

School of Law Newsletter

December 2024

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Welcome from the Head of School

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's School of Law Newsletter. This has been a fantastic year for the School of Law, with notable successes in research, education, outreach and policy impact. Colleagues in the Law School have continued to produce high-quality research, contributing extensively to national debate and policy-making, as well as to international developments. A notable example is the contribution of Professor Jennifer Schweppe to the new Council of Europe Recommendation on combating hate crime, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 May 2024. It has also been a successful year for research funding, with significant awards to several colleagues. A particularly important recognition came in the form of the extension of the Greentown Programme, run by REPPP, for an additional three years. The welcome news was announced by the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, and the Minister of State for Youth Justice, James Browne, in January 2024. In teaching, this year saw the first intake in our ground-breaking new programme, the LLB in Common and Civil Law. This dual degree, delivered in partnership with the Université de Franche Comté, Besançon, France, offers exciting new educational opportunities for our students.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the extensive student prizes very generously sponsored by many leading Irish law firms in 2024. These include the Matheson LLP Company Law prize, the Matheson LLP Scholarship, the Melvyn



Hanley Solicitors Scholarship, the Holmes O'Malley Sexton Scholarship, and the Eversheds Sutherland Scholarship. I would like to express the Law School's gratitude to all our sponsors, and for the many opportunities offered to our students.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Dr Margaret Fitzgerald-O'Reilly and Bláithín O'Shea for all their hard work in preparing this newsletter. It is a superb record of the Law School's year.

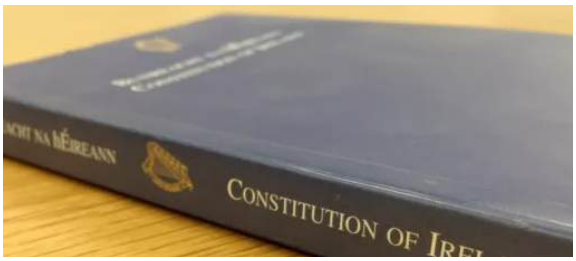
Professor Lucy-Ann Buckley
Head, School of Law



Events in the School of Law

Referendum Information Event

In March 2024, Irish citizens were asked to use their voice and vote on two separate proposed amendments to the text of Article 41 of the Constitution on care and the family. On 21 February 2024, the University of Limerick hosted an event to provide factual information on these issues. The session was chaired by retired Chief Justice Frank Clarke. Speakers included Professor Laura Cahillane from the School of Law and Dr Carmel Hannan from the Department of Sociology. The University of Limerick Law Society also broke down the voting process and explained how people can register to vote. This was followed by a Q&A. The session was very well attended with over 100 participants comprising students, practitioners and members of the community.





Professor Cahillane with former Chief Justice Clarke and Dr Hannon



Animal Welfare Lawyering Project

As part of the Advanced Lawyering module 2 in Spring of Year 4, Law Plus students opt to be involved in a group project or write a solo research article. This year, 17 students opted to take part in the Animal Welfare Project run by Dr Laura Donnellan and Dr Ger Coffey. The students individually researched and wrote an essay on an aspect of animal welfare in a European Union Member State. This opportunity showcases how our students approach complex issues, analyse different perspectives, and come up with well-reasoned arguments.



Law Plus students

European Day for Victims of Crime – Conference in University of Limerick

The University of Limerick's Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies, in association with the Crime Victims Helpline, held a one-Day Conference: 'Victims' Rights in Ireland: Current Challenges: An Event to Mark European Day for Victims of Crime 2024' on 22 February 2024. The theme of the conference was 'Victims' Rights in Ireland: Current Challenges'. The conference featured a range of speakers from academia and victims' rights organisations, who shared their research and expertise on victims' rights and experiences in Ireland. The conference was attended by over 80 delegates from key criminal justice stakeholders, victims' rights organisations and academics.



Director of the CCJVS, Dr Susan Leahy, with event attendees



Staff v Students Charity Soccer Match 2024

In May 2024, the School of Law held our annual Charity Lecturer v Student Soccer Match which was a great success. Taking place in lovely weather, there was a great turnout of players from the faculty and student sides, as well as spectators on the day. For the third year running, the Law School reached victory with a small draft of students, ending the match 3-1. Money was raised for the UNICEF - Gaza Emergency Appeal Fund to help the humanitarian crisis currently ongoing in Gaza. Many thanks to sponsors A&L Goodbody.



Eoin Quill pictured with law students at the match

SLSS Hub – Campus Visit

Members of Stable Lives Safer Streets Research Hub (SLSS Hub) met with members of the North-South Research Programme team and members of UL Research Office on campus for a site visit. Twice a year, all researchers funded on the North South Research Programme gather to share learnings. This is the first time the meeting was held in UL and it was wonderful to host our colleagues from Queens University Belfast (QUB) and the Centre for Effective Services (CES). Our colleagues in REPPP presented their research projects. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our amazing campus here in UL and to look at local initiatives in the area of Youth Crime Prevention/ Diversion. Moyross Youth Academy kindly hosted SLSSHub for a site visit. Special thank you to Elaine and Andrew for their generosity in both time and knowledge, and also to the staff and young people who engaged with the team.



School of law staff pictured with the SLSS Hub

Research and related activity in the School of Law



Dr Una Woods

Dr Una Woods at Biennial Modern Studies in Property Law Conference

On 4 April 2024, Dr Una Woods delivered a conference paper entitled 'The Lease/Licence Distinction in Irish Law: The Case for a Dual System of Statutory Guidelines' at the Biennial Modern Studies in Property Law Conference in Queens College, Cambridge University on March 26, 2024. This conference is a world-leading forum for scholars with research and teaching interests in property law. It attracts an international body of delegates (including delegates from the US and Australia). Hart publishes peer reviewed papers from the conference in its the well-regarded book series, Modern Studies in Property Law. Dr Wood's paper explored how the Residential Tenancy Tribunals have approached the lease/licence distinction and made the case for the introduction of a statutory presumption of a tenancy where exclusive possession of a dwelling exists 'on the ground', which could trump the expressed intention of the landlord.

Professor Jennifer Schweppe - Council of Europe Recommendation on Combating Hate Crime

Professor Jennifer Schweppe was a member of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on combating hate crime, and worked for two years with the Committee in drafting the CofE Recommendation on combating hate crime. The Recommendation was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 7 May 2024, as Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate crime.

Dr Susan Leahy and the All-Ireland Network on Sexual Violence Research



Conference Attendees



Ellen O'Malley Dunlop (Adjunct Professor), Dr Susan Leahy (UL) and Dr Eithne Dowds (QUB)

In January 2024, Dr Susan Leahy, Director of the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies, and Dr Eithne Dowds, Queen's University Belfast, launched the All-Ireland Network on Sexual Violence Research (AINSVR). The objective of the network is to bring together stakeholders and researchers who work in the area of sexual violence in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The first AINSVR webinar took place in April 2024, and in June AINSVR hosted an online "Thesis in 3" competition for PhD researchers. The competition was judged by a panel of three judges: Dr Sinead Ring (Maynooth University); Ms Jolena Flett (Victim Support NI), and; Dr Susan Leahy. The event was chaired by Dr Eithne Dowds.

On 2 September 2024, Dr Susan Leahy presented her research at AINSVR's conference on 'Tackling Violence Against Girls Across the Island of Ireland'. Dr Leahy's presentation at the event was entitled 'Delivering Justice for Victims of Sexual Violence in Ireland: The Next Steps'

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community

On 9 October 2024, Dr Sindy Joyce, David Joyce, Professor Amanda Haynes, and Professor Jennifer Schweppe from the European Centre for the Study of Hate appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community. They presented research findings from the Irish Travellers Access to Justice project and articulated the (lack of) response on the part of the State to the testimonies of Travellers in that research, particularly with respect to racial profiling.

Public Understandings of Hate Crime: Ireland, North and South Project

11 December 2023 marked the launch of the 'Public Understandings of Hate Crime: Ireland, North and South project', which was undertaken by Professor Jennifer Schweppe, Professor Amanda Haynes and Professor Ross MacMillan (University of Limerick) and Dr Kevin J. Brown (University Belfast). The researchers found that the majority of the public in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland believe hate crime to be a serious problem, with a perception that hate crime is increasing on the island. The findings are based on a survey of 2,000 respondents distributed simultaneously in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in February 2023. Speaking about the findings, Professor Jennifer Schweppe commented: "This research is timely in showing public support for the inclusion of marginalised groups in the scope of the protection of hate crime legislation generally, and it is particularly heartening to see such public support for the inclusion of transgender people in hate crime legislation."



Professor Amanda Haynes (UL), Dr Kevin Browne (Belfast) and Professor Jennifer Schweppe (UL)



Dr Ger Coffey

Dr Ger Coffey and the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

In February 2024, Dr Ger Coffey was invited by a European consortium to participate as national legal expert for Ireland to carry out research and to report on findings in Ireland in relation to the funded research project entitled "Exploratory study on possible lisbonisation of ex-third pillar acquis in the area of mutual recognition in criminal matters", under the assignment of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

The research project involves the completion of a transposition/implementation table, crosschecking Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) jurisprudence with national legislation, and provision of relevant statistics and jurisprudence emanating from the Irish superior Courts on the seven interrelated Framework Decisions (European Arrest Warrant ('EAW'), Financial Penalties, Previous Convictions, Transfer of Prisoners, Probation and Alternative Sanctions, European Supervision Order ('ESO'), and Conflicts of Jurisdiction).

Irish Mendez Centre for Investigative Interviewing

On 18 September 2024, the Irish Mendez Centre for Investigative Interviewing was launched by Dr. Alan Cusack (School of Law, University of Limerick) and Prof. Yvonne Daly (School of Law and Government, DCU). The establishment of the Centre marks the beginning of a pioneering and exciting collaborative enterprise between the School of Law at the University of Limerick, the School of Law and Politics at Dublin City University, a range of state bodies and an international network of scholars and practitioners committed to promoting best practice in investigative interviewing.





Dr. Alan Cusack Delivers Address to the Law Society of Ireland

On 25 September 2024 Dr. Alan Cusack (University of Limerick), Professor Tom O'Malley (University of Galway), Mr. Justice Michael White (Parole Board) and Martin Lawlor (Coughlan Kelly Solicitors) contributed to a Criminal Law Seminar which was organised by the Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society of Ireland.

The seminar was designed to provide practitioners with an overview of recent and ongoing developments in criminal-law practice from a practical perspective. Dr. Cusack presented a paper entitled "Intermediaries in the Irish Criminal Justice System: A Special Measure Whose Time Has Come" which provided an outline of Ireland's registered intermediary scheme.



Dr Alan Cusack (left) with other speakers at the event.



Dr Bláithín O'Shea

Bláithín O'Shea presents at British Society of Criminology Conference

On 12 July 2024, Bláithín O'Shea presented on *"Identifying Intellectual Disability in Ireland's Criminal Justice System"* in the British Society of Criminology's Annual Conference at the University of Strathclyde. Her presentation addressed the growing recognition of the importance of understanding and addressing the needs of persons with intellectual disabilities within the criminal justice system and underscored the pressing need for procedures to align with principles of inclusivity, equality and respect for the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Visit to the Université de Franche Comté in Besancon

In April 2024, Eddie Keane, School of Law visited the Université de Franche Comté in Besancon, France. This visit comes as UL begins offering a new dual degree offered by both partner institutions, the LLB in Common and Civil Law in September 2024.



Pictured, Eddie Keane (UL)

REPPP Activities

The Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) project is a research collaboration between the School of Law in the University of Limerick and the Department of Justice. REPPP's goals include improving the evidence base in relation to youth crime policymaking in Ireland and supporting evidence-informed youth justice reform.



Professor Sean Redmond

Extension of Greentown Project

(Pictured: Dr Seán Redmond, Director of REPP and principal investigator on the Greentown Project).

On 26 January 2024, Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee and Minister of State for Youth Justice, James Browne announced a 3-year extension to the Greentown Programme. The extension of the programme for a further three years will reduce the influence of criminal networks on children at risk of involvement in crime and improve the likelihood of pro-social outcomes for children who are already involved in criminal networks. The Greentown Programme is a community-based initiative, working with justice and community partners, which aims to reduce the influence of criminal networks on children at risk of involvement and to support children who are already involved in criminal networks to exit.

On 24 May 2024, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee talked about the REPPP Greentown programme on RTE's Morning Ireland following the introduction of new legislation which makes it an offence for an adult to either force or encourage children to engage in any criminal activity. The new legislation is welcomed as a very positive development in efforts to prevent the grooming of children for the purposes of committing crime.



Greentown Team Visit The Hague

The Greentown team in the REPPP project, representatives from the Department of Justice, An Garda Siochana, and Service Providers visited the Ministry for Justice and Security in The Hague and front-line programme staff in Tilburg. The purpose of the visit was a knowledge exchange event between the Greentown Programme and the Dutch Prevention with Authority Programme.



Helen Fitzgerald and Dr Johnny Connolly

Ballyhoura's Citicess Project

REPPP Team Members Helen Fitzgerald and Dr Johnny Connolly were invited by Ballyhoura Development to take part in a study visit to Heerlen, The Netherlands on 14–17 October 2024. The study visit took place as part of Ballyhoura's Citicess Project. Citicess - Citizen Centered Social Services is an EU project which brings together 8 partners from across Europe to share information and learning and to jointly test new approaches to support marginalised communities.

Awards and Appointments

IRC New Foundations

Congratulations to Professor Laura Cahillane who was awarded a New Foundations Grant by the Irish Research Council for a project on Judicial Selection procedures. The Trust for Civil Liberties, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties are the charity partner on the project, which will examine international best practice on judicial appointment structures. The objective is to provide recommendations on the processes which will need to be put in place with the passage of the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill. Dr Cahillane is one of 56 researchers from all disciplines across the country to have been awarded funding under the scheme. Professor Cahillane subsequently held an international seminar on judicial selection procedures as part of the IRC-funded project. Experts from Canada, Germany, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland spoke about the different methods for appointing judges in their jurisdictions and their experiences of the process.

Dr John Lombard Appointed to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

In February 2024, Dr John Lombard was appointed to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland's Preliminary Proceedings Committee. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland is a public body established in law to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public by regulating pharmacists and pharmacies in Ireland. A complaint relating to a pharmacist or pharmacy is initially reviewed by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC). The PPC will consider the complaint and make its recommendation about what should happen about the matter. Some complaints may result in a hearing before a Committee of Inquiry or be dealt with by way of mediation. Dr Lombard is our lecturer in Medical Law, and has recently published on topics such as do not attempt resuscitation orders, advanced care planning, nursing law and medical ethics.

PSI
CUMANN CÓGAISEOIRÍ NA hÉIREANN
The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland



Dr John Lombard

Professor Laura Cahillane is the Legal Educator of the Year

Professor Laura Cahillane won Legal Educator of the Year at the Irish Law Awards. The Irish Law Awards recognise excellence in the legal profession in Ireland. Professor Cahillane has introduced innovative teaching methods to UL including developing a module for Masters students on advanced constitutional law using a version of the flipped classroom.



Professor Laura Cahillane



Professor Jennifer Schweppe, Dr Sindy Joyce, Professor Kerstin May and Professor Amanda Haynes

UL Impact Award

The Irish Travellers' Access to Justice (Dr Sindy Joyce, Lecturer in Traveller Studies, Department of Sociology; Jennifer Schweppe, Professor of Law; and Amanda Haynes, Professor of Sociology) were awarded the AHSS Research Output Award (Interdisciplinary) at the President's Research Excellence and Impact Awards. The award was made with respect to the Irish Travellers' Access to Justice Report, published in June 2022. The research explores the relationship between Travellers and criminal justice institutions, and was funded by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Irish Research Council under the COALESCE programme. The authors continue to publish further outputs from the research, articulate the need for further outcomes and measure impact from the research.




Dr Alan Cusack and Professor Guatan Gulati Dr Alan Cusack and Professor Guatan Gulati

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND

Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Research Awards

On 25 September 2023, the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Research Awards 2022 were announced in a ceremony in the Royal College of Surgeon, Dublin. A paper authored by a team of international experts from the University of Limerick, University College Cork and Trinity College Dublin won the award for best paper in the "General Practice" category at the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Awards 2023. The paper was derived from an evaluation study that was led by Professor Gautam Gulati, Dr. Alan Cusack, Professor Colum Dunne and Professor Shane Kilcommins at the University of Limerick on the training of medical doctors who attend police stations in Ireland.

Promotion – Professor Laura Cahillane

Congratulations to our colleague Laura Cahillane on her promotion to Professor. Professor Cahillane is a leading expert in the areas of constitutional law and judicial studies and is the Director of Postgraduate Studies in the School of Law. She has been heavily involved in various law reform initiatives and is also Editor of the Irish Judicial Studies Journal.



Visitors and Guest Lectures



Ms Marcella Higgins

King's Inns with Ms Marcella Higgins

On 19 February 2024 in the A&L Goodbody Appellate Moot Court Room, the School of Law hosted the Registrar of King's Inns Ms Marcella Higgins. She discussed the routes of entry the Degree of Barrister-at-Law, the entry requirements for the Entrance Exam to the Barrister-at-Law degree course and the wide variety of career paths taken by qualified barristers. This was followed by a Q&A session. This was an especially important opportunity for final year students who were considering their options after graduation, but it also served to be useful for newer students who wish for a clearer understanding of the process of becoming a Barrister.



Mr Michael O'Flaherty

Visit of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council for Europe

On October 8th 2024, Michael O'Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, engaged with experts and activists on issues surrounding the Irish Traveller community's access to justice. This included a meeting in the University of Limerick with members of the European Centre for the Study of Hate (ECSH)- Professor Amanda Haynes, Professor Jennifer Schweppe and Dr Sindy Joyce for a briefing on the Irish Travellers Access to Justice report. This visit was coordinated by the ECSH in association with the Limerick Traveller Network. ECSH members presented their work on Irish Travellers Access to Justice, Public Understandings of Hate Crime, and Political Discourses about Travellers and Roma.

The Path of a Judicial Assistant

In March 2024, Tom Ward, Anthony Whelan, and Maureen Noonan of the Courts Service came in to speak to our fourth year students about the path of a Judicial Assistant. This unique opportunity gave our students insight into this practical role at the heart of Irish justice, working directly with judges in important legal research. Maureen, who graduated last year from the LLB Law Plus programme with a minor in History, highlighted the key role our Alumni play in enhancing our students university experience. Thanks to all the team at the Courts Service for making this happen.



Members of the Court Service

Staff Publications

Books

- Cahillane, The Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2023 Annotated (Round Hall 2024)
- Cahillane, The Centenary of the Irish Free State Constitution; Constituting a Polity? (with Coffey), (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024)
- Cusack (forthcoming) Victims of Crime with Intellectual Disabilities and the Criminal Process: Adversarial Procedure on Trial (London: Routledge
- Laura Donnellan, Sport and the Law (2nd edn, Clarus Press 2024)
- Eaton S. "Competition Law in Ireland," in International Encyclopaedia of Competition Law . Wolters Kluwer, The Netherlands, 2024.

Book chapters

- Bracken, 'Parenthood in Ireland' in Fenton-Glynn, C. (ed), *The Law of Parenthood: A Comparative Guide* (Edward Elgar, 2025 – forthcoming)
- Cahillane, Remuneration of judges under the 1924 Act' in Howlin ed, A Century of Courts; The Courts of Justice Act, 1924 (Four Courts Press, forthcoming 2024)
- Cahillane, 'The Judges of the Court of Appeal' in Coen and McGrath eds, The Court of Appeal – marking Ten Years, (Hart, forthcoming 2024)
- Cahillane, 'Constituting a Polity', in Cahillane and Coffey, The Centenary of the Irish Free State Constitution; Constituting a Polity? (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024)
- Cahillane, 'Introduction' (with Coffey), in Cahillane and Coffey, The Centenary of the Irish Free State Constitution; Constituting a Polity? (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024)
- Cusack and Gulati (2024) 'People with Intellectual Disabilities as Accused Persons in the Irish Policing Interface' In: Y. Daly (ed.) Police Custody in Ireland (London: Routledge).
- Cusack et al (2024) 'Sexual Capacity: Are There Questions that the Law Should Not Ask?' In: B. Clough and L. Pritchard-Jones Mental Capacity, Sexual Relationships and Intimacy (Bristol: Bristol University Press)
- Donnellan, 'Recent Developments in Animal Welfare Law in Ireland' in Federico Dalpane, Maria Baideldinova eds, Animal Law Worldwide: Key Issues and Main Trends Across 27 Jurisdictions (TMC Asser 2024)
- Donnellan, 'Sports Law in Ireland' in Jack Anderson, Chui Ling Goh, Björn Hessert (eds) *Elgar Enyclopaedia of Sports Law* (forthcoming end of 2024)
- Lombard 'Older People and Advance Care Planning' in Research Handbook on Law, Society and Ageing (Edward Elgar 2024)

- O'Sullivan, 'Bespoke Justice and Equitable Redistribution in Ireland: An Optical Illusion' in M. Briggs and A. Hayward (eds) *Research Handbook on Family Property and the Law* (Edward Elgar, 2024) 360-376

Peer Reviewed Journals

- Bracken, 'Accommodations Of Private and Family Life and Non-Traditional Families: The Limits of Deference in Cases of Cross-Border Surrogacy before the European Court of Human Rights' (2024) 32(2) Medical Law Review 141–157.

- Buckley et al (2024). Connecting the challenges of quality and equality in higher education using the collective intelligence approach: findings from an international expert panel. Quality in Higher Education, 1–25. https://doi.org/10.1080/13538322.2024.2357866

- Cahillane, Legal Authority in Ireland during the establishment of the State in 1922, Éire-Ireland (forthcoming)

- Cahillane, Ireland's Abstract Review and the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill Case, Legal Studies (forthcoming)

- Cahillane, Spring Cleaning in the Supreme Court and Potential Ripple Effects, with Saoirse Enright, Dublin University Law Journal (forthcoming)

- Cahillane, The Application of Merit and Diversity Criteria after Re Article 26 and the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2023', (2024) Dublin University Law Journal.

- Coffey, "Double Jeopardy and Successive Prosecutions Based on the Same Prohibited Conduct: Equivalence of Approaches to Determining the Same Offence Dilemma in Comparative Perspective" (2024) 88(3) Journal of Criminal Law, 165-181.

- Coffey, G., "Exceptions to the Ne Bis in Idem Principle in the Context of Articles 54 and 55(1)(b) CISA and Compatibility of Declarations Not to be Bound by that Principle with Articles 50 and 52(1) CFREU" (2024) 15(2) New Journal of European Criminal Law, 241-252.

- Cusack et al, (2024) 'It's a group-on-one': social disconnection as a tool of and defence against child criminal exploitation in the Republic of Ireland' Crime Prevention and Community Safety 26, 266–284.

- Cusack et al (2024) Embedding a culture of interdisciplinary open research in criminal justice: a new partnership for Ireland, Irish Probation Journal

- Woods et al (2024) 'Land is a huge integral part of our identity': Patriarchy and the gender asset gap. Sociologia Ruralis, 1–24

- Donnellan and Kornbeck, "Droit de L'Homme: ATHLÉTISME ET HYPERANDROGÉNIE". The article was published in Jurisport, 17 February 2024, edition 249

- O'Sullivan, 'Reflections on Statutory Cohabitation Law Reform in Ireland: Past, present & future post-O'Meara? (2024) Family Court Review (forthcoming)

- O'Sullivan, '(To) Intimacy & Beyond: Rethinking the definition of "cohabitant" in Ireland' (2024) 75(2) Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly 384-396

- O'Sullivan, 'Defining "Religious Body" under Irish Marriage Law' (2024) Religion, State and Society (published online)

- O'Sullivan, 'The "Dejudicialisation" of Family Law in Europe: Where does Ireland stand?' (2024) 27(1) Irish Journal of Family Law 3-7

- Lombard et al, "Palliative care healthcare professionals' perspective on the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 in Ireland" (2024) BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care.

- Lombard, "The palliative care experience in Irish nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic: a survey of residents, family, and staff" (2024) BMC Palliative Care (with Owen Doody, Tara Delamere, and Mary Rabbitte).

- Lombard, "Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation decision-making process; scoping review." (2024) BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care (with Owen Doody, and Hope Davidson)

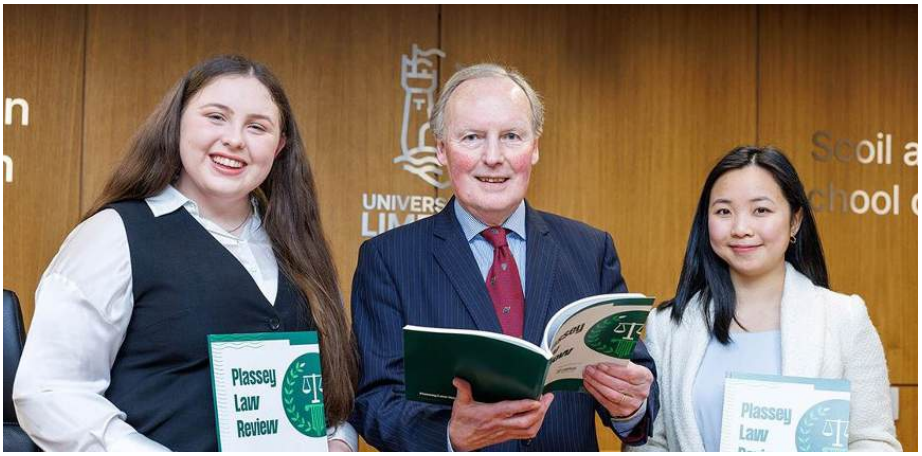
Reports

- Buckley, L.A. and Quinlivan, S., with Wijeratne, D. (2024) Inclusive Learning in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law: A partnership model for progressing inclusion in higher education.
- Hilliard, R. and Quinlivan, S. with Buckley L.A; Halloran. D.; Omidi, N.; Egan, A., and Roe, S. (2024) Embedding Respect at University of Galway.
- Lombard et al, Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Decisions: Practice and Policy' (HSE, 2024)

Conferences and Seminars

- Bracken, 'Assisted human reproduction and the law in Ireland', Advanced Diploma in Medical Law, Honorable Society of Kings Inns, 17 February 2024
- Cahillane, The Remuneration of Judges under the 1924 Act, A Centenary of Courts Conference, Dublin Castle, 12th April 2024
- Cahillane, The Meaning and Impact of Article 41.2, The UCC President's Athena Swan Symposium on Care, UCC 29th February 2024.
- Cahillane, Article 41.2 and the Care Referendum, TRICON event on the referendums, care and the family, TCD 26th February.
- Cahillane, Article 41 and constitutional change, UL Referendum Event, UL 22nd February 2024.
- Cahillane, Diversity, the Merit Principle, and the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill, TRICON Art 26 reference conference, 14th November 2023. (invited)
- Cahillane, Launch of Northern Ireland Judicial College and Seminar on Judicial Education, QUB 14th December
- Cahillane, Democratic Principles and the Constitution, lecture on electoral law and politics course, King's Inns Dublin, 11th November 2023.
- Cusack, 'Intermediaries' Criminal Law Seminar, Law Society of Ireland, Dublin, 25 September 2024
- Cusack, 'Reflections on the Policing and Community Safety Act', Research Roundtable on Policing and Community Safety, Policing Authority, Dublin, 20 September 2024,
- Cusack, 'Dignity in Police Custody' Scottish Institute for Policing Research Academic Challenge Session, 31 May 2024
- Cusack 'Intermediaries in the Irish Criminal Justice System: Towards Improving Communication for Vulnerable Witnesses' Victims' Rights in Ireland: Current Challenges Conference, University of Limerick, 22 February 2024
- Cusack 'Protecting Vulnerable Suspects: A Survey of Existing and Emerging Pre-Trial Safeguards in Ireland' The Vulnerable Accused in the Criminal Justice System Conference, University of Birmingham, 14 September 202
- Lombard, Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Practice and Policy: Towards the Development of a new National Policy for Ireland" European Association of Health Law Conference 2024, University of Warsaw.
- Woods, 'If it Quacks like a Duck... The Lease/Licence Distinction in the Irish Residential Rental Sector' at the Irish Association of Law Teachers Annual Conference, DCU Dublin, 10 November 2023.
- Woods, 'The Lease/Licence Distinction in Irish Law: The Case for a Dual System of Statutory Guidelines' at the Biennial Modern Studies in Property Law Conference, Queens College, Cambridge University, 26 March, 2024.

Student Successes and Events



Retired Judge Tom O'Donnell (centre) picture with law students

Plassey Law Review – Latest Edition Launched



In March 2024, Judge Tom O'Donnell launched the latest edition of the Plassey Law Review at University of Limerick. The publication showcases the legal scholarship from students and provides a space for engagement with cutting-edge legal issues. Professor Lucy-Ann Buckley, the Head of the School of Law, provided a welcoming speech, followed by a speech from Judge Tom O'Donnell and Jennifer Downing, Managing Partner of Orbitus Law LLP.

Founded on a commitment to excellence and innovation, the Plassey Law Review has emerged as a leading platform for legal discourse, providing a space for engagement with cutting-edge legal issues. This latest edition reflects the depth and breadth of research and scholarship within University of Limerick's School of Law, as well as the broader legal community in Ireland. Congratulations to Dr. Karen O'Brien for winning the Best Article award and Eve O'Sullivan for winning the Best Case Note award.



UL Law students

Irish Moot Competition

On Friday the 17th of November four UL law students took part in the annual moot competition 'Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh' organised by Gael Linn. Alongside Kings Inns, UCC and UCD, UL competed in a series of preliminary mooting rounds, receiving feedback from a bench of barristers and other legal professionals. Second-year students Emma Wright (senior counsel) and Lee Cunningham (junior counsel) advocated through the Irish language on a case based on the law of evidence with counsel from their fourth-year advisors Katherine O'Sullivan and Aoife Glennon.

A&L Goodbody Moot Competition



The School of Law was delighted to host the A & L Goodbody Moot Court Competition once more on 21 March 2024. UL remains dedicated to fostering collaborative relationships with employer partners to offer students enriching experiential learning opportunities. We extend our heartfelt appreciation especially to A & L Goodbody and Dr. Stephen King, for their invaluable support of this initiative. Dr. King, a graduate of the Law School and a senior associate in ALG's Disputes & Investigations Group, kindly agreed to judge the moot again this year, also one of our Adjuncts offering a stimulating yet enjoyable experience for students.

The winners (pictured) were Wiame Kanane, third year Law & Accounting, Emma Wright, second year Law Plus, and Adham Mahdy, third year Criminal Justice. Their worthy opponents in the Grand Final were Conor Crowley, John Luke Brody and Liam O'Domhnaill, all of second year Law Plus. Emma Wright was also recognized as the best individual speaker on the night.

Student Scholarships and Prizes for Academic Excellence

The School of Law was delighted to celebrate the success of students who have been awarded prizes for academic excellence throughout the year. These prizes are generously funded by prestigious law firms and other stakeholder partners of the School of Law.

Eversheds Sutherland Scholarship

Cormac Flynn was the winner of this year's Eversheds Sutherland student scholarship, based on a stellar undergraduate Law degree. Cormac is a Limerick native who attended secondary school in Ardscoil Rís. He completed the LLB in Law Plus (Public Administration) through the University of Limerick in May 2024. Upon completing the LLM, Cormac will join McCann FitzGerald in November 2025 to begin his training contract.



Cormac Flynn

Holmes O'Malley Sexton Scholarship

In May 2024, Brian Daly, Law and Accounting student, was awarded the Holmes O'Malley Sexton Scholarship for the second year in a row. Harry Fehily, Managing Partner at Holmes O'Malley Sexton LLP, stated: "Our firm is proud to have awarded this scholarship for over 30 years — it reflects our long-standing culture of quality and community values which are the foundation on which our firm has grown... We are proud to celebrate and support students like Brian — the talent of tomorrow. We congratulate him on his exceptional academic performance, particularly in the context of a very challenging college year and wish him every success in his future."



Student Brian Daly (centre) pictured with Head of School Professor Lucy Anne-Buckley (2nd from right)

Allen & Overy Prize

Congratulations to 4th year law student Ronan O'Sullivan, who won the Allen & Overy Prize following his participation in the British Inter-University Commercial Awareness Competition. On 29 November 2023, Ronan succeeded in entering the final consisting of the top 24 contestants out of 2500. Ronan then continued to Grand Final involving a further presentation of the top 6 contestants in front of 3 judges (2 partners and the founder of BIUCAC) and in front of contestants, graduate recruiters and others.

Matheson Company Law Prize

Sadhbh Quinn from Sixmilebridge in Co. Clare was this year's winner of the Matheson Solicitors Company Law prize, and Siun McInerney, originally from Galway, was runner up. Both are undertaking the Law Plus degree in UL. Sadhbh attended St. Caimin's Community School in Shannon and Siun joined the Law Plus programme having been at school in Calasanctius College in Oranmore. The School of Law congratulates them on this success and thanks Matheson Solicitors for their continued generous support.



Students Sadhbh Quinn and Suin McInerney with Matheson solicitor

Matheson Scholarship

In June 2024, Ciarán Cronin, a first-year undergraduate student studying Law Plus, was named as the winner of the 2024 Matheson Scholarship in association with the University of Limerick. This annual scholarship is open to first-year Bachelor of Law students and was launched in 2022 as part of the celebration of UL's first 50 years. As winner of the Matheson Scholarship in Law Plus, Ciarán received a bursary of €5,000 for the academic year and a position on Matheson's First Step programme, a dedicated programme for undergraduate students.



Law Plus student Ciarán Cronin (left)

Internships Summer 2024

Three students completed Internships this summer as an alternative to the traditional Dissertation. Huge thanks are extended to Nordic Aviation Capital, Matheson Solicitors and Eversheds Sutherland Solicitors for offering Katarzyna Waniek, Abhayjeet Singh Rao and Conal Moran (pictured here) these great opportunities to gain practical experience. The Course Director, Ms. Sinead Eaton, believes this will greatly enhance the career prospects and learning experience for the students in question.



Law students Katarzyna Waniek, Abhayjeet Singh Rao and Conal Moran

Conferring Ceremonies

The School of Law is delighted to congratulate its students who graduated this year.

At the Winter Conferring Ceremony, which was held on 24 January 2024, twenty members of An Garda Síochána graduated as the first cohort on the School of Law's pioneering Graduate Diploma in Intelligence Management. Representing the only programme of its kind in Ireland, the Graduate Diploma in Intelligence Management (Level 9) has been specifically designed to provide course participants with a greater understanding of the nature of the GNCSIS region and how the distinct but interconnected sections within it function both in their individual capacity and collectively to deliver this policing and security service. The University of Limerick was delighted to welcome a delegation from An Garda Síochána to attend the ceremony, including: Chief Superintendent Brian Sugrue, Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development, Superintendent Ciara Lee, Crime Specialist and Operational Skills, Executive Director Yvonne Cooke, Human Resources and People Development, Sergeant. Michael Fitzgerald, Crime Specialist and Operational Skill.

In addition, 23 members of An Garda Síochána were conferred with the degree of MA in Serious Crime Investigation; and 37 students graduated in PDip in Serious Crime Investigation on 24 January 2024.

During the Summer Conferring Ceremonies, there were 615 Garda College Graduates pf the BA in Applied Policing amongst the 1,200 students conferred at the University of Limerick in June 2024. Also, on 29 August 2024, 36 students graduated from the Court Presentation Class. Pictured are Superintendent Finbarr Philpott, Chief Superintendent Sean Colleran, the Deputy President of UL Shane Kilcommins and Assistant Commissioner Cliodhna Richardson.

We wish our graduates every success in the future.





Winter Conferring Ceremonies



PDIP serious crime investigation



Court Presentation Class













Garda graduates



Dr Alan Cusack with graduates

PhD Successes

We are proud to announce the recent graduates of the School of Law who have successfully earned their PhDs. This exceptional group of scholars has demonstrated remarkable dedication and expertise in their fields, contributing valuable research and insights that will shape the future of legal studies. Here are the distinguished individuals who have reached this significant milestone in their academic journeys:

- Dr Mary Curtin. Supervisors were Dr Una Woods and Dr Caroline Murphy
- Dr James Meighan (pictured with supervisor Professor Laura Cahillane)
- Dr Karen O'Brien. Supervisors were Professor Raymond Friel and Dr Laura Donnellan
- Dr Rebecca Wade. Her supervisors Professor Seán Redmond, Dr Catherine Naughton (pictured), and Dr Lydia Bracken.
- Dr Saoirse Enright and Professor Laura Cahillane (pictured)
- Dr El Reid-Buckley. Supervised by Professor Carmen Kuhling and Professor Jennifer Schweppe



Dr Mary Curtin



Dr Mary Curtin and supervisors Dr Una Woods and Dr Caroline Murphy



Dr James Meighan with supervisor Professor Laura Cahillane



Dr Karen O'Brien



Dr Rebecca Wade and supervisors Professor Seán Redmond, Dr Catherine Naughton (pictured), Dr Lydia Bracken.



Dr Saoirse Enright



Dr Saoirse Enright with supervisor Professor Laura Cahillane

Alumni Spotlight

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our distinguished graduates from the School of Law. The following alumni exemplify excellence, innovation, and leadership, showcasing the diverse paths our graduates have taken since leaving our School.



Cathy Smith (center)

Cathy Smith SC

Cathy Smith, SC was awarded with the UL Alumni Award on Friday 3 November 2023 for her outstanding contribution to society. Cathy is a graduate of BA European Studies 1995. She specialises in Employment and Equality Law, and has represented clients before specialist employment bodies as well as in the Circuit Court, High Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and the Court of Justice of the EU. She is a CEDR Certified Mediator, a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and a member of the Company Law Review Group. The School of Law extend our warmest congratulations to Cathy on this outstanding achievement.



Dr Lynn Buckley

Dr Lynn Buckley

Congratulations to alumna Dr Buckley on completing her doctoral thesis with the Faculty of Law at Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland. Dr Buckley graduated with a First Class Honours in Law Plus and a First in the LLM in International Commercial Law from the University of Limerick. Her PhD thesis explored the scope of directors' duty to act in good faith and in the best interests of the company in Aotearoa New Zealand, with a view to understanding the implications of the duty for environmental consideration in director decision-making. Her thesis was placed on the Dean's List for academic excellence. Dr Buckley recently started as a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Department of Commercial Law at He Manga Tauhokohoko University of Auckland Business School where she is lecturing in Company Law.

Alex Casey

Alex Casey, a recent graduate of the LLM in International Commercial Law was a Dye & Durham Irish Law Awards 2024 Finalist for "Student of the Year". Alex also received the Eversheds Sutherland Scholarship for academic achievement at undergraduate level, a prestigious prize offered to our top students. During the past year, Alex was involved with the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) and the Plassey Law Review. Alex also represented UL through the prestigious Chief Justice Summer Placement Programme in the Four Courts.



Alex Casey

Curriculum Development and Engagement with External Stakeholders

Pioneering New Professional Training Programme

On 1 February 2024, Professor Paul McCutcheon and Dr. Alan Cusack delivered an inaugural lecture as part of a pioneering new professional training programme for officials within the Department of Justice. The professional training programme consists of two bespoke modules. One of the modules, Fundamentals of Law (Online), is also offered by the School of Law as a micro-credential module. This module provides a unique opportunity for students of the proposed programme to develop the necessary knowledge and understanding of the legal system in Ireland and to engage in inter-professional education with colleagues and academic staff. A second module, Essentials of Criminal Law which covering criminal law and criminal procedure.

In building on the School of Law's established track record in delivering outstanding, bespoke, professional training programmes for a range of Irish criminal justice agencies (including An Garda Síochána, Criminal Assets Bureau, Revenue), this programme promises to embed the University of Limerick at the forefront of national policy innovation.

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice



Professor Paul McCutcheon and Dr Alan Cusack

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