School of Law

International Newsletter January 2017

⇒ International Collaborations in Law Grow Extensively

⇒ School of Law Academics Invited to Participate in Research Activities in Leading European Institutions

⇒ UL School of Law Faculty Host International Conferences

⇒ UL Law Students Complete International Work Placements in China and the USA

⇒ International Law Students on UG and PG programmes at UL Continue to Grow

⇒ Visiting Researchers Contribute to School of Law Success
Welcome to the School of Law, University of Limerick’s first International Newsletter. As you will no doubt reflect on perusing the bulletin, the extent of international engagement within the School of Law in the past 12 months is extremely impressive.

In addition to the School’s involvement in a number of large scale international research collaborations (supported by Horizon 2020 and European Commission funding) (p3), the School has also boosted its international profile by hosting numerous visiting academic researchers and practitioners: from the USA to China; from the UK to Brazil; from Poland to New Zealand (pp4-6). Many more international visitors attended international events hosted by the School of Law (p8) while UL Law faculty also presented their research around the world in prestigious institutions including Harvard University, the University of Oxford and the University of Zagreb (p7).

Elsewhere, the School of Law has welcomed an ever increasing cohort of international students to our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes from countries including Brazil, Canada, South Africa, USA, France, China and Nigeria (pp10-12). We have, moreover, supported our own School of Law students through generous scholarships to undertake international study and prestigious work placements in North America and China—not to mention, through the work of co-ordinator Dr Andrea Ryan, also continuing to run an extensive Erasmus programme each year. The value of these experiences for both incoming and outgoing students is vividly captured in the testimonials produced below (pp 10-15).

As we look towards 2017, we aim to further extend our international engagement and remain at the forefront of internationalisation efforts at the University of Limerick.

We look forward to working with you.

Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan
Director of International Education, School of Law,
University of Limerick, Ireland
The engagement of School of Law faculty in European collaborative networks has continued to grow. Members of the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies (Dr Andrea Ryan, Dr Susan Leahy and Professor Shane Kilcommins) are engaged in a collaborative project focusing on victim’s rights with institutions from Greece, Bulgaria, Estonia, Cyprus, Italy and Austria. The project is being implemented by the Centre for European Constitutional Law, Athens.

Investigators at the School of Law and Kemmy Business School (including Professor Ray Friel) are contributing to a major international collaboration conducting joint industry-academic research as part of two successful H2020 consortia. The projects involve 17 academic and industrial partners across 7 EU Member States including, among others, the University of Technology, Eindhoven, the Netherlands; Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany; and the French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development and Networks.

Jennifer Schweppe, School of Law and co-Director of the Hate & Hostility Research Group at UL is also currently collaborating in a project with institutions from 5 EU Member States—including the University of Sussex, UK; In Iustitia, Czech Republic; the Latvian Centre for Human Rights; and Umeå Universitet, Sweden—focused on the application of criminal laws and sentencing provisions for hate crime. The project is supported by the European Union Directorate-General (Justice) under its Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.
The School of Law has welcomed a host of international speakers to UL across 2016. The IP Café, delivered by the International Commercial and Economic Law Group (ICEL), was delighted to host a number of internationally respected speakers including Prof. Jeffrey Maine of the University of Maine School of Law and Prof. Susan Richey from the University of New Hampshire School of Law.

From a Criminal Law and Policing perspective, the School also saw papers from Prof. Robert Bloom (Boston College), Prof. Ben Trachtenberg (University of Missouri), Dr. Witold Zontek (Jagiellonian University in Krakow) and Prof. Peter Kraska (Eastern Kentucky University).

Elsewhere, an evening seminar dedicated to Sports Law saw the School host Prof. Ian Blackshaw, an international sports lawyer and arbitrator in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Prof. Blackshaw, along with David Barniville SC considered the nature of sports and the law.

Student-Centered Events: A typical International Careers with Law

⇒ International journalist Razan Ibraheem spoke to students undertaking Media Law at the School of Law. Razan spoke of her work with Storyful and her work on verifying video content from her native Syria for the company.

⇒ Sheila Agnew an Irish/American author and lawyer (formerly of Arthur Cox in Dublin, Slaughter and May in London and Freehills in Sydney) presented to a lunchtime seminar to undergraduate and postgraduate law students on ‘Lessons in Career Building’.
The School of Law also boasts a number of visiting researchers who represent an important addition to the School of Law.

**Professor William J. Murphy** is a Professor of Law, Chair of Commerce and Technology Graduate Programs and Director of the Institute for Commerce and Technology Law at the University of New Hampshire, Concord, USA. Professor Murphy is a graduate of Denison University, Dickinson School of Law and Harvard Graduate School of Business where he was awarded a Master's Degree and, subsequently, Doctorate in Business Administration. Professor Murphy has authored and co-authored books including *R&D Cooperation among Marketplace Competitors*.

---

**Professor Carol Daugherty Rasnic** is Professor Emerita of Business Law, Labor Law and International Law, Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a five-time Fulbright Professor of Law and was a recipient of the Professor Sir Neil MacCormick Fellowship for research at the University of Edinburgh School of Law in 2012. Professor Rasnic is the author of three books and over 150 law journal articles, book reviews, or monographs.

---

**Dr Li Jianjiang** is an Associate Professor of Legal History, Western Legal Theory and Comparative Law within the Law Department at Henan Polytechnic University (HPU), China. Before joining HPU, Dr. Li graduated with a Ph.D. in Law from the Chinese Academy of Social Science, the highest research organization in the fields of philosophy and social science in China. Dr. Li is author of *A study on Maritime Law in modern times of China* and co-author of *A Comparative Research of Sino-Canadian Intellectual Property Law*.

---

**Professor Luiz Geraldo do Carmo Gomes** is a Professor of Brazilian Law at UniCesumar – Centro Universitário Cesumar, Brazil. Luiz’s research interests lie in the areas of Sexuality, Bioethics and Personality Rights. In 2016, Mr. Gomes became a member of IDB (Law and Bioethics Institute) and IBDFAM (Brazilian Institute of Family Law) where he acts as Second Vice-President of the Academic Relationships.
International Practitioner Engagement 2016
School of Law welcomes international legal practitioners

SCHOOL OF LAW HOSTS ‘MAKING A MURDERER’ S DEAN STRANG

Attorney Dean Strang who featured in the Netflix documentary series Making a Murderer discussed the series & his legal career to date at an event in University Concert Hall, Limerick, on Monday, September 26th. The event, which involved a Q&A with Prof. Kilcommins, School of Law, was organised by the UL Law Society. Mr. Strang currently works as an attorney in Wisconsin with Strang Bradley Trial Lawyers and has taught in the University of Wisconsin since 2008.

IABA Northern California

The School of Law was delighted to host Mr Jim Weixel, Vice President of the Irish American Bar Association of Northern California, to discuss plans for future co-operation between the legal community in Northern California and the School of Law, UL.
Throughout the year, School of Law faculty attended and presented their research at a range of prestigious international conferences in Europe and North America. Selected presentations include:

⇒ Professor Shane Kilcommins was invited to attend and present at the 2016 Public Safety Summit in Harvard University.

⇒ Dr Susan Leahy and Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan delivered a joint paper on ‘Muslim Marriage in Ireland’ at the Society of Legal Scholars Annual Conference in St Catherine’s College, University of Oxford.

⇒ Dr. John Lombard presented a paper at the 30th European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care. The conference was hosted by the University of Zagreb, Croatia. John’s paper was entitled ‘The Recognition of a Right to Palliative Sedation’.

⇒ Laura Donnellan presented at the inaugural Polish Scientific Network of Sports Law. The Conference was held at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

⇒ Professor Kilcommins and Dr Eimear Spain presented papers on a prisoner’s right to vote in Ireland in both Moscow and London as part of a series of conferences supported by the PluriCourts Project and the Council of Europe.

⇒ Professor Shane Kilcommins presented at the Polish Disability Forum in Warsaw, Poland.

⇒ Professor Ray Friel delivered a paper on Anglo-American Insurance Law Terminology at the Technological University of Cologne.

⇒ Dr. Andrea Ryan was invited to present her research at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London. The seminar was entitled ‘Domestic Violence In European Criminal Law’. 
Experts on hate crime from around the world gathered at the University of Limerick in May for the Biennial Conference of the International Network for Hate Studies. Hosted by the Hate and Hostility Research Group, the only centre in Ireland dedicated to the exploration and understanding of hate crime, the conference hosted delegates from all over Europe, North America and Africa. Jennifer Schwepppe of the School of Law is a co-Director of the Network.

Drones: Coming to the sky near you

The School of Law recently hosted a fascinating conference considering the legal and ethical implications of increased drone usage. The conference attracted a number of key international speakers including Professor Laura Dickinson, George Washington University Law School, Washington DC, USA; Attorney Paul Remus of Devine Millimet Attorneys at Law, Manchester, New Hampshire; and Professor William Murphy, University of New Hampshire, Law School.

Labour Law in the 21st Century

A conference, entitled ‘Labour Law in the 21st Century’ was also hosted by the School of Law. The conference dealt with the increasing challenges facing employees and employers since the financial crisis. The attending international panel of experts came from Ireland, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Germany and the USA and this was matched by the international list of those attending. The conference, which was organised by Professor Ray Friel, was closed by former Chief Justice Ronan Keane.
A number of members of the School of Law contributed to various workshops as part of the Women’s Legal Landmarks project in the UK. Dr. Susan Leahy attended a workshop at the University of Bristol where she presented her research on the abolition of the marital rape exemption in Irish law. An edited collection arising from the international project will be published by Hart Publishing in 2017. The collection is edited by Professor Rosemary Auchmuty (University of Reading) and Professor Ericka Rackley (Birmingham Law School).

The School of Law hosted a collaborative Criminal Law Pedagogy Workshop in UL with Prof. Kris Gledhill of Auckland University of Technology. The workshop built on the well-established relationship between the School and Prof. Gledhill with a co-authored text on Criminal Law pedagogy — involving several members of the School of Law, UL, and Prof Gledhill — due for publication in 2017.

Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan, School of Law, was recently invited to act as a Corresponding Member of the Cambridge Family Law Centre – a new research centre of excellence for research and teaching in all aspects of family law and policy housed in the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge.
The School of Law was delighted to welcome Summer School students to UL from the United States of America and Germany. As part of the University's Summer School Programme 2016, the School welcomed 14 students participating on three Law summer schools which form part of the Summer Schools in Irish Studies: Law in Ireland; Terrorism, Crime and Justice; and Historical Perspectives of Justice in Ireland: Fold-Devils, Fornicators and Families.

“Although only three weeks, the course added so much to my understanding of Irish traditions and history and made me appreciate them even more.”

2016 also saw the continuation of the highly successful University of Kansas Summer Law School at UL. Each year, in the month of July, law students at KU in Lawrence, KS spend three weeks in Ireland being taught by US and UL faculty. To date over 100 US law students have visited UL under this programme. This year, Professor Laura Hines from KU taught Comparative International Civil Procedure while from UL, Prof. Ray Friel taught two modules.

Prof. Friel, who is currently completing a major work on Irish Insurance Law, was also selected by faculty at TH Koln to contribute to a German Summer School in English Insurance Law being delivered at the University of Limerick. The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law at TH Koln is one of the largest faculties of business and economics in Germany and Prof. Friel delivered lectures to a class of nearly 30 LLM students.
Each year the School of Law is delighted to welcome a large number of international and Erasmus students to its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. This year we welcomed students from a range of countries including Saudi Arabia, China, South Africa, India, Nigeria, Brazil and France.

“My name is Pierre Sylvestre and I have had the most unexpected journey through my studies at the School of Law in the University of Limerick, Ireland – It is hard to know where to begin there have been so many unforgettable moments! From the very beginning, I was amazed by this huge campus, peaceful space of study and entertainment along the Shannon River – not to mention the very helpful and warm-welcoming staff. It is so important to know that people (from students to teachers) are here to make you feel as well as possible.

After a successful Erasmus year at the School of Law, I did not need any other motivation to pursue my adventure in such a good company. I was very glad to announce to my family and friends that I intended to stay in UL in order to study for an LLM in International Commercial Law … and that is what I am currently doing! I do not know what life will bring in the next few years, but I do know that I have had some of the best memories from my time in Ireland. Merci UL pour tous ces bons souvenirs!!”

LEGAL ENGLISH WORKSHOPS

For the third year in a row, the School of Law ran a series of Legal English workshops for International/Erasmus students commencing undergraduate and postgraduate study across the autumn/winter semester.

The workshops focus on terminology, legal research, essay writing and exam preparation.
The School of Law has well established links with a number of prominent universities and Law Schools across North America. This semester we welcomed three students from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada (photographed right and below).

MIKE SCHRYVER, University of Victoria, Study Exchange at UL (2016/17)

“My exchange semester at the University of Limerick was a fantastic cultural and academic experience. The courses I took were interesting and enlightening on subjects of which I had little prior knowledge. My professors were engaging and helpful and my classmates were intelligent and welcoming.

Limerick is a lovely up-and-coming city with a storied history, and it is a great, centrally located, base camp for setting out on trips to other parts of Ireland or mainland Europe for a weekend when there is some down time.”

The School of Law was delighted to host a welcome luncheon for our International Post Graduate Students from Saudi Arabia, China, South Africa, India, Nigeria and France.

International postgraduate students photographed with Prof. Shane Kilcommins, School of Law, September 2016.
In addition to welcoming a number of international students to the School of Law, the School also provides a wide range of opportunities for UL Law students to complete international study and internships across Europe, North America and China.

**TEXAS LAW**

**Stephen O’Reilly (Law Plus) Study Abroad 2015/16 – University of Texas School of Law (Austin)**

“Right from the start of my time in Texas it was clear that the US law school experience is quite different to undergraduate law in Ireland. As law is a postgraduate course in the US, the students in my classes tended to be older than myself. The class environment can also be extremely competitive. I took modules focusing in Capital Punishment, Constitutional Law, International Law and Employment Law and there was a huge emphasis on class discussions. Most students did not hesitate in voicing their opinions - sometimes criticising those of other class members. This was a challenging but, nevertheless, enjoyable environment in which to study.

Outside of class there was plenty to do as well, such as training with the local GAA club on Saturday mornings. One of my favourite parts of the exchange experience was the opportunity to travel. Splitting the costs of a beaten up old truck with a friend, I tried to see as much of Texas as possible. Despite the fact that Texas is roughly the same size as France, I managed to see all the major cities, the Chihuahuan Desert in West Texas, the Gulf Coast and much more.

While I arrived in Austin not really knowing what to expect, I would recommend the University of Texas to anyone considering a semester abroad – UT Law is a top US law school & Texas is a unique state with plenty to see and do.”
Radboud University

Amy Beck (Law Plus) Erasmus 2016 – Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

“I am now three weeks into my Erasmus. It has probably been three of the hardest weeks of my life. It is a very different set up here to in UL. The lectures here are structured more like a secondary school class with small numbers and a more intimate classroom set up. Here we don’t just have one lecturer either. The lecture’s theme for the week determines who teaches it. What is nice is I have been able to spend some time with my housemates and also explore the city. I have also been able to get used to cycling, have visited different Dutch cities and so far have put Madrid, Brussels and Paris are on the bucket list!!

UL has a great reputation over here with international students some I have met even applied to UL for their Erasmus but were unsuccessful. With classes getting more intense as the time goes on here, I am excited to see what else I will experience during my time on Erasmus and hope I will come back to UL in September ready for whatever fourth year brings!”

Aileen Fitzmaurice, Roisin O’Brien and Eoin O’Riordan – Sichuan University Immersion Programme 2016, China

“In July we travelled to Chengdu, in Southwest China to partake in the two week University Immersion Programme hosted by Sichuan University. We studied International Perspectives of Medical Law for one week of the programme, delivered by Dr Eimear Spain, School of Law, UL. Although there was a language barrier, the enthusiasm for learning displayed by the students of Sichuan University made every lecture more enjoyable. We were also invited to attend a number of seminars in the Law School. The other students were fascinated to learn about the Irish legal system and we grasped an understanding of how the Chinese legal system operates. The kindness displayed by the Law School of Sichuan University and their students was remarkable.

During the second week we decided to travel around the region, accompanied by students from the Sichuan University. Various culture tours were organised including a trip to the National Panda Breeding Base and the Jinsha Museum. We were fortunate enough to visit the Leshan Giant Buddha along with other international students and spend time in Leshan city. This programme was a fantastic experience that enabled us to learn about law from an international perspective along with experiencing Chinese culture. It is a very worthwhile programme and an experience which we would definitely recommend and are very fortunate to have participated in”.

14
Alan McCabe (Law Plus) - LA Externship 2016

“

I extend my gratitude to both the University of Limerick School of Law and the Irish American Bar Association (IABA) for sponsoring, through joint-scholarships, my recent externship to Los Angeles, California. I spent 3 months working both in State Court in LA County and in the United States Courthouse for the Central District of California. This externship was the obvious next step in broadening the horizons of my legal education by presenting me with the opportunity to understand the workings of the judicial decision-making and enforcement processes.

My learning derived principally from the two-and-a-half-month placement with the Federal Court where I engaged heavily in research encompassing Intellectual Property and Class-Action Procedure to name but a few. My role in legal research and writing bench memorandums and review and recommendations to the judges gave me the responsibility of guiding actual legal disputes through assisting the judges on a consultative basis. This opportunity allowed me to work with fellow students from law schools all over America and to participate in social and networking events organised by the IABA which allowed me to gain an interesting perspective by legal professionals at all levels. I would recommend this externship to any law student who is serious in developing their appreciation of law and who strive to be well-rounded attorneys in the future.”

Sean Beatty (Law Plus) – CCRC Asia Legal Internship in China 2016

“

I was fortunate this year to receive scholarship funding from the UL School of Law to travel to Shanghai, China and carry out a two month legal internship in Shanghai with CRCC Asia. Having identified law as the area I would like to work in, CRCC placed me with River Delta Law Firm (RDL) which specialises in Chinese employment law and is the largest employment law firm in China. My team was involved in catering to the firm’s international client base and expanding the firm’s international image. I was very often assigned the task of proofreading items written in English such as emails, contracts, billing timesheets and articles and book chapters being prepared for publication. I was also asked to write an article for the firm’s website and spoke twice at the firm’s “Seminars in Comparative Labour Law”. Additionally, I had a role in the initial drafting of certain contracts, where I was free to draft new clauses if I felt they were warranted.

Living in Shanghai with the other CRCC interns was fantastic. It was rare that a day passed where I did not see or experience something new. I also found that opportunities to learn presented themselves frequently. From overcoming the language barrier at work and adapting to Chinese business culture, to exploring an enormous city and meeting people from every corner of the world, my internship proved to be an outstanding experience and one which I know I will draw on over the coming years.”
Former Graduates Share International Success

Graduate wins US scholarship

Raymond Holian, a recent graduate of Law and Accounting at UL, is the 2016 recipient of the Rev. John M. Conlisk Irish Scholarship. The prestigious scholarship, awarded annually to a graduate student from Ireland pursing Masters study in the US, will support Raymond as he pursues an MBA in Finance at Fairfield University, Connecticut.

Graduate finalist in UK competition

UL Law graduate, Claire Carroll, was a finalist in this year’s The Times/Kingsley Napsley Student Advocacy Competition. Claire was among 4 finalists who showed off their advocacy skills in the UK competition in front of a panel of judges chaired by Lady Justice Rafferty, the senior judge of the Court of Appeal.

Graduate climbs Mt. Everest!

Limerick man Robert Mortell, a recent graduate of the BA in Law and Accounting, has become the youngest Irish person ever to reach the summit of Everest. Robert, aged 26, currently works for KMPG in Dublin.
Additional Information

For more information or general queries please visit http://ulsites.ul.ie/law/ or contact Dr. Kathryn O’Sullivan (Kathryn.osullivan@ul.ie)

For Erasmus queries, please contact our Erasmus Coordinator Dr. Andrea Ryan (Andrea.Ryan@ul.ie)