,182)
Miscellaneous		24,477	15,787
		-----	-----
		263,021	240,236
		=====	=====

SCHEDULE 6	Note	€	€
STAFF COSTS			
Salaries incl. Employer's PRSI		3,255,437	2,217,240
Employer's contribution to pension scheme		460,286	459,186
Staff Recruitment		17,451	26,707
Staff Training		48,512	31,925
Other Staff Costs		56,108	48,137
		-----	-----
Regular Staff Costs		3,837,794	2,783,195
		=====	=====

Staff costs for 2021 are net of Covid supports received.

SCHEDULE 7	Note	€	€
EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES			
LSRA Levy paid on behalf of members	10	127,470	405,812
		-----	-----
		127,470	405,812
		=====	=====

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 30th September 2022

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the Council for the year ended 30th September 2022 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

Income

Income is recognised to the extent that the Council obtains the right to consideration in exchange for its performance. Income comprises the fair value of consideration received and receivable exclusive of value added tax and after discounts and rebates.

Income from the provision of services is recognised in the accounting period in which the services are provided.

Income from Donations and other sponsorships is recognised when it is receivable.

Trade and Other Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists in which case they are measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate. Subsequently these are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. All movements in the level of the provision required are recognised in the profit and loss.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a present legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the same value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

Trade and Other Creditors

Trade and other creditors are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Related Parties

For the purposes of these financial statements a party is considered to be related to the Council if:

- the party has the ability, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries to control the Council or exercise significant influence over the Council in making financial and operating policy decisions or has joint control over the Council;
- the Council and the party are subject to common control;
- the party is an associate of the Council or forms part of a joint venture with the Council;
- the party is a member of key management personnel of the Council or the Council's parent, or a close family member of such as an individual, or is an entity under the control, joint control or significant influence of such individuals;
- the party is a close family member of a party referred to above or is an entity under the control or significant influence of such individuals; or
- the party is a post-employment benefit plan which is for the benefit of employees of the Council or of any entity that is a related party of the Council.

Close family members of an individual are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that individual in their dealings with the Council.

Exceptional Item

Exceptional items are those that the management' view are required to be separately disclosed by virtue of their size or incidence to enable a full understanding of the entity's financial performance.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 30th September 2022

2. Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

The management consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting judgements and estimates:

(1) Establishing useful economic lives for depreciation purposes of property, plant and equipment

Long-lived assets, consisting primarily of plant and machinery, fixtures, fittings and equipment, comprise a significant portion of the total assets. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated useful economic lives of each type of asset and estimates of residual values. The management regularly review these asset useful economic lives and change them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in asset useful lives can have a significant impact on depreciation and amortisation charges for the period. Detail of the useful economic lives is included in the accounting policies.

(2) Providing for doubtful debts

The Council makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. The Council uses estimates based on historical experience in determining the level of debts, which the Council believes, will not be collected. These estimates include such factors as the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience. Any significant reduction in the level of customers that default on payments or other significant improvements that resulted in a reduction in the level of bad debt provision would have a positive impact on the operating results. The level of provision required is reviewed by management on an on-going basis.

(3) Provisions and accruals

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Council will be required to settle the probable outflow of resources, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

(4) Prepayments

Prepayments have been estimated based on payments made in one period, for services which the Council expects to receive the benefit in a future period. The basis of estimation used by the Council has been formed by a calculation of the number of days to which the expense relates, and therefore the deferral of this expense.

3. Stock of Books

It is the policy of the Council of the Bar of Ireland to write off the cost of books against income in the year in which they are purchased thereby leaving a nil value for the stock of books held on the balance sheet. The actual stock of books was valued in December 1979 at €177,763. Additions at cost less sale proceeds since December 1979 amounted to €10,234,317 making a total value (valuation plus net additions) at 30th September 2022 of €10,412,080 excluding any books lost or damaged.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year Ended 30th September 2022

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Premises	Fixture and Fittings	Equipment	IT Systems and Infrastructure	Total
Cost or Valuation					
At 1 October 2021	3,625,765	462,136	191,602	756,142	5,035,645
Additions	-	1,247	15,743	326,005	342,995
Disposals	(14,612)	(19,728)	-	-	(34,340)
At 30 September 2022	3,611,153	443,655	207,345	1,082,147	5,344,300
Depreciation					
At 1 October 2021	1,626,892	379,910	140,454	310,251	2,457,507
Charge for the year	115,392	21,783	18,978	150,428	306,581
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 30 September 2022	1,742,284	401,693	159,432	460,679	2,764,088
Net book value					
At 30 September 2022	1,868,869	41,962	47,913	621,468	2,580,212
At 30 September 2021	1,998,873	82,226	51,148	445,891	2,578,138

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental cost of acquisition.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are

Long leasehold	-	10% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	12.5% Straight Line
Equipment	-	20% & 33.3% Straight Line
IT Systems and Infrastructure	-	20% Straight Line

5. Subscriptions In Arrears

Subscriptions in arrears are stated after the bad debt provisions of €1,535,218 (2021: €1,527,134).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 30th September 2022

6. Amounts Due From Related Entities Within One Year

	2022	2021
	€	€
Amount owed by LLFL	6,381,727	6,699,911
Amount owed by DDRC	-	(38,834)
	6,381,727	6,661,077
	=====	=====

All balances due from connected parties are unsecured, non-interest bearing and repayable on demand.

LLFL stands for Law Library Finance Limited

DDRC stands for Dublin Dispute Resolution Centre Limited

7. Cash At Bank

	2022	2021
	€	€
Cash on Hand	4,532	2,314
B.O.I. Account	408,618	609,199
B.O.I. Sterling Account	9	9
	-----	-----
	413,159	611,522
	=====	=====

8. Creditors

	2022	2021
	€	€
Trade Creditors	516,164	603,329
Accruals	3,076,067	2,776,801
	-----	-----
	3,592,231	3,380,130
	=====	=====

9. Reserves

	2022	2021
	€	€
Opening Balance	7,555,619	7,907,251
Add Net Deficit/Surplus	(2,268)	(351,632)
	-----	-----
	7,553,351	7,555,619
	=====	=====

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 30th September 2022

10. Exceptional Expense-LSRA Levy Costs

The LSRA levy was introduced under the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015. Each barrister is required to pay an annual levy to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) to meet the costs it incurs in carrying out its functions under the 2015 Act.

The LSRA issued the first levy assessment notice in 2019 covering expenses incurred by the Authority in the year ended 31st December 2018 and have continued to issue the levies annually, the most recent bill received in September 2022 for the year ended 31st December 2021 for €419,571. The following is a summary of LSRA levies issued since commencement;

■ Levy Assessment Notice 2018	€194,946
■ Levy Assessment Notice 2019	€218,586
■ Levy Assessment Notice 2020	€348,025
■ Levy Assessment Notice 2021	€419,571

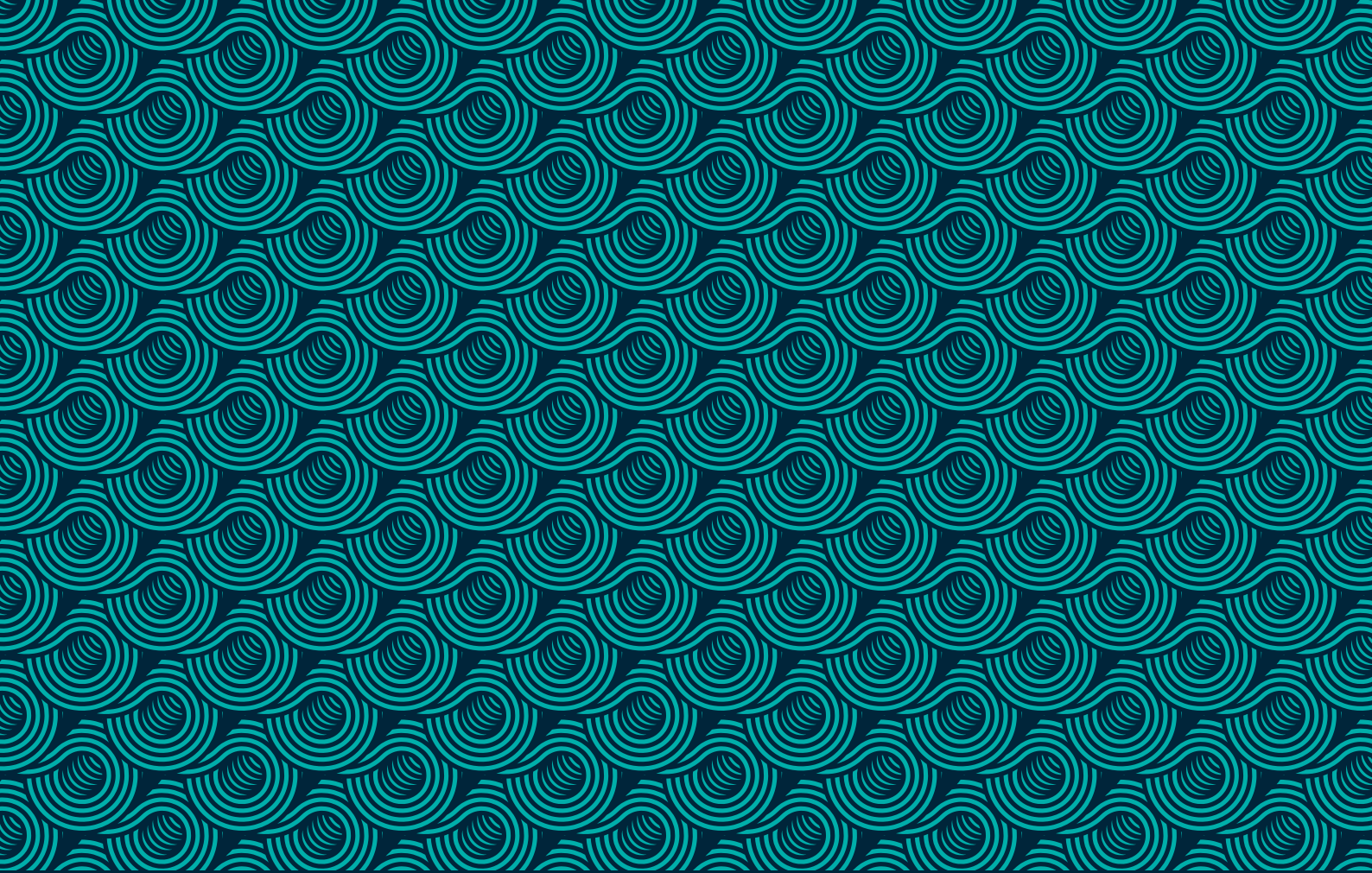
Since the introduction of this levy, in order to support members at the early stages of this new cost and to support members during the Covid19 pandemic, the Council of the Bar of Ireland agreed to fund the levy from accumulated reserves of the organisation. The total financial support provided over the last four years is €1,181,128, equating to approximately €550 per member over this four-year period.

Because the LSRA operate on a calendar year basis and the financial year for the Council of the Bar of Ireland ends on 30th September, the charge in the year ended September 2022 is €127,470 covering the LSRA period October to December 2021.

11. Related Party Transactions

The related parties of the Council are Law Library Properties Limited (LLPL), Law Library Services Limited (LLSL), Law Library Finance Limited (LLFL), Dublin Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (DDRC) and Church Street Club due to common ownership and control.

The Council has availed of the exemption under FRS102 in relation to the disclosure of transactions with group companies.



THE BAR
OF IRELAND

The Law Library

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An Leabharlann Dlí

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