

2025
in review

LLM Criminology,
Criminal Justice
& Human Rights



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School of Law



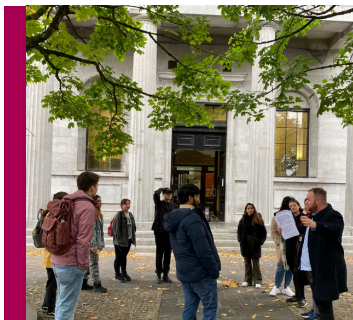
Criminal Justice Walking Tour

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 Charles 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 Christopher Columbus to Cromwell)
- Eglinton Canal Walk (Connecting Lough Corrib to Galway Bay)
- College Bar, University of Galway (Former Ammunitions Factory)



Engagement with the Arts

LLM Class attend a play on the life of Paddy Armstrong of the Guildford 4...

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 research Salvador Leyva, Dr Mulgrew and Dr 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 on Thursday 24 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 & Media Training

LLM students can 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 newsdesk 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.



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
& 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
lectures on Sentencing
and Evidence Law*

On 6 November, Supreme Court judge the Hon Mr Justice Peter Charleton visited the University of Galway 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 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.





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Volunteering Opportunities

In 2024, School of Law students were afforded the opportunity to contribute as Volunteer Research Assistants to a flagship annual publication by Penal Reform International and the Thailand Institute of Justice – under the supervision of Dr Róisín Mulgrew.

The students assisted in the research and drafting of [Global Prison Trends 2025](#), a report which provides a data-driven, evidence-based analysis of key developments in prison systems and criminal justice worldwide.

Marking the 15th anniversary of the UN Bangkok Rules, the report offers an in-depth analysis on prisoners' voting rights amid the pivotal 2024 elections and reveals new data on enduring problems in prisons, including increasing rates of suicide and violence.

Discover the *Global Prison Trends 2025* report [here](#).



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