Dear friends and colleagues,

I very much hope that you enjoy the second edition of our UL School of Law Newsletter. As always, I am very grateful to Dr Laura Cahillane for coordinating its production, and for presenting us with such a splendid publication.

The 2015/16 academic year has been another very busy year. The School has been a hub of scholarly exchange. This is evident in the numerous national/ international conferences, cpd events, seminars and workshops that have been organised over the year. These included excellent conferences on victims’ rights, wills, drones, labour law and hate crime. The IP Law Café was another great success this year, permitting business people, scientists, engineers, accountants, lawyers, tax specialists, HR personnel and others, to both learn about the changing IP environment. All of these interactions have permitted us to welcome a wonderful range of speakers to UL including Katherine Zappone TD, former Chief Justice Ronan Keane, the Hon. Mr Justice John Edwards, Garda Commissioner Noirín O’Sullivan, The Hon. Mr Justice Robert Eager, Ms, Joan Deane (AdVic), the Hon Mr. Justice Donald Binchy, Prof Liz Heffernan (TCD), Dr Noelle Higgins (NUIM), Prof Bob Clark (Arthur Cox), Kate Harnett (William Fry Solicitors) Eithne McCarthy (Deputy Director of the Competition and Markets Authority), Senator Aodhán Ó Riordáin, Stephen O’Hare, (ICCL), Teresa Pilkington SC, and Paula Fallon, Solicitor. There was also a very strong international dimension to these visits including speakers such as Prof William Murphy (University of New Hampshire), Prof Jeff Maine (University of Maine), Judge Susan M. Richey (US Trademark Trials and Appeal Board) Prof Ben Trachtenberg (University of Missouri), Salome Mbugua, (Honorary President and Founder of AkiDwA), Prof Gail Mason (University of Sydney), Dr Stephanos Stavros (Council of Europe) Prof Matthew Hall (University of Lincoln), and Prof Joanthan Doak (University of Durham). We were also delighted to host Dr Li Jianjiang, Henan Polytechnic University (HPU) China, as a visiting researcher. The School also ran five very successful international summer schools.

There has also been excellent engagement with stakeholders. In October, for example, the School of Law and the Glucksman Library launched a special initiative to encourage local solicitors and barristers to become members of the University Library and make use of the Law Library facilities. Ray Friel, Director of Research at the Law School was recently appointed Editor in Chief of the Judicial Studies Journal.
More recently, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone TD launched a new research programme at the School of Law to help improve the effectiveness of the youth justice system in Ireland. We also continue to accredit level seven and nine programmes with An Garda Síochána.

All of our staff have also been very research active, with excellent publication outputs. New books in the School this year include The Globalization of Hate: Internationalizing Hate Crime (Jennifer Schweppe); Drafting the Irish Free State Constitution (Dr Laura Cahillane); Legal Research Methods: Principles and Practicalities (Dr Laura Cahillane and Jennifer Schweppe); and Competition Law in Ireland (Sinead Eaton). We have also been very active in funding bids and have been successful in numerous tendering bids including H2020, EU DG, IRC, and for government departments. We have a vibrant PhD and post-doctoral community in the School of Law comprising 25 researchers working on many different areas of law. Many of our researchers are funded by scholarships from the School of Law, the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and by the Irish Research Council.

The School also did a lot of work with secondary school students in the region, and our Law for a Day initiative proved to be immensely popular. Our students have also performed very well this year. They continue to make us proud in their clinical experiences with employers. They also impressed in the A & L Goodbody and Cambridge mooting competitions, in internships with the Irish Superior Courts, in immersion and clinical programmes in Sichuan and Los Angeles, and in Erasmus and North American exchanges. Congratulations also to Robert Mortell, a graduate of the BA in Law and Accounting, who has become the youngest Irish person at age 26 to reach the summit of Everest. Robert now works with KPMG in Dublin.

We have made three new lecturing and teaching appointments - Dr Lydia Bracken, Dr Catriona Moloney, and Dr Stephen Brittain. Dr Sean Redmond, a government official with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs has joined the school on a three year secondment. Sean will lead a new initiative to improve the evidence base for policy and programme decision making in the area of youth crime. We have also recently appointed two new Adjunct Professors, Dr Hamish Lai and Ellen O’Malley Dunlop, and Emeritus Professor John CW Wylie was recently conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Limerick in recognition of his valuable contribution to land law reform in Ireland.

Warm wishes

Shane Kilcommins
Professor, Head of School

Our students have also performed very well this year. They continue to make us proud in their clinical experiences with employers.
The School of Law held many exciting events this year from international conferences to seminars and distinguished lectures. Some of the highlights are included below.

www.ul.ie/law

Events in the School of Law

‘Victims’ Rights: An Agenda for Change’ organised by Dr. Susan Leahy and Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald-O’Reilly, was held at the University of Limerick in September 2015. The conference was timely in light of the impending implementation of the Victims’ Rights Directive in Ireland in November.

The event was a great success and was attended by over 100 delegates including representatives from key criminal justice stakeholders such as An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service, the judiciary and representatives from victims’ rights organisations. Keynote speakers at the conference included: Garda Commissioner, Ms. Noirin O’Sullivan, The Honourable Mr Justice Robert Eagar, Professor Matthew Hall, Professor Jonathan Doak, Ms, Joan Deane (AdVic) and Ms. Ellen O’Malley-Dunlop (Dublin Rape Crisis Centre).

The conference closed with the launch of Centre for Crime Justice and Victim Studies which aims to build upon the important research conducted in the area of victims’ rights within the School of Law.
Seminar on Wills: Mental Capacity Issues

In April, Dr Una Woods and the School of Law hosted a very successful Seminar on Wills: Mental Capacity Issues. Teresa Pilkington SC delivered a paper on Testamentary Capacity and Paula Fallon, Solicitor, delivered a paper on Making Testamentary Provision for Vulnerable Adults.

International Network for Hate Studies Conference at the University of Limerick

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. Exploring its theme, ‘The Politics of Hate: Community Societal and Global Responses’, were practitioners including police officers, academics, and members of civil society organisations. Jennifer Schweppe of the School of Law is a co-Director of the Network.

The conference explored the prevalence and impact of hate crime as well as understanding how to address it at a national and global level. 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.

Plenary papers were delivered by:
- Dr Stephanos Stavros, Advisor to the Special Representative on Migration and Refugees of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- Salome Mbugua, Honorary President and Founder of AkiDwa;
- Professor Gail Mason, Sydney Law School
- Senator Aodhán Ó Ríordáin;
- Stephen O’Hare, Irish Council for Civil Liberties;
- Amanda Haynes and Jennifer Schweppe, Hate and Hostility Research Group;
- Dr Lucy Smith, Health Service Executive;
- Professor Paul Iganski, Lancaster University;
- Dr William Murphy, University of New Hampshire
- Paul Remus, patent attorney in Manchester, New Hampshire.

On October 17, 2015, the Law School hosted a fascinating conference: ‘Drones: Coming to the sky near you! Legal and ethical implications for increased drone usage.’

Following on from the conference, an academic module on ‘Advanced Lawyering: Legal challenges facing drone usage’ was introduced, which built on the material and ideas presented at the conference. It is the first such course in Ireland at University level.

Due to the generosity of two US lawyers, Professor William Murphy from the Law School at the University of New Hampshire and Mr Paul Remus, patent attorney in Manchester, New Hampshire, the Law School has become the proud owner of its very own drone, a DJI Phantom 3 Go Pro worth over €1,000.

Professor Murphy said ‘UL is renowned for the integration of academic research with real world problems and drones represent an exciting but challenging future that Ireland, and UL, has an opportunity to lead the world on.’

Paul Remus notes that ‘We have only begun to touch upon the boundless possibilities that this technology presents and I am delighted to be involved in this innovative programme by donating this state of the art drone.’

Students will be involved in the production of a number of online guides to the use of drones in various contexts, the legal framework within which they should be used and good practice guidelines. The guides will be accessible by the wider public.
Labour Law Conference - School of Law

A conference on Labour Law in the 21st Century was held in November. It 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, which included not only lawyers but business people, HR specialists, and academics investigating the new employment paradigm. The conference, which was organised by Ray Friel, was closed by former Chief Justice Ronan Keane who welcomed the conference’s contribution to this important field.

Launch of University Law Library

In October, the School of Law and the Glucksman Library launched a special initiative to encourage local solicitors and barristers to become members of the University Library and make use of the Law Library facilities. There was a great turnout of local practitioners at the event held in the Popular Reading Room of the Glucksman Library to launch the initiative. Dr Una Woods introduced the Honourable Mr. Justice Donald Binchy who delivered a paper on ‘Current Challenges Facing the Legal Profession’. This was followed by a presentation on digital legal resources and a Library orientation tour.
Law for a Day 2016

On Thursday March 31st, the School of Law hosted our Law for a Day Initiative for a second year running. This event aims to give secondary school students a taster of what it is like to study law in UL. Over thirty students from a wide range of schools in the Mid-West region and beyond took part in the day. It was a busy schedule which included attending lectures, partaking in a mock moot session and tours of the campus.

UL School of Law Secondary School Essay Competition Prize Giving

The UL School of Law Secondary School Essay Competition prize giving took place on Wednesday 1st June in the Millstream Common Room. Students were presented with certificates in recognition of the high standard and quality of their essays. Essay titles included: ‘should the law punish hate crimes more harshly than ‘ordinary’ crimes?’, ‘should boxing be declared illegal under the non-fatal offences against the person act 1997?’ and ‘is law necessary in contemporary society?’ Students from Limerick, Tipperary, Galway and Cavan were awarded prizes.

Professor John CW Wylie - Honorary Doctorate of Laws

On April 28th, Emeritus Professor John CW Wylie was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Limerick in recognition of his valuable contribution to land law reform in Ireland, in particular his role in drafting the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009. Professor Wylie’s books on land law, conveyancing law and landlord and tenant law form the backbone of practitioner libraries across Ireland and have acquired near-biblical status. In 2005 he co-authored the third edition of Irish Conveyancing Law with Dr Una Woods of the School of Law and they will soon be co-authoring a fourth edition.

Law for a Day 2016

On Thursday March 31st, the School of Law hosted our Law for a Day Initiative for a second year running. This event aims to give secondary school students a taster of what it is like to study law in UL. Over thirty students from a wide range of schools in the Mid-West region and beyond took part in the day. It was a busy schedule which included attending lectures, partaking in a mock moot session and tours of the campus.
On 22 September 2016, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone TD launched a new research programme in University of Limerick to help improve the effectiveness of the youth justice system in Ireland.

The Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) programme, funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, is a joint initiative with the School of Law, University of Limerick. It will undertake research and evaluations and bring together international expert opinion to practically apply evidence across the youth justice system in both community and detention settings. One of the first research studies undertaken by the programme relates to the involvement of children in locally based adult criminal networks.

The REPPP programme will be led by Dr Sean Redmond who has more than two decades of experience in the area of youth justice and child welfare and he will be supported directly by a range of academic expertise within the University of Limerick.
EU Horizon 2020 Funding for Ray Friel

In an era of unparalleled advances in science, combined with the innovative use of new and existing technologies, society is struggling to provide the necessary legal frameworks for the future. Ray Friel is at the forefront in finding solutions to these problems, linking the future development of the law with new scientific advances and the consequent social changes that are emerging. Recently, in collaboration with colleagues from KBS, he was part of one of the first major successes by UL in the EU Horizon 2020 programme. The CLOUD-LSVA project was awarded over €4 million for a multi-disciplinary proposal to develop advanced driver safety technology as an intermediate step towards autonomous vehicles. Ray will contribute to the project through researching and developing the law surrounding this new technology in a global context. He is also engaged in cutting edge legal research on the implications of commercialising other technological innovations such as Drones, 3D printing and data manipulation.

Ray commented: ‘What’s really exciting about working in UL is the ability to work with colleagues in the Law School, and in other Faculties, who share that passion about breaking the traditional constraints on research and who are committed to working together in the context of pursuing legal research on real problems for the real world. My research, mirroring the ethos of UL, is about a holistic approach that talks to integration not segregation, to opening minds not compartmentalising them.’
IP Law Café: Challenges of managing Intellectual Property tackled at unique IP Law Workshop Series

The IP Law Café was a new venture created last year by Ray Friel. He gives a flavour of what it is about here:

If Ireland is to truly create a 21st century economy it is going to have to effectively manage a national IP policy. Changes in both technology and the legal framework will create a radically new environment for which both government and industry appear unprepared. Most businesses are often unaware of the true extent of the IP assets they own and simply do not know or understand the complete spectrum of tools available to protect and exploit those IP assets to the full. Accordingly they are quite literally losing millions of euros in unseen asset potential.

The IP Law Café, established by ICEL at the School of Law, is an attempt to bring together everyone interested in IP issues, including business people, scientists, engineers, accountants, lawyers, tax specialists, HR personnel and others, to both learn about the changing IP environment and to start the conversation on a new and radical unified approach to IP management.

The free monthly workshop and networking series began on the 17th September 2015 and continues monthly except for July and August. It includes speakers such as Emeritus Professor Bob Clark from Arthur Cox on Digital Rights in the EU Professor William Murphy from the School of Law at the University of New Hampshire on Patent Valuation, Professor Jeff Maine from the University of Maine on the international taxation of IP, Kate Harnett from William Fry Solicitors and Judge Susan M. Richey from the US Trademark Trials and Appeal Board among others.

The series has been organised by the Raymond J Friel, Director of the International Commercial and Economic Law Research Group at the School of Law. For further information please email raymond.friel@ul.ie

Raymond J Friel Appointed Editor in Chief of the Judicial Studies Journal

Ray Friel, Director of Research at the Law School was recently appointed Editor in Chief of the Judicial Studies Journal. The Judicial Studies Institute of the Courts has the primary responsibility for publishing this prestigious journal which is read by the judiciary, legal practitioners and academics from around the world.

The Journal will be published annually and may also include additional themed special editions as required.

Hate and Hostility Research Group Report

On 13th of July, Mark Kelly, Executive Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties launched the HHRG report Out of the Shadows: Preliminary Findings. This document outlines the findings and initial conclusions of a ten month project to investigate the adequacy of the Irish criminal justice system with respect to combatting hate crimes. The report finds that the hate element of crime is effectively ‘disappeared’ at multiple points in the criminal justice process. The research was commissioned by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and supported by the NGO Working Group on Hate Crime. Speaking at the Launch, Mark Kelly stated that the report ‘concludes that there is an urgent need to tackle the problem through introduction of robust modern legislation that creates dedicated criminal offences and enhanced sentencing for hate-motivated crime, and introduces better reporting and recording of incidents of hate crime.’ The launch introduced draft Heads of a Bill, under which crimes against the person, property, sexual offences and public order offences would be treated as ‘hate’ crimes when motivated by bias on a range of grounds, including ‘race’, colour, ethnic origin, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and disability.

Professor Shane Kilcommins Inaugural Lecture

In February, Professor Shane Kilcommins gave his inaugural lecture, entitled The Victim in the Irish Criminal Process. It discussed the different ways in which the criminal process has known the victim over time as society has moved from an exculpatory to an inculpatory model of justice.
**The Globalization of Hate: Internationalizing Hate Crime?**

Edited by Jennifer Schweppe and Mark Austin Walters

This is the first book to examine the impact of globalization on our understanding of hate speech and hate crime. It provides international perspectives on hate crime through a range of interdisciplinary chapters, with contributions from scholars, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners.

**Drafting the Irish Free State Constitution**

Dr Laura Cahillane’s new book Drafting the Irish Free State Constitution, was published by Manchester University Press in July.

The book challenges the myths surrounding the Irish Free Constitution by analysing the document in its proper historical context, by looking at how the Constitution was drafted and elucidating the true nature of the document. As well as giving a comprehensive account of the drafting stages and an analysis of the three alternative drafts for the first time, the book considers the intellectual influences behind the Constitution and the central themes of the document. This work constitutes a new look at this historic document through a legal lens.

Mr Justice Gerard Hogan, who wrote the foreword for the book, commented that the book: ‘offers the first comprehensive analysis of the drafting of the 1922 Constitution and its aftermath. It is elegantly written by one of the finest constitutional scholars of her generation, Dr. Laura Cahillane. Dr. Cahillane’s work is sure to be the definitive account of a fascinating and hugely important period in Irish constitutional history. Every page of this book shows the meticulous scholarship and measured insights of a constitutional lawyer and historian of the highest possible standing. We all owe Dr. Cahillane a huge debt of gratitude for providing us with such an engaging and impressive work which will make a further enormous contribution to our understanding of contemporary constitutional law and history.’
Competition Law In Ireland

‘Competition Law in Ireland’, written by Sinead Eaton of the School of Law and Pat O’Brien of Arthur Cox solicitors and was published in October 2015 by Wolters Kluwer as part of the international Encyclopedia of Laws. This practical analysis of competition law and its interpretation in Ireland covers every aspect of the subject – the various forms of restrictive agreements and abuse of dominance prohibited by law and the rules on merger control; administrative investigation and enforcement procedures; civil remedies and criminal penalties; and raising challenges to administrative decisions. Lawyers who handle transnational commercial transactions will appreciate the explanation of fundamental differences in procedure from one legal system to another, as well as the international aspects of competition law.

Legal Research Methods: Principles and Practicalities

Legal Research Methods: Principles and Practicalities, edited by Dr Laura Cahillane and Jennifer Schweppe was recently published by Clarus Press. The collection includes contributions from the foremost legal experts in Ireland on various aspects of legal research. Traditionally, law students have not been taught legal methods or methodologies as part of the core curriculum, and this text aims to introduce students to some of the key themes and concepts they will need to articulate their methodology. Legal Research Methods: Principles and Practicalities is thus tailored to the needs of legal researchers in examining varying methodological approaches from a practical perspective. In addition to the principal approaches now commonly used in legal research (the doctrinal method; the socio-legal method; the historical method; the comparative method) issues such as participatory and community-based research, as well as empirical methods, are examined by leading experts in their fields in a critical but clear manner. This book outlines the various methods, with authors drawing on their own experiences and expertise, as well as examining the benefits and pitfalls involved with each method.
Visitors and Guest Lectures

Distinguished lectures are scheduled throughout the academic year for the benefit of faculty and students and feature invited scholars, members of the Judiciary and renowned practitioners who represent the complete spectrum of the legal system. This also allows faculty from other law schools and interdisciplinary scholars to engage with UL faculty and students to discuss research in progress and develop networking opportunities.

On Thursday 19th November, Professor Liz Heffernan, Trinity College Dublin School of Law, delivered a guest lecture entitled ‘Calibrating the Right to Confrontation in Criminal Trials.’ On Thursday 10th March the Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies in the School of Law was delighted to welcome Dr Noelle Higgins from NUI Maynooth Department of Law who delivered a guest lecture entitled ‘Individual Criminal Responsibility for Attacks on Cultural Property: The Case of Al Faqi al Mahdi’.

In March, Professor Ben Trachtenberg from the University of Missouri School of Law faculty gave a lecture on ‘The power of prosecutors and the struggle for criminal justice reform in America.’

Eithne McCarthy, Deputy Director of the Competition and Markets Authority in the UK delivered a fascinating guest lecture at the School of Law in April. Eithne’s lecture was on Cartels and provided very useful insights into the work of the UK Authority.

The Hon. Mr Justice John Edwards delivered two guest lectures; one in March on the topic of ‘Sentencing Guidelines’ and recent case law on the ‘European Arrest Warrant’ and another in April which focused on the discretionary aspects of the sentencing process using a case/discussion format.

The School of Law was delighted to welcome Dr Li Jianjiang as a visiting researcher from March-July 2016. Dr Li is an associate professor of legal history, Western legal theory and comparative law within the Law Department at Henan Polytechnic University (HPU), China.
Staff Publications

Books


Edited Books


Journal Articles


Chapters


Cahillane, L, 'Methods and Methodologies in Legal Research: Framing the Context' (with Schweppe), in Legal Research Methods: Principles and Practicalities, Clarus 2016.


Eddie Keane: 'Shush! Keeping Client Information Confidential’. (2016) 23 (2) Commercial Law Practitioner, 42


Kathryn O’Sullivan: ‘Rethinking Ancillary Relief on Divorce in Ireland: The Challenges and Opportunities’ (2016) 36(1) Legal Studies 111-135


Kathryn O’Sullivan: ‘Putting the cart before the horse? The Arbitration and Media Services Bill’ (with L. Jackson) (2016) Family Law 82-85


**Media**

Cahillane, L: The President, Public Statements and Political Controversies, June 2016 www.constitutionproject.ie


Kathryn O’Sullivan: 'Law must be updated to protect vulnerable surviving spouses’ Irish Times (Dec 18th, 2015)

Kathryn O’Sullivan: ‘Property owners and drone users vie for rights to the sky’ Irish Times (Nov 13th, 2015)


**Conference Papers**

Cahillane, L: Democratic experimentation in the 1922 Constitution; Law, Revolution and Sovereignty Conference, NUIG 2016.

John Lombard: ‘The Recognition of a Right to Palliative Sedation: A Comparison of Scotland, the Netherlands, and France’ European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care, 17-20 August 2016, University of Zagreb


Kilcommins, S (2016) ‘The Public Safety Summit; growing capacity and legitimacy’ Harvard University, 29thApril, 2016-May 1, 2016


Dr Stephen Brittain

Dr Stephen Brittain was appointed as a Teaching Assistant. He is a first class honours graduate of Trinity College Dublin (LLB, 2010, PhD, 2015). After completing his undergraduate studies he undertook a doctorate in Trinity under the supervision of Professor Catherine Donnelly, which was entitled ‘The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: an Originalist Analysis,’ and for which he was awarded an IRC Government of Ireland Scholarship. Stephen taught in Trinity College Dublin before joining the School of Law in the University of Limerick. Between 2013 and 2016 Stephen was Judicial Assistant to Mr. Justice David Keane of the High Court of Ireland, where he worked primarily in the areas of family law, chancery, company law, and commercial law. He also provided research support to the editors of De Smith’s Judicial Review (7th edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 2013). Stephen’s primary research interests lie in EU law, constitutional law, human rights law, administrative law, and comparative law, and he has published nationally and internationally in these areas.

Dr Catriona Moloney

Dr Catriona Moloney was appointed a Teaching Assistant post. She lectured at the National University of Ireland Galway. Catriona has an LLM in Public Law and was awarded her PhD entitled, ‘Empowering Children and Young People: An Access to Justice Assessment of Mental Health Law and Policy’. She was awarded a School of Law Scholarship to undertake this research. Catriona was a full-time legal researcher for the Law Reform Commission from 2008-2010. She worked on the Commission’s Statue Law Restatement programme. Catriona was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School’s Project on Disability during the summer of 2013. Her research interests are primarily in the field of public law and policy, in particular issues related to the admission and treatment of children under mental health law. Her research explores the emerging area of access to justice and its application to children through the development of child-friendly justice frameworks. Catriona has published and presented papers in this field. She was appointed to the Board of EPIC (Empowering Young People in Care) in 2014. EPIC advocates at national and local level for the rights of young people in and with care experience.
Dr Lydia Bracken has been appointed as a lecturer in law. She is a graduate of University College Cork (BCL, 2010; LLM, 2011; PhD, 2015) and the Honorable Society of King’s Inns (BL, 2012). Her PhD thesis, which was funded by a Department of Children and Youth Affairs Research Scholarship, examined the implications of the child principle in the context of same-sex parenting in Ireland. Lydia’s research interests lie in the areas of child and family law and European human rights and she has published nationally and internationally in these areas. In particular, Lydia’s research examines the legal recognition of ‘non-traditional’ families and it explores how such recognition can be provided in a manner that respects the rights and interests of children. Before joining the School of Law at the University of Limerick, Lydia acted as principal researcher for the Law Reform Commission’s project on Contempt of Court and Other Offences and Torts involving the Administration of Justice.

Dr Sean Redmond, a government official with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs has joined the school on a three year secondment. Sean will lead a new initiative to improve the evidence base for policy and programme decision making in the area of youth crime. The Research into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) project will sponsor primary research, undertake data analysis and provide evidence reviews to assist policy makers to make better decisions and better investments of tax payers’ investment in programmes for children in trouble with the law.

Speaking about the project Dr Redmond said: “I’m very excited about this opportunity. More and more people rightly expect substance and evidence to inform decision making in key areas like youth crime policy. The University of Limerick was selected to work on this project because of its impressive reputation for delivering high quality and practical research. The School of Law has put together a high calibre support team and I look forward to getting started and working with my new colleagues on the project...”

The School of Law is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Hamish Lal and Ellen O’Malley Dunlop as adjunct professors in the School of Law.

Hamish is a partner in Jones Day, one of the few truly global law firms in the world, with over 41 offices on five continents. Dr Lal ranks Band 1 in Chambers UK and as a leading individual in The Legal 500. He is author of Quantifying and Managing Disruption Claims (second edition due 2016), a member of the Council of the Society of Construction Law since 2006, and editor of the ICE Construction Law Quarterly. He is treasurer of the Adjudication Society. He has a vast range of experience in advising clients in litigation involving hundreds of millions of euros and is committed to both adversarial and non-adversarial resolution of commercial disputes.

Ellen has served as CEO for the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for 9 years. In this role, she has become a highly respected advocate for the rights of victims of sexual violence in this jurisdiction. During her time as CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Ellen has gained a wealth of experience in lobbying government, designing and commissioning research studies and overseeing and publicly presenting national publicity awareness campaigns about sexual violence, such as their highly successful recent #AskConsent campaign. Ellen has also published widely in newspapers about victims’ rights and appears regularly on radio and television broadcasts on this topic.
Staff in the Media

Our staff have contributed to debates on legal issues in the media and have appeared on TV, radio, and have written and commented in various newspapers.
We would like to congratulate all of our students who were awarded for outstanding achievement and who participated in many diverse activities throughout the year. While it is not possible to include details of all of our student successes, a sample is given below:

**Judge Catherine McGuinness Prize 2015 - Lauren Shaw**

Congratulations to Lauren Shaw, 2nd Year Law Plus who was awarded the Judge Catherine McGuinness Prize for 2015. The prize is awarded to the student who achieved the highest combined result in modules Introduction to Lawyering 1 and 2 in the first year of their study.

**Matheson Prize 2015**

Congratulations to Neasa Peters (winner) and Melissa Regan (runner-up) who were both awarded the Matheson Prize 2015. This is awarded to the two students who were awarded the highest grades in Contract Law 1 and 2.
On Wednesday 11th November two of our students, Katie Whyte and Seán Beatty (both 4th year Law Plus students), competed against a team from the University of Cambridge (James McKean and Hanspreet Singh Sachdev) in the annual UL v Cambridge moot court competition. Established since 2014, the competition is a prestigious law moot court which consists of both written and oral rounds, where participants get to represent the different parties of the process. This year’s problem scenario was based on a fictitious case regarding war crimes. This year, UL finished runner-up against the team from Cambridge. The Moot was chaired by Judge Mary Emer Larkin (Judge of the District Court) who was particularly impressed by UL and Cambridge students. Both teams received high praise for their thorough research, preparedness, professionalism, and passion in this challenging competition.

The Law School was delighted to host a recent Holmes O’Malley Sexton Solicitors scholarship prize that was awarded to Therese Madden, a fourth year Law and Accounting student, who achieved the highest QCA results in her final year. The Limerick based firm has for many years now offered a very generous award to the final year law student who begins their final year with the highest marks. Holmes O’Malley Sexton is a leading Irish law firm in a complete range of commercial and personal legal services, who represent local, national and international corporate and private clients. They have a long standing relationship with the Law School, and generously fund scholarship prizes. A very generous prize of €2,500 was presented to Therese by Donal Creaton and Harry Fehilly, partners in the firm. The event was attended by Mr Justice Donald Binchy (High Court), Law School staff, solicitors from Holmes, O’Malley, Sexton, and Therese’s family and friends.

A&L Goodbody Moot Court Grand Final 2016

The Grand Final of the prestigious annual Law School Moot Court competition, kindly sponsored by A&L Goodbody (one of Europe and Ireland’s leading law firms), took place on Thursday afternoon 4th February 2016 in the Law School’s Moot Court Room. This year’s problem scenario was based on a fictitious case regarding the purported illegal use of WI-FI signal. Judge Tom O’Donnell of the Circuit Court presided, with representatives from A&L Goodbody, Aileen Murtagh and Stephen Egan. Judge O’Donnell was particularly impressed by the students who competed in the Grand Final. Both teams received high praise for their professionalism, courtroom etiquette, researching the case law and crafting their arguments, and this showed both in their written submissions and their oral arguments.

Congratulations to the winning team: Katie Whyte and Seán Beatty, and runner-up team: Alan J. McCabe, Stephen Linnane and Yuan Fang Qian. The best speaker award was made to Katie Whyte.
Mason Hayes & Curran, Solicitors – Company Law Prize

Congratulations to Lucy Davis who was awarded the prestigious Mason Hayes and Curran prize for the highest grades in Company Law. Mason Hayes and Curran is an award-winning business law firm providing strategic and commercial legal advice in Ireland. The presentation took place on Friday, 1st July in the offices of Mason Hayes and Curran in Dublin.

Kate Fleming Memorial Competition

The School of Law and Graduate Entry Medical School hosted the 2015/16 Kate Fleming Mediation Competition in Medical Law in April. Sixteen students from law and medicine came together in inter-disciplinary teams to settle a claim of medical negligence in a case involving a patient with cauda equina syndrome. Many congratulations to the members of the winning team: Kirsten Delcellier (Medicine); Meghan Feeney (Medicine); Kelly Ahere (Law); and Aileen Fitzmaurice (Law). The standard of the competition was extremely high in this exciting competition, a fact commented on by the judges: Jack Nicholas (Barrister, Mediator and Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Law); Mary Tumelty (a PhD candidate in the area of mediation in medical negligence); and Eimear Spain (Senior Lecturer in Medical Law). This competition provided a fantastic opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and proved to be an extremely enjoyable event!

In August, The School of Law was delighted to welcome Peter and Kathleen Fleming to the University to present the Kate Fleming Memorial Plate to the winners.

Rob Mortell - Law and Accounting Graduate Climbs Everest

Rob Mortell, a graduate of the BA in Law and Accounting, has become the youngest Irish person at age 26 to reach the summit of Everest. Rob now works with KPMG in Dublin.
Our PhD Community

We have a vibrant PhD community in the School of Law comprising 25 researchers working on many different areas of law. Many of our researchers are funded by scholarships from the School of Law, the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences and by the Irish Research Council.

Mary graduated from the University of Limerick with an LLB in Law plus Irish in 2014. During the course of her undergraduate studies she was accepted to spend a semester abroad in St. Mary’s University, Nova Scotia, Canada. She also completed work placements with both Rannóg an Aistriúcháin in the Houses of the Oireachtas, and the Medical Negligence Unit, Legal Aid Board.

Mary is completing her PhD under the co-supervision of Dr Eimear Spain, Ms Jennifer Schwepppe and Mr. Eoin Quill. Her thesis is entitled ‘The spiralling costs, time delays and emotional burdens of medical negligence actions: exploring mediation as a means of ameliorating problems with traditional litigation.’ In 2014, she was awarded a scholarship by the Research Cluster for Contemporary Understanding of Emotions in Society group at the School of Law to pursue this research. The thesis takes a socio-legal methodological approach, in which the impact of the laws operationalisation on both plaintiffs and medical practitioners involved in medical negligence litigation is investigated. The thesis also examines the interaction of the legal profession with mediation and explores potential options for reform. In conducting this research Mary has worked with legal practitioners, patient support groups and doctor bodies to triangulate perspectives on the current legislative framework. It is envisaged that in this way, the research will contribute to the Irish legal community’s debate on mediation practices in medical negligence disputes.

Since commencing her doctoral studies, Mary has presented her research both nationally and internationally, and competed in several research competitions. In 2015 she was awarded a scholarship to participate in Sichuan University’s prestigious summer programme which attracted scholars from Universities around the world, including Harvard University, Berkeley University and Oxford University. During this time she competed and was awarded an ‘outstanding academic achievement’ award at Sichuan University’s annual research competition and more recently, she placed joint-first at the School of Law’s ’3 minute thesis’ competition (2016). In 2015 and 2016, Mary received funding from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Limerick to present her research. She is due to present at the Irish Association of Law Teachers annual conference in November 2016, and has also been accepted to present on the therapeutic jurisprudence track of the International Mental Health Law Conference in Prague 2017. Her research interests include medical law, medical ethics, law and emotions, and alternative dispute resolution.
A number of our students completed international internships this year – some of their experiences are outlined below:

Sean Beatty, a 4th year Law Plus student travelled to Los Angeles for 3 months to participate on the prestigious Los Angeles Federal District Court 2015 Summer Externship Programme. The programme runs for three months from June to August and is organised by the Irish American Bar Association (IABA). Students spend two weeks in the Los Angeles Superior Courts, with the remaining time spent working in the chambers of federal judges based in Los Angeles where they gain real-world, hands-on, work experience. Sean described his experience as follows:

‘I was extremely lucky to be selected by the School of Law to take part in the 2015 Summer Externship Programme in the United States Federal District Court. The first two weeks were spent in state court where we were given the freedom to observe courtroom proceedings. This was a great chance to see attorneys and judges in action. The judges were enormously generous with their time and always took us into chambers to talk about what we had just seen and to answer any questions we had. We each spent five weeks working in the chambers of a particular judge before switching to another judge for our final five weeks. The work was quite varied; I learned a great deal about the U.S. legal system and my legal writing and research skills were dramatically improved. Overall, my experience of living in L.A. for three months was extremely positive. It was a great city to spend my summer and it certainly is a place which I hope to return to in the future.’

Sean also undertook a legal internship in Shanghai, China, supported with a generous scholarship from the School of Law. Here is what Sean had to say about the experience:
‘I was fortunate this year to receive scholarship funding from the UL School of Law to travel to China and carry out a two month legal internship in Shanghai with CRCC Asia. Preparing for the trip itself was very easy as CRCC took care of a lot of issues such as obtaining a Chinese visa and organising accommodation in Shanghai. 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. This is the largest employment law firm in China and my team was involved in catering to the firm’s international client base and expanding the firm’s international image.

Over my two months with RDL I had a very interesting experience and in comparison with Irish law firms, it was incredibly different. I was frequently required to conduct legal research, and I certainly found aspects of this more difficult than I would have in Ireland, with many legal documents being written exclusively in Chinese. Therefore, the range of available books and articles in English was understandably limited, which led to much of my learning arising from questions posed to colleagues. 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’. As many of the clients were English speaking, I participated in conference calls with clients where I would provide support to the partner involved and record the minutes of the meeting. 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.’

Marian Dino:

Marian Dino, a recipient of one of only six scholarships available on CRCC Asia’s 2015 European Scholarship Programme and a member of the 2015 Law and Accounting graduating class, also undertook a one-month legal internship, this time in China. She described her experience thus:

‘The time that I spent in China has provided me invaluable experiences on a personal and professional level. I worked in a company called LegalMall which is a subsidiary of Ray Yin & Partners. It deals with foreign clients looking to establish a business presence in China or to deal with a legitimate Chinese business. I think in most western countries, having an international work experience especially in a country that is fast-paced and vibrant like China is becoming more highly regarded these days. Learning and adapting to a completely new culture and a different way of doing business really is a priceless life achievement. I would strongly recommend interning in China. Students from University of Limerick are very lucky to be presented with such fantastic opportunities to work or study abroad.’

Siobhán Sugrue:

Fellow CRCC Asia participant, recipient of the School of Law’s CRCC scholarship and Law Plus graduate of 2015, Siobhán Sugrue, had an equally impressive three month legal internship in Shenzhen, China:

‘I was lucky enough to be granted a scholarship by UL’s School of Law to fund a 3 month internship with Liu & Wang Attorneys at Law, a Chinese law firm based in Shenzhen, China. Liu & Wang is part of a bigger law firm, Guangdong HaiPai, which is actually based in Hong Kong, where most of the international cases and contracts the company dealt with originated from. They deal with a large variety of law, mainly foreign related legal matters such as Foreign Investment, International Trade and Intellectual Property. I was given an extremely exciting case to work on which was related to the military coup in Thailand. I was tasked with writing a brief on the case itself, and creating a short summary/presentation of the Thai ‘One Tablet per Child’ policy, but also of determining which evidence would be needed to dispute their claims. I think my internship in China will prove to be great for my professional career. As I apply for jobs in the legal field, employers are especially interested in my experience working in a law firm in China.’

Alan McCabe:

Alan McCabe also completed the LA Federal Court Externship with aid of joint scholarships from the School of Law and the Irish American Bar Association. He spent 3 months working both in State Court in LA County and in the United States Courthouse for the Central District of California.
The Sichuan University Immersion Programme is a two-week cultural exchange program at the prestigious Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. More than 400 international students from around the world partake in the UIP and attend classes delivered in English by over 170 international faculty from approximately 90 different countries. Students from the School of Law took part in the programme in July and it was a resounding success.

The programme builds on the School of Law’s commitment to further strengthening our international ties with our partner institutions around the world, providing our students with the best possible opportunities to gain an international education experience during their studies at the School of Law in the University of Limerick.

Aileen Fitzmaurice, Roisin O’Brien and Eoin O’Riordan have written about their experience:

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, which drew comparisons between medical law in Ireland and other jurisdictions, including China. The module placed an emphasis on group work which enabled us to interact with the students of Sichuan University. Although there was a language barrier, the enthusiasm for learning displayed by the students of Sichuan University made every lecture more enjoyable.

In addition to attending the lectures, we were invited to attend a number of seminars in the Law School to discuss topics such as the differences between the Irish and Chinese Constitutions. 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. The enthusiasm of the students of Sichuan University and their willingness to give up their time allowed us to experience real Chinese culture, an experience many ordinary tourists are not afforded. We considered this to be one of the greatest advantages of this programme.

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.
German Summer School in English Insurance Law

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law at TH Koln, with more than 3,400 students in over 11 degree programs, 65 professors and over 20 staff members, the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law is one of the largest faculties of business and economics in Germany. This year saw the introduction of an LLM in Insurance Law, a continuing education program running parallel to professional employment. Due to its skills-centered approach, students can immediately apply newly acquired skills and knowledge in their professional environment. It is a highly innovative approach using blended learning of 6 week online with 2 days physical campus presence but most exciting of all is the introduction of a 1 week summer module based at Limerick on English Insurance Law. Offering English Insurance law to these students provides them with a unique advantage in an international context.

Ray Friel of the Law School, currently completing a major work on Irish Insurance Law, was selected by faculty at TH Koln to teach English Insurance law to a class of nearly 30 LLM students on this programme. The summer module was bookended on either side with a day course in Koln given by Friel in the spring and followed up after the student time at Limerick with a virtual online class.
University of Kansas Summer School at UL

This year saw the continuation of the highly successful KU Summer Law School at UL, now more than 10 years in operation. Each year, in the month of July, law students at the University of Kansas 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. Ray Friel taught two modules: US Counter Terror Law from an International Perspective and Law, Technology and Social Change.

UL Summer School Programme

The School of Law was also delighted to host 14 students this summer from the United States of America who participated in the University’s Summer School Programme 2016. Students participated in three summer schools in law which form part of UL’s Summer Schools in Irish Studies: ‘Law in Ireland’; ‘Terrorism, Crime and Justice’; and ‘Historical Perspectives of Justice in Ireland: Fold-Devils, Fornicators and Families’. In addition to in-house lectures delivered by a range of specialists from the School of Law including Professor Shane Kilcommins, Dr Susan Leahy and Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan. Students were also brought on a number of field trips including to Cork City Gaol and to Limerick’s Henry Street Garda Station. One participant, Kieran Coughlan, a history major visiting from the State University of New York at New Paltz, noted: ‘Learning about social norms and the coexisting laws that shape everyday lives for people is truly fascinating. Although only three weeks, Historical Perspectives of Justice course adds so much understanding of Irish traditions and makes you appreciate them even more.’

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