Pro Bono Week, Ireland 2022

21st - 25th of November

The Pro Bono Week Committee of Ireland is delighted to present you with an exciting line-up of events for Pro Bono Week 2022.

Under the theme of Pro Bono in Times of Crises, the events seek to celebrate all things pro bono, the culture, the work and most importantly the necessity. You will have the opportunity to engage with, and learn from, active role players in the pro bono arena.



Shaping the Pro Bono Landscape in Ireland

Paul Gallagher S.C., Attorney General of Ireland: Paul Gallagher, Attorney General, has been practising in the Irish Bar for 43 years. He was appointed a senior counsel in 1991 and a Bencher of the King's Inns in 2005. He is a former vicechair of the Irish Bar Council. He has lectured and tutored in law in University College Dublin and the King's Inns and lectures and writes on a range of legal issues. He has degrees in law (University College Dublin, King's Inns, Cambridge University), and in history and economics (University College Dublin). He practices widely in the areas of commercial law, European law and constitutional and public law. He is an adjunct professor of law at University College Dublin, a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers. He was Ireland's nominee to the arbitration and conciliation panels of the International Centre of Settlement of Investment Disputes (1997-2007). He served as an observer on the High-Level Advisory Group for the Future EU Justice Policy 2007-2008 representing the UK, Cyprus and Malta. He is a director of the Irish Centre for European Law and a Senior Fellow of the Institute for International and European Affairs. Paul Gallagher was Attorney General of Ireland between 2007 and 2011. Paul Gallagher was re-appointed as Attorney General in June 2020.





David Fennelly is a practising barrister based in the Law Library, Dublin and Assistant Professor in Law at Trinity College, Dublin. David specialises in public law, with a particular interest in EU and international law, including in the fields of human rights and equality. David first became involved with FLAC as a student in Trinity and has served as a volunteer adviser at FLAC's legal advice clinics for many years. David joined FLAC Council in March 2019 and was appointed FLAC Chairperson in May 2021.



Shaping the Pro Bono Landscape in Ireland



Sara Phelan SC - Representing the Bar Council of Ireland: Sara is a Senior Counsel with a broad breadth of practice areas, primarily in the Superior Courts. Sara was called to the Bar in 1996, having previously qualified (TCD, 1988) and practised as a pharmacist for a number of years. She took silk (became a Senior Counsel and Member of the Inner Bar) in 2013. In 2019, Sara was admitted to the Bar of England & Wales and is a member of Middle Temple. As Junior Counsel, Sara practised primarily on the South Eastern Circuit and, since taking silk in 2013, has a broad legal practice, including personal injury/medical negligence law, crime, child/family law and judicial review/non-jury, with further interests in chancery, probate and mental health matters. Sara is also a qualified Mediator (CEDR) and Arbitrator (FCIArb). Sara is the Chair of the Bar Council of Ireland.

Richard King is the Project Leader for the Migrant Project at Crosscare and has over 10-years' experience of project management and 12-years' experience in the fields of international migration and diasporas.



Áine Hynes SC - Representing the Law Society of Ireland. Áine is vicechair of the Law Society's Mental Health and Capacity Task Force and chairs the DSBA's Mental Health and Capacity Committee. She is also a partner in St John Solicitors, specialising in disability and mentalhealth law.

Ms Gogan is currently Chief Human Resources Officer with Deloitte Ireland and has responsibility for the firm people and purpose strategy. She began her HR career in Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) and has held HR, internal communications, and corporate responsibility roles in Ireland and internationally. She then spent 15-years at Fidelity Investments where over her tenure she was Vice-President leading human resources for Fidelity Ireland, Fidelity Global Business Services and Fidelity China. Ms Gogan is a Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Personnel and Development and holds post-graduate qualifications in employment law and alternate dispute resolution. In a voluntary capacity, she serves as Chair of the Board for Meath Women's Refuge & Support Services and is a member of the Irish Management Institute (IMI) Council. In 2022, she was appointed as an ordinary member to the Board of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC).





The Amicus Curiae Procedure Explained



Sinead Lucey studied law at UCC before going on to do a Masters in International Law in the UK. She returned to Ireland, where she qualified as a solicitor in 2000. Sinead took up a position in the national Traveller rights group, the Irish Traveller Movement, in 2003. She then went on to do further work with the Equality Authority and provided legal representation before Mental Health Tribunals to individuals involuntarily detained under the Mental Health Act 2001. In 2008 Sinead joined the Irish Human Rights Commission as a Senior Inquiry and Legal Officer, eventually becoming part of the newly formed Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission before joining FLAC in 2016.

Carolann Minnock leads the pro bono practice at Arthur Cox and is responsible for the strategic development and co-ordination of pro bono. She develops impactful pro bono projects bringing together lawyers from across the firm to represent pro bono clients in areas such as access to justice, legal information, employment and immigration law. She contributes to the continued development of the pro bono sector in Ireland and is a member of the Pro Bono Pledge Ireland steering group. Carolann has a wealth of not-for-profit experience having previously worked in the international development sector for nine years in Afghanistan, Thailand and different countries in Africa.





Climate Clauses in Action with The Chancery Lane Project



Becky Clissmann: is the Managing Director at The Chancery Lane Project. She previously worked as an environmental lawyer and in the Environment Team at Practical Law.



Humzah Khan is a Project Associate at The Chancery Lane Project.







Dearbhla Considine is a Senior Professional Support Lawyer in the Real Estate team at Arthur Cox; Judith Cryan is a Professional Support Lawyer in the Property team at Byrne Wallace LLP; and Sinéad Counihan is the Director of Knowledge at Mason Hayes & Curran LLP. As part of the Irish Property Working Group - a pioneering collaboration of lawyers from several firms across Ireland and the Irish Law Society's Landlord and Tenant Task Force – Dearbhla, Judith, Sinéad and their working group colleagues have prepared a suite of green lease clauses for commercial property leases in Ireland, including adapting some of TCLP's green lease clauses for use in the jurisdiction. Dearbhla, Judith and Sinéad will be sharing the Working Group's experience and advice for lawyers looking to emulate their success in other sectors/practice areas.



Launch of Data Protection Guide for NGOs

Brassil advises both domestic Mary international clients on all aspects employment, equality and industrial relations law. She is an expert in the employment law issues that arise from mergers and acquisitions, Transfer of Undertakings regulations, corporate restructuring, cross-border outsourcings and redundancy situations. Mary writes and lectures widely on all topics relating to her practice area and recently contributed to the Irish chapter of "Global Legal Insights Employment and Labour 5th Edition" and the Irish chapter of "The International Comparative Legal to Employment and Labour Law 2016".





Adam Finlay advises on a wide range of information technology, intellectual property, data protection, cybersecurity, confidentiality and freedom of information issues. He is especially an expert on the protection and commercialisation of intellectual property. He is also a registered trademark agent. On the technology side, Adam drafts and negotiates software licences, services agreements and outsourcing agreements and advises on the legal issues attached to transacting online and dealing with consumers. In the area of rights and obligations in relation to information, he regularly advises clients in the public and private sectors on data protection, cyber security, freedom of information, access to information on the environment, open data and confidentiality matters.



Amendments to the Assisted Decision-Making Act



Fiona McNulty is a senior associate in the Health and Prosecutions department at Mason Hayes & Curran. She advises across a broad range of areas including healthcare law, childcare law, criminal prosecutions and environmental law and advocates before the courts regularly on behalf of public sector clients. She is a registered Legal Irish Practitioner, and is included on Clár na Gaeilge (An Dlí-Chumann) and the Irish Language Register (Law Society of Ireland).





Celebrating the achievements of the legal community in 2022



Eilis Barry (FLAC CE): Prior to joining FLAC, Eilis was a barrister specialising in all aspects of employment law, anti-discrimination and equality. She was the legal adviser of the Equality Authority and head of its legal section from 2000 to 2009, when she resumed practice at the bar. A former board member and Chairperson of FLAC, Eilis drafted Case Law Review of Mental Health in the Workplace and authored Equality How?, a guide to taking cases under the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2008 and the Equal Status Acts 2000-2008. She is a regular speaker at conferences and seminars on employment and equality law. She is co-editor of 'Equality in Diversity, the New Equality Directives', ICEL No. 29, and former editor of the Employment Law Reports." She has also been appointed as an adjunct professor for 2022–2025 with University College Cork (UCC) School of Law.

Carolann Minnock (Arthur Cox): Carolann is an associate in Arthur Cox and leads the firms' pro bono practice. Carolann is responsible for the strategic development and coordination of pro bono at Arthur Cox. Carolann develops impactful pro bono projects to represent pro bono clients in areas such as access to justice, legal information, employment and immigration law.





Lewis Mooney (BL): Lewis is a barrister and leads the Voluntary Assistance Scheme (VAS), the pro bono vehicle of the Bar of Ireland, matching the needs of NGO's and civil society groups with the volunteering experience at the Bar. Lewis has acted as counsel in the District, Circuit, and Superior Courts of Ireland, including on behalf of newspaper defendants in High Court defamation trials in the jury list, statutory inquiries, the European Court of Human Rights (including on behalf of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in its capacity as a third party intervener) and on behalf of a client in respect of her complaint to the United Nations Committee Against Torture.



Celebrating the achievements of the legal community in 2022



Anna Bazarchina (BL): Anna is a barrister and the chairperson of the Ukraine Ireland Legal Alliance which aims to provide support and assistance to Ukrainians in Ireland. Anna is a criminal defence barrister practising in the Dublin, Eastern and South Eastern jurisdictions.

Jess Bolton (KIND – Immigrant Council of Ireland): Jess is the project solicitor for the Immigrant Council of Ireland's pro bono project run in collaboration with the Irish Refugee Council and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Together with pro bono partners, she works to ensure unaccompanied minors are provided with child-friendly legal advice when applying for family reunification and citizenship. Before taking up her current role, Jess worked as a legal caseworker with the Immigrant Council.





Niamh Counihan (Matheson): Niamh Counihan is Matheson's Pro Bono Partner and Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, dividing her time equally between her two roles. In her role as the firm's first Pro Bono Partner, Niamh is responsible for leading Matheson's pro bono practice which is a fundamental element of the firm's impactful business programme vision to deliver and support meaningful, sustainable and measurable change across it's community of colleagues, clients and society.

Daniel Hanrahan (Philip Lee): Daniel is an associate at Philip Lee and a member of Philip Lee's pro bono committee. He specialises in competition and regulatory matters, as is part of Philip Lee's EU, Competition and State aid group.





Celebrating the achievements of the legal community in 2022



Rosemarie Hayden (Irish Red Cross): Rosemarie is the newly appointed Pro Bono & Volunteer CoOrdinator with the Irish Red Cross. Rosemarie's role within the Migration Department harnesses the invaluable resource of Irish Red Cross volunteers, together with collaborations with partner organisations to provide support to refugees on areas ranging from legal information, mediation and social integration.

Eithne Lynch (A&L Goodbody): Eithne Lynch is Head of Pro Bono at A&L Goodbody. Her appointment as pro bono associate was the first appointment of its kind in Ireland. Alongside managing the firm's pro bono practice, Eithne represents clients before the International Protection Office and maintains an administrative law practice in the area of housing rights. Prior to joining ALG, Eithne worked with the Public Interest Law Alliance and developed rule of law projects, primarily in the area of criminal justice in sub-Saharan Africa. Eithne is a guest lecturer at the Law Society and currently sits on the Board of Irish Rule of Law International.





Katie Mannion (Irish Refugee Council): Katie is the Managing Solicitor of the Irish Refugee Council's Independent Law Centre. Prior to joining the IRC, Katie was a solicitor with the Immigrant Council of Ireland Independent Law Centre, and held legal research and policy positions at Amnesty International Ireland. Katie is also a Board member of the Children's Rights Alliance.



NGO Pitch event



Ioanna Negrello, The Immigrant Council of Ireland: Ioanna Negrello joined the independent Law Centre of the ICI in March 2022 as a legal caseworker. Ioanna holds a law degree and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway. She qualified as a lawyer in France in 2020 and, prior to working at the Immigrant Council, she gained experience in a number of NGOs, including an organisation working with victims of human trafficking and a migrants' rights centre.

Ciara Cunningham: Ciara Cunningham Director of SWAN Youth Service has worked there since 2004. Qualified in social Psychology and Sociology from University of Ulster (B.Sc.), and Youth and Community Work M.Soc.Sc) University College Cork.





Georgina Cruise, Service Manager of the Patient Advocacy Service: Georgina is the Acting Service Manager of the Patient Advocacy Service. She previously worked as an Advocacy Team Lead, having joined the Service in November 2019. A graduate with an Advanced Diploma in Advocacy Practice Provision, a level 7 Certificate in Patient Safety Complaints Advocacy and an advanced diploma in Human Resources, Georgina has over 14 years' experience of working in the citizens' rights and entitlements, with a particular interest in Advocacy and Social Policy. Georgina has frontline experience of direct advocacy provision having previously worked with the Citizens Information Service for 12 years as an Advocate and Development Manager.

