

Dlíscéala *Newsletter*

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OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí
School of Law

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Welcome from School Dean

Dear Friends of the School of Law,

We're delighted to bring you the 2025 edition of *Dlíscéala*, our annual newsletter for alumni and friends of the School.

A lot has been happening since this time last year, and there is much to read about in the following pages of the many activities in which our staff, students and distinguished visitors have been engaged. Some of this past year's activities have been annual ones, such as our Annual Distinguished Lecture.



We were very honoured to welcome as our 2024 Annual Distinguished Lecturer, Mrs Mary Robinson, not only a noted barrister and legal academic, but also of course the President of Ireland from 1990 to 1997.

In conversation with Professor Donncha O'Connell in the Aula Maxima, Mrs Robinson gave us fascinating insights into her life and her tenure as President during a time of great change for the country.

In addition, the very popular annual Summer Schools on the International Criminal Court, and on disability law and policy, also brought a range of fascinating speakers onto campus to engage with delegates from across the globe attending those summer schools.

In the past year, the School has launched two exciting new postgraduate programmes (in criminology/criminal justice in 2024, and in law and innovation in 2025).

Pictured: Professor Martin Hogg,
Dean of the School of Law,
University of Galway.

To mark the launch of the new LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights, a criminal justice walking tour of Galway was conducted by Dr Charles O'Mahony. It turns out, there are quite a few places of interest from a criminal justice perspective in our city!

Students on the programme have also been visiting prisons and the courts, as well as enjoying Master classes from senior members of the judiciary who hold Adjunct appointments with the School.

The internationalisation work of the School and its Centres continues to grow, as further new partnerships are built with law schools and legal institutions from other parts of the world.

The School has welcomed onto campus delegations from the Thai judiciary and from law schools in China and India (among other countries) and has entered into memoranda of agreement which will enable student exchanges and research partnerships.

Galway law students also continue to benefit from a number of very

rewarding international internship opportunities: this year, you can read testimonials from students who interned at the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston and the US State and Federal courts in Los Angeles.

There has also been a wealth of conference and research activities, in which academic staff and research students have shared their knowledge to academic audiences and in the popular media. You may have seen or heard one of my colleagues on tv or the radio in recent months, offering perspectives on current topics of legal interest.

At a time of increasing global conflict and tension, and of various challenges to the rule of law both within Europe and further afield, expert voices such as these are hugely important in contributing to informed public debate.

Professor Martin Hogg,
Dean of the School of Law,
University of Galway

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Student *Life*

LLM Class attended a play on the life of Paddy Armstrong of the Guildford Four...

On 30 January, the LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights class attended a play based on the life of Paddy Armstrong at the Town Hall Theatre, along with doctoral researcher Salvador Leyva, Dr Róisín Mulgrew and Dr Charles O'Mahony.

During the LLM, students have discussed issues related to Miscarriages of Justice.



Crime Punishment and Rights Film Series – 20 Days in Mariupol

As part of the Crime, Punishment and Rights Film Series, 20 Days in Mariupol was screened last October at Pálás Cinema. This award-winning documentary examines the Russian invasion of Ukraine and records atrocities committed in the besieged city of Mariupol.

The screening was introduced by Professor Shane Darcy (Irish Centre for Human Rights) and Dr Iuliia Anosova (Human Rights Centre, Ghent University), who addressed the crime and rights issues raised by the film. Professor Darcy, an expert in international humanitarian and criminal law, is Deputy Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR).

Dr Anosova, a Ukrainian human rights lawyer and researcher, is a postdoctoral fellow under the MSCA4Ukraine programme at Ghent University.

The series formed part of an initiative of the University's Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster, supported by the School of Law and ICHR, in partnership with Pálás Cinema. →

Podcast Training

LLM (Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights) students develop their skills in the University's state-of-the-art digital recording space. Housed in the Arts Millennium Building, the CELT Studio combines a staffed control room with a soundproofed recording space designed for high-quality production.



The studio also includes a news desk area, where group podcasts can be recorded, as well as a green screen zone for audio-visual projects.



As the media landscape becomes ever more significant in shaping public understanding of law, the ability to communicate effectively beyond the courtroom is essential.

How legal practitioners conduct themselves in media settings can shape public perception of cases, influence the integrity of the legal process and support advocacy for reform. Digital communication is woven into the LLM programme, giving students the chance to strengthen these skills and explore how best to use them in building their future careers.



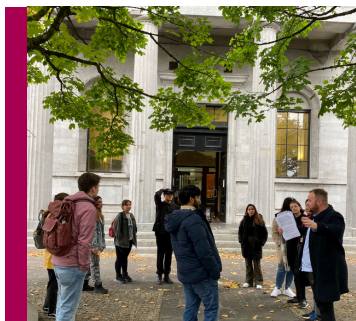
Criminal Justice *Walking Tour*

To mark the launch of the new LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Dr Charles O'Mahony led a Law and Criminal Justice Walking Tour on 13 September 2024.

New LLM students were joined by doctoral researchers, and staff from the School of Law and the Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster.

Dr O'Mahony led the fascinating tour around the campus and city, visiting significant sites for understanding the legal and criminal justice history of Galway, including....

- Quadrangle, University of Galway (Royal Coat of Arms)
- Galway Cathedral (Site of Old City Prison)
- Galway Courthouse (Opened 1815)
- Eyre Square (From Medieval Open Space to JFK)
- Forster Street (Site of Galway Magdalene Laundry)
- Lynch's Castle (Medieval Fortified House)
- Saint Nicholas' Collegiate Church (From Cristopher Columbus to Cromwell)
- Eglinton Canal Walk (Connecting Lough Corrib to Galway Bay)
- College Bar, University of Galway (Former Ammunitions Factory)





Pictured: Mr Justice Charleton with Dr Róisín Mulgrew, Dr Charles O'Mahony, Dr Rory Kelly and students from the LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights.

Beyond the Lecture Hall

Engaging with Criminal Justice Professionals

Throughout the year, students travelled to a variety of criminal justice institutions including Clover hill remand prison; Supreme Court, Dublin; and Limerick Prison.

These visits form part of a wider programme of insightful events for LLM students aimed at engaging with legal and criminal justice professionals.



Cloverhill Prison

4 April

Dr Róisín Mulgrew, Dr Charles O'Mahony and Dr Rory Kelly accompanied students on a visit to Cloverhill Prison – the largest remand prison in the country.

The visit highlighted the key role of the PICLS service in providing access to mental health services.



Supreme Court

4 April

LLM students set off on a trip to the Supreme Court, and a tour of the Four Courts.

Mr Justice Charleton, an adjunct Professor at University of Galway, delivered an invigorating seminar on recent judgments of the Court and the process of judgment writing.



Limerick Prison

27 March

Postgraduate law students joined our LLM programme, along with two doctoral researchers and a visiting student from the University of Bordeaux, to visit Limerick Prison.

Limerick Prison is a closed, medium security prison for adult males and females.



Judges' Masterclasses

Mr Justice Peter Charleton on Sentencing and Evidence Law

On 6 November, Supreme Court judge the Hon Mr Justice Peter Charleton visited the University to deliver two guest lectures.



Speaking to students on the new LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights, he discussed judicial guidance in “Sentencing chaos or sentencing bands?”.



He later addressed Evidence Law students on “A Guide to Evidence in Sexual Violence Cases”, exploring legal issues affecting prosecutions.

Mr Justice Charleton has served on the Supreme Court since 2014, having been a High Court judge from 2006.

He is also co-author of the leading text, *Charleton & McDermott's Criminal Law and Evidence*.





Pictured: Justice Dr Mathilda Twomey-Woods, Dr Charles O'Mahony, Dr Roisin Mulgrew, Dr Rory Kelly with students from the LLM in Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights & PhD researchers from the School of Law.

Judge Twomey-Woods

Non-Conviction Based Forfeiture of Criminal Assets & Instrumentalities

On 28 February, the Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster hosted the Hon Justice Dr Mathilda Twomey-Woods, Justice of Appeal in Seychelles, for a masterclass on Non-Conviction Based Forfeiture of Criminal Assets and Instrumentalities: Lessons from a Small Island State.

Speaking to LLM students and PhD researchers, she examined the use of non-conviction-based confiscation (NCBF) to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, highlighting the vulnerabilities of small island states as international financial centres.

She also examined the influence of Ireland's Proceeds of Crime Act 1996, introduced after the murder of journalist Veronica Guerin, on Seychelles' Proceeds of Crime (Civil Confiscation) Act 2008.

Through keystone cases, students discussed belief evidence in forfeiture orders, standards of proof and constitutional challenges in anti-money laundering regimes.

Justice Dr Twomey-Woods has renewed her adjunct professorship for a further five years and will be joining the Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster.





16th International Disability Law Summer School

In June, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) hosted the 16th International Disability Law Summer School under the theme Disabled Activism in an Age of Far-Right Resurgence, co-directed by János Fiala-Butora and Grace Barnes. Activists and researchers from around the world explored the erosion of democratic values, rule of law principles and rights protections in recent years. Sessions examined the use of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in activism, the limits of the human rights approach in countering far-right movements, the exclusion of people with multiple marginalised identities, the re-emergence of eugenics, and the impact of the pandemic, war and conflict on disability rights.

Keynote speaker Talila A. Lewis – abolitionist, archivist, artist, linguist, educator and movement strategist – explored ways of defending the sacred in the face of disinformation and dehumanisation. Responding to the keynote, disability rights activist Alberto Vásquez Encalada, co-director of Mad Thinking, reflected on how Lewis's message resonated within civil society, particularly in the Global South.

Participants also engaged in breakout discussions on direct action, social advocacy, strategic litigation and shadow reporting. The poster presentation was then opened by Hildegard Naughton, Minister of State at the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. This year's craftivism project, facilitated by artist-curator Aideen Quirke, promoted self-care as an act of resistance.



CDLP Hosts Workshop for Civil Society on Submitting to UN Committees

On 19 and 20 June, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) hosted a closed workshop for Irish civil society organisations preparing a submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Representatives from eight organisations across Ireland received feedback on their draft submissions and shared experiences on engaging effectively with the UN system.

In September 2025, the Committee finalised a list of questions for the Irish Government regarding its efforts to uphold the rights set out in the UNCRPD.

Visiting Student Groups

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) at University of Galway hosted two delegations of visiting students and professors this year. In March, graduate students from Central Connecticut State University visited Galway, followed by a group from the University of Massachusetts Amherst on 25 June, representing disciplines including psychology, rehabilitation, assistive technology, dance, music, communication and speech therapy.

Both groups engaged with Centre staff and PhD students on the drafting and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Staff also delivered presentations on research and law reform in areas such as legal capacity, mental health, reproductive justice and participation in public life.

More Student News

Clinical Legal Education

In the 2024–2025 academic year, 32 final-year undergraduate students completed part-time internships for academic credit with solicitors' firms, government bodies, barristers and organisations across the independent and community law sectors throughout Ireland through the School of Law's Clinical Placement module. Many cited the experience as a standout element of their studies, connecting theoretical learning with real-world practice.

The clinical legal education programme not only provides practical experience that distinguishes our graduates but also encourages students to reflect critically on their placements.

In particular, those in public interest roles are asked to consider how the legal system works – or fails to work – for those on society's margins.

This reflective practice plays a key role in shaping career development and fostering an ethical awareness of the duties that come with professional qualification.

In recent years, several students have secured traineeships or employment directly as a result of their placements.

School of Law Graduates interested in facilitating students for part-time clinical placements are invited to contact Larry Donnelly, Director of Clinical Legal Education, for more information (Larry.Donnelly@universityofgalway.ie).

Tatum McGuffin Awarded CDLP *Gold Medal of Excellence for 2024*

Awarded for her outstanding scholarship, LL.M graduate Tatum McGuffin is pictured below at her conferring ceremony.



Thinking Globally Internationalisation



Dr Mulgrew Appointed to Council of Europe to Revise Regional Penal Policy on Foreign Prisoners

In January 2025, Dr Mulgrew was formally appointed by the Council of Europe's Council for Penological Cooperation as a scientific expert to revise the Committee of Ministers' 2012 Recommendation to member States concerning foreign prisoners and its commentary.

Dr Mulgrew has published extensively on prisoner rights, and the treatment of foreign prisoners in particular. She is also a long-standing member of the EuroPris and CEP Expert Group on Foreigners in Prison and Probation.

On 26 June 2025, Dr Róisín Mulgrew also hosted a high-level, closed expert roundtable on Foreign Nationals in Prison and Probation in Europe.

University of Sanctuary Scholarship

Professor Ciara Smyth chairs University of Galway's University of Sanctuary Scholarship interview panel. The Scholarship aims to address the low levels of participation in third-level education by asylum seekers, refugees, immigrants and Irish Travellers.

Professor Smyth also participated in the external review of the University's University of Sanctuary Programme in 2025.

PREPARED Postdoctoral Network Launched

In March 2025, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) alongside colleagues at the Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas, University of Lisbon and Swiss Paraplegic Research launched a new postdoctoral research network.

The PREPARED project aims to support the next generation of disability rights postdoctoral researchers to respond to the most urgent global challenges of our time.

The project will recruit a total of six postdoctoral researchers between 2025 and 2029. [Learn more.](#)



ENLIGHT Online School on Human Rights

The second edition of the ENLIGHT Online School on Human Rights ran this year from 26 August to 2 October, with the Irish Centre for Human Rights serving as one of its core partners.

This year's programme examined fundamental rights across Europe, exploring how authoritarianism shapes the enjoyment and protection of human rights in different political contexts.

Participants analysed how institutions and political systems influence rights protection, and explored key societal transformations linked to digital and environmental policy as well as the instrumentalisation of human rights language.

The School also addressed human rights during armed conflict, a pressing issue amid the global rise in warfare. Its goal was to equip participants to understand human rights across legal, political and social contexts, critically assess human rights narratives and develop effective advocacy and research strategies. [Learn more.](#)





Pictured: The Office of the Judiciary of Thailand visit to mark the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding, paving the way for academic exchange.

Historic Agreement with *Office of the Thai Judiciary*

On 17 June 2025, the School hosted a delegation from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand this year to mark the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding.

This agreement will facilitate Thai judicial students undertaking postgraduate legal studies, including LLM programmes, at Galway. It also opens avenues for future collaboration in the area of professional judicial training.

Led by Justice Athip Tanprasert of the Thai Supreme Court, the delegation took part in seminars and discussions with faculty, students and members of the Irish judiciary, including Circuit Court Judge Brian O'Callaghan.

Speaking after the signing, Professor Martin Hogg, Dean of the School of Law, said:

"It was a pleasure for me and other School of Law faculty to meet with our distinguished guests from the Office of the Thai Judiciary.

This MOU not only recognises the quality of legal education offered at Galway, but also represents a meaningful step forward in fostering international judicial exchange and cooperation."

Professor Hogg and Dr Naporn 'Prompt' Popattanachai later traveled to Bangkok in August to engage with Thai legal institutions, law schools and law firms, with a view to deepening these growing academic and professional ties.



Pictured: The School welcomes a delegation from Jilin University School of Law, China.

Delegations: *Jilin University*

Jilin University School of Law, one of China's top-ranked law schools, visited the School as part of its growing strategy for international engagement.

The delegation's visit reflects a shared commitment by both institutions to advancing cooperation in legal education and research.

During their time in Galway, the delegates met with members of the School of Law, toured the University campus, and engaged in discussions on key areas of shared interest and considered potential future collaborations, such as joint teaching initiatives, student progression pathways, and a possible joint conference.

Delegations: *China University of Political Science and Law*

A delegation from the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) also visited the University in September to explore future collaboration in legal education and research.

The visit formed part of ongoing efforts to strengthen academic cooperation and deepen research ties between the two institutions.

Professor Martin Hogg said: "International partnerships like this are essential for the future of legal education and research. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we not only broaden our own horizons but also create the foundations for meaningful opportunities for researchers and students."



Pictured: Sean Drea completed his internship in Boston with Judge Ojetta Rogeriee Thompson of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit as part of the Suffolk University Law School partnership.

Suffolk University Law School *A Long-standing Partnership*

As part of the School of Law's long-standing partnership with Suffolk University Law School, Larry Donnelly and Dr Conor Hanly hosted Professor Sara Dillon and more than 30 visiting Suffolk Law students and faculty for a summer school in Galway during the last two weeks of May.

The group also heard from advocates for survivors of domestic violence with Cope Galway, local solicitor Sharon Lally and Circuit Court Judge Brian O'Callaghan.

Following the programme, Suffolk Law students Amber Cokash, Jay Pozzuto and Colby Storey remained in Ireland for public interest internships with the Centre for Disability Law and Policy in Galway, Community Law and Mediation in Dublin and the Law Reform Commission of Ireland.

Meanwhile, two University of Galway law students, Seán Drea and Calem Abeton, undertook internships in Boston – Seán with Judge O Rogeriee Thompson of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and Calem with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

Student Intern

Seán Drea



“This past summer, I interned with the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit as part of an exchange programme between University of Galway School of Law and Suffolk University Law School in Boston. I was honoured to be assigned to the chambers of Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, where I gained invaluable insight into the American legal system and appellate practice.

The law clerks were exceptionally supportive, providing detailed and constructive feedback on my written work throughout the internship. Their guidance played a crucial role in helping me develop my legal analysis and writing in a US context. Judge Thompson herself was a delight to observe on the bench; sharp, insightful and always engaged. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to discuss cases with her in depth, which was both intellectually stimulating and deeply rewarding.

Beyond the professional experience, living in Boston over the summer was a personal highlight. The city's vibrant culture and beautiful landscapes made for a thoroughly enriching stay. Although I travelled alone from Ireland, I formed many lasting friendships and was fortunate to travel to nearby cities like New York.”





Student Intern

Francis Quinn



“This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to work in the US State and Federal courts in Los Angeles, California, after finishing my final year of the Law and Taxation programme. I was initially apprehensive, not knowing what to expect, it turned out to be a life-changing experience. Not only was I able to work with many brilliant legal minds, watch lawyers at the highest levels of the profession advocate every day, I was also able to see the best of what LA and California had to offer.

My time in LA was a time of immense professional development; this might be only overshadowed by the amount of personal growth that can also be attributed to it. Being able to live in another country with people I hadn't met before, and working with them was an exceptional experience. I also made lifelong friendships with people in LA that I could never have possibly anticipated and which I cherish.

I owe a debt of gratitude for this experience to the School of Law, especially programme alum Connie Healy for the opportunity. The Irish American Bar Association and all of its members will also hold a close place in my heart for their unwavering generosity across the now-nearing 40 years of the programme.”

Research in Action

Sharing Knowledge, Building Community: Law Research Day

The School of Law held its second annual Law Research Day on 29 May, bringing together staff, PhD researchers and colleagues from the College for an engaging day of discussion.

The event offered an opportunity to explore new ideas and celebrate the School's diverse research.



Pictured: Larissa Leilane Fontes de Lima presents on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Brazil.

Dr Róisín Mulgrew, former Director of Research, opened the day with an overview of the School's research achievements over the past year. She spoke about the collaborative energy that drives the School's research Committee, Centres and Clusters, as well as the recent successes in publications, research funding and doctoral funding.

Dr Jared Gerlach, Head of Strategic Research Awards Life Cycle at the College of Business, Public Policy and Law also outlined supports available to researchers.

Each panel paired academic staff and doctoral researchers, creating space for meaningful discussion between colleagues at different career stages, reinforcing the School's commitment to supporting early-career researchers.

During the research day, Larissa Leilane Fontes de Lima examined the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Brazil and Ireland through an intersectional lens, while Xinpeng Liu and Anil Sena Bayındır explored the legal implications of AI-generated content and innovation.

Gezim Zejnullahu presented on the development of property rights in Kosova, and Eilís Ní Chaoimh discussed how criminal law can better accommodate neurodiversity. Louisa Klatt also contributed with a visually engaging poster titled “The Hourglass Shape of Written Constitutions: A Symphony of Words.”

Academic staff also delivered thought-provoking presentations across the three themed panels. Dr Conor Hanly discussed the restriction of character references in rape cases, while Dr Róisín Mulgrew presented on deaths in prisons and her work for the Council of Europe.

Dr Maureen O’Sullivan shared insights on designing an Animal Law course in an Irish context, and Dr Illan Wall explored gendered dimensions of the right to protest. Dr Maria O’Brien examined tax incentives for Ireland’s creative industries, and Dr Charles O’Mahony presented on the legal and social dimensions of ‘mate crime’.

The panels were chaired by Ursula Connolly (Panel 1: Contested Landscapes), Professor Martin Hogg

(Panel 2: Navigating New Legal Landscapes), and Dr Abigail Rekas (Panel 3: Transforming Legal Landscapes).

Law Research Day 2025 was a welcome chance to pause, reflect and engage with the important and diverse, rigorous and socially impactful research carried out across the School of Law.



Pictured: Dr Charles O’Mahony discusses the legal and social dimensions of ‘mate crime’.



University of Galway and TUS Athlone Co-Organise *Legal Tech Ireland Conference*

On 7 April 2025, the School of Law hosted the Legal Tech Ireland: Impacts, Policies, and Pathways conference – a landmark event which brought together legal experts, policymakers and industry leaders to examine the transformative role of technology in the legal sector.

This built on the success of last year's event hosted by the Technological University of the Shannon Athlone, Legal Technology and the Rule of Law 2024. Organisers Alison Hough, Dr Rónán Kennedy and Dr Abigail Rekas have expanded the event to one co-organised by TUS Athlone Faculty of Business and Hospitality and the School of Law.

This year, the focus was on the all-island lawtech sector, enabling and limiting policy and regulatory factors, and the influence of post-pandemic shifts. The keynote speaker was Ms Justice Nuala Jackson of the High Court of Ireland.

The conference also featured a hackathon during which student teams were asked to problem-solve legal tech challenges by applying creative and technical know-how under time constraints.

Pictured: Ms Justice Nuala Jackson of the High Court of Ireland.

Dr Rónán Kennedy

Dr Kennedy co-organises 'Future of Law' conference in London

The International Future of Law Association, of which Dr Rónán Kennedy is a founding committee member, held its third in-person conference at London South Bank University on 3 and 4 July. The event brought together academics from around the world to address transformations to legal education, research and practice in the face of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

The event also featured sessions hosted by LSBU's Digital x Data Research Centre and concluded with an expert panel at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London.



Dr Conor Hanly

Paper Cited by The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court recently cited a paper by Law lecturer, Dr Conor Hanly, regarding the Court's decision in *The People (DPP) v Crawford* [2024] case.

In its October 2024 judgment, the Court concluded that the Court of Appeal had misinterpreted the use of force defence under section 18 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997.



Above: Dr Conor Hanly, Lecturer at the School of Law.

Left: Panel members left to right – Dr Emma Jones (University of Sheffield), Andy Unger (London South Bank University), Lloyd Gash (King's College London), Brian Wha-Li Tang (University of Hong Kong), Dr Rónán Kennedy (University of Galway).

Professor Ciara Smyth

Irish Centre for Human Rights

Professor Ciara Smyth continues to make significant contributions in the areas of migration, asylum and legal education. In September 2024, she joined the Board of Directors of the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and in October, took up her role as the Irish representative on the Odysseus Network, where she also published on the Odysseus Blog.

Professor Smyth has recently co-presented with an undergraduate student at the ENLIGHT conference in Tartu on authentic assessment through the Interactive Oral, and contributed to the Odysseus Summer School in July 2025.

Her recent and upcoming engagements include presentations to the Immigration, Asylum and Citizenship Bar Association, moderating a panel on international protection for the Irish Refugee Council and ICCL, and speaking at a University workshop on Decolonising the Curriculum.

Building on her work in civil society coalitions on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Prof Smyth co-hosted a joint conference on the Pact at the University in May 2025, and chaired a panel at the Immigrant Council of Ireland's annual National Integration Conference.





Dr Róisín Mulgrew *Presents at 8th PC-CP Working Group, Madrid*

Dr Róisín Mulgrew, Associate Professor in Law and lead for the Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster, presented [her report](#) on proposed revisions to the 2012 Recommendation concerning foreign prisoners to the [38th Meeting](#) of the Working Group of the Council of Europe's [Council for Penological Cooperation](#), on 21 May 2025.

Dr Mulgrew is a scientific expert responsible for the revision of the 2012 Recommendation on foreign prisoners, along with Michael Sorger

(Austria) and Daniel Danglades (France).

Held in Madrid, the meeting considered changes to definitions, the scope and basic principles of the 2012 Recommendation, to form the basis of the new draft Recommendation on Foreign Nationals in Prison and Under Probation (2025) 5.

[Learn more.](#)



Clara Bosch March

*Publishes Six Articles
in Leading Journals*

Clara Bosch March (Hardiman and IRC Scholar) successfully completed her PhD viva in April, becoming the first PhD student in the School of Law and the Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR) to complete a PhD by Publication, with six articles published in leading international journals.

March was awarded the School of Law's Early Completion Award for finishing her doctorate in just 3.5 years and will take up a permanent lectureship at Hull Law School in September.

Pictured below: Clara Bosch March.
Pictured Right: Amanie Issa.



Amanie Issa, Grace Barnes

*Attend Nordic Network of
Disability Research Conference*

Colleagues and PhD Candidates across the School of Law, Centre for Disability Law and Policy and ICHR attended the 17th Nordic Network of Disability Research Conference in May.

Amanie Issa, a PhD Candidate in the Centre for Disability Law and the ICHR presented her paper on 'Gender and Disability Within a Settler-Colonial Lens: Palestinian Disabled Women's Struggle for Disability Justice.'

Grace Barnes, a PhD Candidate in the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, also spoke on 'Recognising the binary constructions of disabled women's sexuality in the European Court of Human Rights'.



Irish Centre for Human Rights Hosts 24th Annual Doctoral Seminar (April)

The Irish Centre for Human Rights PhD Symposium is an annual event where doctoral students present their research to visiting experts, staff and peers. A unique fixture in legal academia in Ireland, the symposium has been running for over two decades.

This year's visiting experts were Professor Neha Jain (Northwestern University), who presented *The Market Turn in Refugee Law*; Dr Joe Powderly, Associate Professor at Leiden University; and a graduate of the Centre's PhD programme, who spoke on *When Navalny went to Strasbourg*.

The event showcased the global nature of its doctoral community, with students from Canada, Palestine, Uganda, the United States, India, Sierra Leone, China and Ireland.



Dr Aoife Price *Publishes PhD Through DARE*

Dr Aoife Price has graduated from the Centre for Disability Law and Policy PhD programme.

Dr Price's PhD '*Frictions and Coalitions: Findings from a European Study of Disabled Women's Experiences in Social Movements*' was supervised by Professor Eilíonóir Flynn as part of the DARE (Disability Advocacy Research in Europe) Project, funded through the European Commission's Marie Curie programme.



Pictured above:
Dr Aoife Price and
Professor Eilíonóir Flynn.



Pictured above: Participants of the Irish Centre for Human Rights' 24th Annual Doctoral Seminar, April 2025.

Staff Highlights

Dr Rónán Kennedy Appointed *Member of Judicial* *Appointments Commission*

On 17 October, Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD signed legislation providing for the establishment of the Judicial Appointments Commission on 1 January 2025, appointing Dr Rónán Kennedy to be one of the first members of the Commission.

This marks the most substantial reform in the selection of judges for appointment in almost thirty years.



Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh **Appointed Adjunct Professor,** *Irish Centre for Human Rights*

The Irish Centre for Human Rights is delighted to announce the appointment of Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh as adjunct professor at University of Galway.

Ms Ní Ghrálaigh is a renowned international lawyer based at Matrix Chambers in London. She specialises in international law, civil liberties, human rights, protest law and international criminal law.



Staff Highlights

Over 100 lawyers and academics pen open letter on Ireland's international law obligations concerning Palestine

In May 2025, Professor Shane Darcy of the Irish Centre for Human Rights coordinated an important [open letter](#), signed by over a hundred lawyers, academics, civil society figures and parliamentarians, calling on the Irish Government to fulfil its international legal obligations in relation to Palestine.

The letter addresses the intensifying crisis in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem – and notes that the documented violations may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.



Dr Diarmuid Griffin Reappointed to Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee

Dr Diarmuid Griffin has been reappointed by the Minister for Justice to the [Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee of the Judicial Council](#) for a four-year term.

Established under the Judicial Council Act 2019, the Committee plays a central role in preparing draft sentencing guidelines for the Judicial Council and conducting research on sentences imposed by the courts.



Recent Publications

Dr Maeve O'Rourke
*Associate Professor,
Irish Centre for Human Rights*

Published open access by Oxford University Press, Dr O'Rourke's [Human Rights and the Care of Older People](#) explores the potential for the rule against torture and ill-treatment in international human rights law to better protect older people from care-related mistreatment. Read more in the [ICHR blog](#).

Dr Anita Ferrara
*Assistant Professor,
Irish Centre for Human Rights*

Co-edited with ICHR alumna Dr Beatrice Canossi, [Transitional Justice Archives](#) examines how transitional justice mechanisms collect and preserve evidence of human rights violations.

The book was launched in Bogotá, Colombia, with support from the Irish Embassy and Colombian institutions – marking a significant milestone in Latin American human rights research.

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Dr Diarmuid Griffin
*Lecturer in Criminology and
Criminal Law*

Dr Griffin's latest book, [Sentencing Serious Sex Offenders](#), launched by Minister Jim O'Callaghan and Prof Siobhán Mulally, investigates how Irish judges approach sentencing in serious sexual offence cases. Published by Policy Press, the book has been praised by leading criminologists for its originality and timely contribution to debates on judicial discretion and consistency.

Pictured: Dr Griffin's book launch.



Dr Illan Wall

*Senior Lecturer,
Irish Centre for Human Rights*

Dr Wall has curated a new series with Bristol University Press that reimagines law through cultural lenses – not just as a system, but as a lived and expressive phenomenon. The series offers fresh perspectives on the aesthetic, affective and symbolic life of law.

Dr Róisín Mulgrew

*Lead of Crime, Punishment
and Rights Research Cluster*

Dr Mulgrew's book, *Early Release in International Criminal Law*, explores the under-examined area of release mechanisms in international criminal justice. Launched with colleagues from the School of Law and Irish Centre for Human Rights, the event featured discussion from Kate Gibson, leading defence counsel at the International Criminal Court, who highlighted the book's relevance to global justice and penal reform.



Pictured: Dr Róisín Mulgrew at the launch of her book, *Early Release in International Criminal Law* in June.

Recent Publications

Dr Róisín Mulgrew *Research Handbook on the Punishment of Atrocity Crime*

Dr Róisín Mulgrew also published in a new book this year with Elgar Publishing, titled the *Research Handbook on the Punishment of Atrocity*

This timely collection was co-edited with Prof Mikkel J Christensen (University of Copenhagen). Their chapter, "Researching the Punishment of Atrocity Crime" is available open access.

Professor Ciara Smyth *Irish Centre for Human Rights*

Professor Ciara Smyth (with colleague Dr Charles O'Mahony) has commenced a qualitative research project comparing conditions in direct provision and emergency accommodation, following a successful tender.

She has also published an article in the Common Market Law Review: "Dining with a new partner? The end of Ireland's à la carte approach to the EU Common European Asylum System."

Dr Cliona de Bhailís, Professor Eilionóir Flynn *CDLP Report*

Earlier this year the CDLP launched their report "Exploring the Need for a Representative Advocacy Service for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland."

The research, commissioned by Inclusion Ireland, was completed by Emma Q Burns, Dr Cliona de Bhailís and Professor Eilionóir Flynn.

[Access the research report and an Easy Read version here.](#)



In the Media

Larry Donnelly

Lecturer, School of Law

Boston attorney and Law Lecturer, Larry Donnelly is a political columnist for *The Journal* and a regular contributor to *Newstalk* and *The Irish Post*. In recent months, Donnelly has offered political commentary on the US political landscape and its global influence, covering topics such as Trump's presidential campaign, political blunders, visa restrictions, US-Irish relations and the likelihood of a Russia / Ukraine ceasefire.



Pictured: School of Law lecturer and political columnist, Larry Donnelly.

Dr Ciara Smyth

Expert in Refugee and Immigration Law, School of Law

Dr Smyth has shared her expertise across multiple platforms:

- *The Human Rights Podcast*: Interview with European Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly on institutional accountability and human rights.
- *RTÉ Radio 1 – Ireland's Refugee Responders*: A documentary highlighting Ireland's evolving response to refugee needs.
- *RTÉ Radio 1* – A discussion around Fianna Fáil's proposal to deport asylum seekers convicted of serious crimes.
- *Cois Coiribe* – A podcast series exploring the legacy of Tom O'Malley.
- *The Fifth Court Podcast* – A discussion on asylum law and refugee protection.

Dr Diarmuid Griffin

Lecturer, Criminology & Criminal Law

Dr Griffin's research in criminal law has recently featured in:

- *The Irish Times*: Highlighting findings on judicial perceptions of "stranger rape".
- *The Irish Times*: A report on research published in the *Irish Judicial Studies Journal* on findings which reveal that life sentences in Ireland are mainly confined to homicide and cases concerning serious sexual offence.

Dr Roja Fazaeli

Lecturer in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, School of Law

- *The Irish Times*, *Newstalk Daily*, *Clare FM*: Dr Fazaeli has shared her insights on Israel-Iran relations and the impact of a looming conflict on Iranians and the Iranian diaspora.

Professor Shane Darcy

Deputy Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights

- *Middle East Eye*: Prof Darcy condemned the use of civilians as leverage in warfare.
- *RTÉ Radio 1*: Discussion regarding UN findings on genocide in Gaza.
- *Irish Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Journal*: Prof Darcy coordinated an open letter with legal professionals across Ireland urging adoption of the Occupied Territories Bill.

Professor Ray Murphy

Lecturer in Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law and Conflict, Irish Centre for Human Rights

- *Al Jazeera*, *Irish Times*, *Irish Rule of Law*: Prof Murphy has provided ongoing insights regarding the legal case for genocide against Israel throughout the unfolding situation in Palestine.

Dr Conor Hanly

Lecturer, Criminal Law

Today FM: Dr Hanly recently spoke to Matt Cooper about the controversial sentencing of Kieran Fogarty, explaining why sentences run concurrently in Ireland.

Dr Brian Tobin

Associate Professor, Family Law

Newstalk: Dr Tobin recently discussed the new Assisted Human Reproduction Regulatory Authority (AHRRA), of which he has been appointed a board member by the Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD.

Dr Illan Wall

*Senior Lecturer,
Irish Centre for Human Rights*

Irish Examiner: Dr Wall wrote about mass civil disobedience in London protesting the UK's proscription of Palestine Action.

Dr Naporn Popattanachai

Lecturer, Environmental and Marine Law

The Conversation:

Dr Popattanachai analysed a new UN treaty regulating the high seas, discussing its potential to curb exploitation, while raising questions about global governance.

School of Law Students

- RTÉ 1 News & Nationwide:
Co-host, Latisha McCrudden discussed Mincéirs: Paving the Way, a podcast which amplifies Traveller voices.
- Irish Legal News:
Smyth and Collins were recognised as proud winners of the 2025 European Law Moot Court, hosted by the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) at University of Galway.

Theory Meets Practice

Stories from our Moot Courtroom

Willem C. Vis Moot *International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot)*

The Vis Moot is a leading international commercial arbitration competition, attracting over 380 teams from more than 80 countries each year. As part of the School of Law's strategic focus on mooting, postgraduate students can take the Vis Moot module, preparing for and competing in the event while developing key skills in commercial arbitration, research, writing and oral advocacy.

Students also gain valuable networking experience by taking part in pre-moots before the main competition. This year, the Galway team competed online against universities worldwide and travelled to Vienna in April to take part in the week-long finals. While not advancing beyond the preliminary rounds, the team delivered an excellent performance with notably high scores.

The module was led by Ursula Connolly, with support from Professor Csongor Nagy, Dr Connie Healy and visiting US judge (retired), Judge Frank Bailey.



L-R Bhuwan Sharma, Siraphatsorn Karasai, Ursula Connolly, Netri Mathew and Jakob Boehme at the offices of Dorda Rechtsanwalte, one of the leading commercial law firms in Austria.



Back L-R: Galway team members, Bhuwan Sharma and Siraphatsorn Karasai with the team from Marmara University, Turkey.



Back L-R: The University of Jordan team and Galway team members Netri Mathews and Jakob Boehme.

Undergraduate Mooting

The 2024–2025 academic year marked one of the strongest mooting seasons yet for University of Galway law undergraduates, defined by national victories, exceptional advocacy and strong collegial spirit.

From Dublin to Porto, our students excelled across Ireland and Europe, winning eight of the eleven competitions entered and performing impressively throughout.

National Moot Court Competition, Maynooth

Galway's crowning achievement came at the National Moot Court Competition on 9 November 2024 at the Criminal Courts of Justice, Dublin. The Galway team of Jenna Smyth, Colman Monaghan and Patricia Geciova triumphed over UCD in a demanding final, with Smyth also named Best Speaker – adding to her previous year's win alongside Monaghan and Francis Quinn.

This back-to-back success reinforces Galway's position as a leading force in Irish mooting. A second Galway team – Sarah Cox, Annie Forde and Eoghan Veerasingam – also delivered a strong performance.

Karen Kenny Intervarsity Memorial Moot

The Karen Kenny Intervarsity Memorial Moot on 22 November 2024 produced another Galway victory, with Colman Monaghan and Eoghan Veerasingam taking top honors.

Monaghan's performance earned him the Best Speaker award, a testament to the rigorous advocacy the University continues to nurture.

Tom O'Malley Moot

Eoghan Veerasingam and Sarah Cox secured victory for Galway at the Tom O'Malley Moot on 28 November 2024, with Veerasingam named Best Speaker. Organised annually by the University of Galway Law Society in honour of Tom O'Malley SC, retired lecturer in the School of Law, the competition was hosted in Galway, with the finals held in the Kevin O'Boyle Moot Courtroom.



Pictured: Ruth Collins.

Undergraduate Mooting

Helga Pederson International Moot

Rory Burke and Ruth Dillon represented the University at the regional rounds of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition in Porto in February 2024 – the world’s largest human rights moot.

Although the team did not advance beyond the initial rounds, they competed strongly and gained valuable experience, expressing hope that Galway will continue to participate in future editions of the competition.

DCU ELSA European Convention on Human Rights Moot

At the DCU ELSA ECHR Moot, Colman Monaghan and Eoghan Veerasingam delivered a winning performance on 21 February 2025.

The moot was judged by Niko Kawaonczyk, Ama Kuruppuarachchi and Ciara Ramsbottom.

Silken Thomas Moot

From 28 February to 1 March, Monaghan and Quinn reached the semi-finals at the Silken Thomas Moot Court Competition in Maynooth.

Mooting Exhibition With American Judges

In March 2025, University of Galway mooting competitors were given an opportunity to argue before a panel of US Federal Judges Mark Kearney and Mark Conway, and top attorney Mark Schwemler.

Colman Monaghan and Eoghan Veerasingam (pictured below) took the title, after a heated bench interrogated each side. Veerasingam was named Best Speaker, shining before an international judicial audience.



Undergraduate Mooting

ELSA Galway Intervarsity Moot

The final of the competition took place in the Kevin O'Boyle Moot Courtroom on 7 March 2025, attracting participants from across Ireland.

An intervarsity team of Galway students Jenna Smyth and Ruth Collins, with TCD student Adam O'Carroll, claimed victory after a compelling final. Retired US Judge Frank Bailey and legal professionals from Eversheds Sutherland judged the event, with Smyth named Best Speaker.

UCD Thomas Finlay Moot

On 28 and 29 March 2025, Colman Monaghan and Eoghan Veerasingam again represented Galway, continuing their remarkable year with another win.

Judges for the Thomas Finlay were Irish Supreme Court Judges, Justice Séamus Woulfe, Justice Maurice Collins and Justice Brian Murray

Pictured: Jenna Smyth and Ruth Collins.

Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh

The Galway team of Cianna Cullen and Thomas Cannon delivered a strong performance at Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh on 8 November 2024, narrowly losing in the final to Blackhall Place.

The final was presided over by an esteemed panel comprising Ms Justice Nuala Butler (Court of Appeal), Mr Justice Conor Dignam (High Court), and Judge Sinéad Ní Chúlacháin (Circuit Court).

Frances Kyle National Moot

On 15 March 2025, Galway's Eoghan Veerasingam and TCD student Adam O'Carroll teamed up to clinch the top position at the Frances Kyle National Moot at Trinity College.



Mooting at the Irish Centre for Human Rights

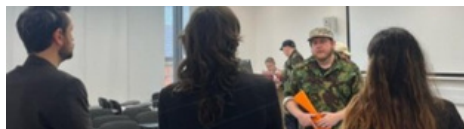
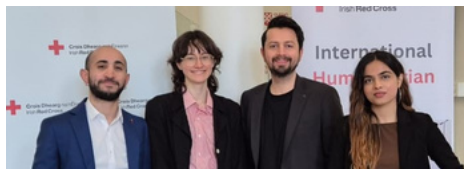
The 2024–2025 academic year was a busy and successful one for LLM students from the Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR), who competed in mooting competitions across Ireland and abroad.

In February, a team coached by Dr Pearce Clancy performed strongly in the national rounds of the Jessup Competition at the Law Society, submitting written memorials on complex issues of public international law before the oral rounds. The team comprised Luis Renato Urtusuastegui, Denisse Estupiñán, Etsegenet Resom Haile and Meklit Aragaw Bekel.

In March, a team led by PhD student Ramez Al-Hayek took part in the Irish Red Cross Corn Adomnáin competition at Queen's University Belfast, tackling realistic armed conflict scenarios and advising on International Humanitarian Law. Pramita Pramita, Emma Neuber and Vebi Levni impressed with their performance.

In June, a team coached by Ramez Al-Hayek and Dr Paul Bradfield represented Galway in the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in the Netherlands, underlining the Centre's quality advocacy training.

The team argued six rounds in the roles of Prosecution, Defence and Victims' Counsel, and submitted written memorials for each party. Competing with distinction against leading law schools worldwide, the team comprised Ben Ryan, Sarah Brown, Emma Roquel, Sonia Artesani and Radoslaw Berent.



Pictured: ICHR Mooting Competitors and Coaches.

Alumni Spotlight

Lorcan Staines SC to Review Bail Laws *in Response to Shane O'Farrell Killing*

Lorcan Staines SC, a graduate of our BCorpLaw and LLB programmes, has been appointed to lead a review of Ireland's bail laws, following public concern over the death of Shane O'Farrell in 2011.

O'Farrell, a law graduate, was killed by a motorist who was on bail for multiple offences and had breached conditions repeatedly.

The review will examine whether current legislation sufficiently empowers judges to remand individuals in custody and will consider reforms to suspended sentencing. A report is expected within four months.

The Department of Justice also plans to amend road traffic legislation and will fund an annual UCD scholarship in Shane's name.



[Read more here.](#)



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University of Galway School of Law

University of Galway has been teaching law since 1849. Over the years, we have built an extensive network that spans industries, sectors and academic disciplines.

Alumni

As a graduate of the University, you join a global community of more than 100,000 alumni. [Update your contact details](#) to stay connected with our community and visit the [Alumni & Friends website](#) to explore ways to engage with our vibrant network.

Partnership and Collaboration

We work closely with legal professionals, government bodies and NGOs to shape research, policy and education with real-world impact. If you're interested in partnering with us, please contact: law@universityofgalway.ie

Research

The School of Law is dedicated to producing high-quality, impactful research and strengthening its reputation as a leading centre of legal scholarship – both nationally and internationally.

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