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LAW SOCIETY

Aug/Sept 2026

Where two worlds collide

The regulatory obligations for lawyers using AI



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gazette

LAW SOCIETY

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Volume 120, number 7: Aug/Sept 2026

Subscriptions: €75 (€110 overseas)

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fax: 01 672 4801

email: gazette@lawsociety.ie

PROFESSIONAL NOTICES:

See the 'Rates' panel in the professional notices section of this *Gazette*

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING:

Contact Seán Ó hOisín, 10 Arran Road, Dublin 9

mobile: 086 811 7116, tel: 01 837 5018

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See the *Gazette* rate card online at

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Printing:

GPS Colour Graphics Ltd

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Resolution requires constructive engagement

It is deeply disappointing that, despite months of intensive engagement with the Department of Justice, the principal concerns of criminal legal-aid solicitors about the new criminal legal-aid scheme remain unaddressed. The dispute is not about whether reform is needed. The Law Society and criminal legal-aid solicitors have been calling for reform of the scheme for many years. The dispute concerns specific changes introduced by the Government on 1 July 2026, which solicitors believe do not properly reflect the work involved in representing legally aided clients and risk making the scheme unsustainable in practice.

In particular, solicitors have consistently raised two issues. First, the new scheme can treat multiple separate and unrelated criminal prosecutions as a single case for payment purposes, even where each case requires its own preparation, evidence review, legal analysis, and court representation.

Second, the new scheme fails to adequately recognise complex and long-running cases, particularly those involving children, vulnerable individuals, people with mental-health difficulties, and defendants remanded in custody, where repeated court appearances are often required for reasons entirely outside the solicitor's control.

Practical solutions

The profession's response to these changes has been overwhelming and remarkably consistent. Solicitors from across the country have provided detailed feedback to the Law Society, not simply identifying problems but proposing practical and proportionate solutions that would allow the Government's reform programme to proceed, while addressing the most serious operational difficulties. Those proposals were developed from the direct experience of



If we support a model that we know is unworkable, the consequences will extend far beyond the profession

practitioners working daily within the criminal-justice system and were presented to the department in a constructive effort to make reform workable.

Against that backdrop, and as we go to press, it is regrettable that the department and the minister have yet to act on the two key adjustments repeatedly sought by the profession, despite the clear evidence provided and the strong consensus among practising solicitors that these changes are necessary to ensure that the scheme remains fair, workable, and sustainable.

None of our colleagues sought to find themselves in this position. Criminal practitioners have immense respect for the courts, the judiciary, An Garda

Síochána, and all those who work within our justice system. However, they have been left with little alternative.

Failing to reflect realities

Solicitors cannot reasonably be expected to operate under a scheme that fails to reflect how criminal cases are conducted, particularly those involving children, people with mental-health difficulties, and other vulnerable individuals. No solicitor wants to see a client left without

representation, but neither can practitioners be expected to work within a framework that fails to reflect the realities of criminal practice.

If we support a model that we know is unworkable, the consequences will extend far beyond the profession. We have seen the impact that an unsustainable legal-aid model has had in family law – we cannot allow the same issues to take root in criminal law.

At the time of writing, I am still awaiting a response to my letter of 31 July to the minister. Nevertheless, the Law Society remains committed to constructive engagement and stands ready to work with the department to resolve these issues.

Our objective remains clear: to enable criminal legal-aid solicitors to return to work, while ensuring that every person has fair and equal access to justice – a right we are all committed to protecting.

Rosemarie Loftus

ROSEMARIE J LOFTUS
PRESIDENT





the **BIG** *picture*

Smoke on the water

One person has died and around 40 were injured after a wildfire ripped through residential areas on Croatia's coast on 14 August. Roughly 1,200 residents and holidaymakers around the tourist town of Omis were forced to flee the blaze during the middle of the night. Flames tore through 2,471 acres near Split in just four hours. Some fled by boat, jumping into the sea to escape. Croatia joins Greece, Spain, France, Portugal, and Turkey in battling severe wildfires this summer. In Spain, more than 200,000 hectares have burned to date – nearly five times the annual average – with a blaze in Ávila now the largest wildfire ever recorded in the country.

Photo: AP Photo/Alamy/Tom Dubravac

people

■ WHO ■ WHAT ■ WHERE ■ WHEN ■

Summer School focuses on international law

The Centre for Justice and Law Reform's second Summer School took place from 9 to 10 July 2026 at Blackhall Place, Dublin. It spotlighted the topic of 'Rules-based international order in an age of disruption: is international law dead?'

The two-day event brought together national and international experts in law, diplomacy, security, and politics. It examined the pressures on the international legal order, including war in Europe, strategic rivalries, economic fragmentation, and the future of global security and trade.

The core topics explored plurilateralism and new legal mechanisms, climate and energy-security impacts on trade, conventional versus nuclear deterrence, and the shape of the new economic order involving powerful non-state actors.



Avril Haines (former director of US National Intelligence) delivers her keynote address



Law Society President Rosemarie Loftus



Sarah West (Irish Red Cross) poses a question

All pics: Cian Redmond



Prof Imelda Maher (MRIA) during a panel discussion



Marianne Nolan and Martina Hennessy



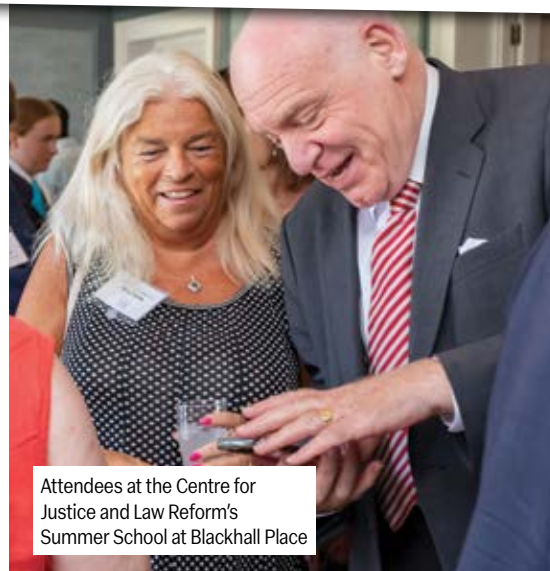
Rose Gottemoeller (former deputy secretary general of NATO) shares a comment



Former director of US National Intelligence Avril Haines and former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar



Dr Patrick Bury, Rose Gottemoeller, Dr Dmytro Kuleba, and General Seán Clancy during a panel discussion on day 2



Attendees at the Centre for Justice and Law Reform's Summer School at Blackhall Place



LLM Employment Law in Practice graduate Joseph Walsh, trainee at William Fry, with Justine Carty



LLM Employment Law in Practice graduate Kate Nolan

Let's celebrate!

A celebration ceremony was held at the Law Society recently for graduates from the Professional Doctorate in Law, the LLM Advanced Legal Practice, and the LLM Employment Law in Practice. The official conferrals took place at Northumbria University and Leeds Beckett University. Special guests included Dr Sue Turner (Northumbria Law School), and Melissa Askew (head of law, Leeds Law School).



Dr Elaine Walsh with President Rosemarie Loftus



Dr Bill Holohan SC



Dr Alanna Woods with President Rosemarie Loftus



Dr Ben Mannering with President Rosemarie Loftus



Recipients of the Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice, from Ogier Ireland LLP

All pics: Cian Redmond

Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice awards

Trainees and newly qualified solicitors were awarded the Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice, having successfully completed four Law School advanced electives as part of their training. Special guests at the ceremony held at the Law Society on 22 June included Judge Geoffrey Shannon SC, Judge Shalom Binchy, and Fiona McNulty (Law Society Council member and partner with Mason, Hayes & Curran).



Recipients of the Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice from Kane Tuohy Solicitors



Advanced Diploma recipients, representing DLA Piper Ireland LLP



Advanced Diploma recipients, representing Eversheds Sutherland



Recipients of the Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice, representing BHSM LLM



Rossa Fanning, Susan Martin, Karl Dowling, and Rosemarie Loftus

Civil gathering for *Civil Procedure*!

The book launch for *Civil Procedure in the Circuit Court* (4th edition), authored by Karl Dowling BL and Dr Susan Martin, took place earlier this year at Blackhall Place. Law Society President Rosemarie Loftus and Attorney General Rossa Fanning SC spoke at the launch, which was attended by a capacity crowd that included members of the judiciary, the deputy master of the High Court, solicitors, and members of the bar.



Pamela Collins



Susan Martin, Bernadette Cahill, Patrick Crowley, and Angela McCann



Susan Martin and Michael Mulcahy SC



Brian Hunt, Brian McMullin, Susan Martin, and Paul Keane

■ Have your say on AI ■ Nominations for Council open ■ Fund for solicitors in need

news

■ YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE ON ALL THINGS LEGAL ■



Pic: Jason Clarke Photography

Mr Justice David Barniville

High Court demands 'due care' when using GenAI

New guidance on the use of generative AI (GenAI) tools in the High Court states that all court users are responsible for the content of their court documents.

A practice direction issued on 29 July by the President of the High Court, Mr Justice David Barniville, says that while GenAI tools can assist in the efficient conduct of litigation, their use

must be “appropriate and undertaken responsibly and with due care”.

[Practice Direction HC 142](#) warns that such use should not “adversely affect the integrity of court processes and the proper administration of justice”.

It adds that the use of GenAI does not diminish or alter any obligation owed to the court by parties, legal practitioners, witnesses, experts, →



New President of the Circuit Court, Mr Justice Keenan Johnson, with Ms Justice Patricia Ryan (former President of the Circuit Court)

MR JUSTICE KEENAN JOHNSON SWORN IN

The new President of the Circuit Court, Mr Justice Keenan Johnson, was sworn in at a ceremony in the Supreme Court on 17 July. The former court president, Ms Justice Patricia Ryan, was on hand to congratulate him.

Mr Justice Johnson made his declaration under the Constitution in the Supreme Court in the presence of Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell. Mr Justice Johnson now begins his role and duties, which involve leading the Circuit Court's judicial administration and determining case distribution across the country's circuits.

The Circuit Court president also serves as an *ex officio* additional judge of the High Court, and sits on the Judicial Council and the board of the Courts Service.

Mr Justice Johnson was born in Ballymote, Co Sligo, and obtained a BCL from UCD in 1979. He was enrolled as a solicitor in 1982, practising with the firm of Johnson and Johnson Solicitors. He is a qualified mediator and has a strong interest in alternative dispute resolution.

He served as a Council member of the Law Society from 1994 to 2002, during which time he also chaired the Guidance and Ethics Committee. He was appointed a judge of the Circuit Court in April 2012.

or any other person involved in proceedings.

The practice direction (see p57 of this *Gazette*), which came into effect on 1 September, says that any person responsible for a court document must ensure that any material generated with the help of AI has been "appropriately and independently verified" before it is used in proceedings. "Any limitation on the ability to do so must be disclosed to the court," it adds.

Human verification

The guidance sets out how content produced using GenAI should be verified, stating that this must be done "under human control and supervision".

Law Society Director General Mark Garrett comments: "HC 142 states that legal practitioners must exercise oversight and verify the accuracy and suitability of information provided by any GenAI system. They must also ensure that their clients are informed of and understand their duty to the court."

HC 142 highlights the risks associated with the use of GenAI tools – including the risk of inaccuracy – and discusses the

duties and obligations of parties and their legal representatives when these tools are used. It applies to all documents used in civil proceedings and all persons involved in court proceedings.

It also applies to all proceedings before the court "whether instituted before or after its commencement" and "all court documents prepared, produced, or generated after the date of commencement".

Court's expectations

Mark Garrett concludes: "This guidance sets out the court's expectations on the appropriate and responsible use of GenAI tools in legal proceedings and the implications of the technology for practice and procedure. We would urge all legal practitioners to familiarise themselves with HC 142 and to take this guidance on board with immediate effect.

"Finally, I would encourage solicitors to read this month's cover story, which focuses on HC 142 and the use of AI in legal practice, as well as the article on 'AI practice essentials' in this *Gazette*."

Have your say on AI

Law Society Skillnet is seeking practitioners' views through a new survey on the use of digitalisation and AI in the legal profession. Whether already using AI or still exploring its potential, and whether working in private practice or in-house, solicitors' contributions can help shape future guidance, resources, and professional development opportunities.

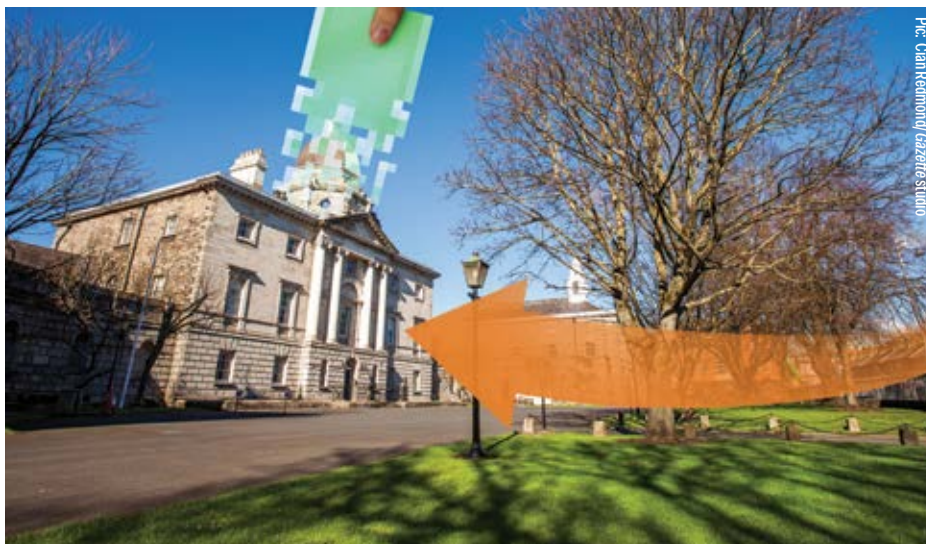
Examples of digitalisation include tools such as document-management systems, client portals, e-signatures, e-discovery platforms, and online payment systems. Relevant AI tools include generative AI applications used to draft text, summarise documents, assist with legal research, and support document review.

The findings will inform a published report for Law Society Skillnet and Skillnet Ireland, and will help identify training needs and develop targeted resources for solicitors and their employees.

The anonymous survey takes approximately ten minutes to complete. Responses will be analysed and reported in aggregate form only to ensure anonymity. The deadline for completion is Wednesday 23 September. Take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/DWCTQLJ.



Nominations for Council open



Pic: Cian Redmond/Gazette studio

Nominations for this year's elections to the Law Society Council opened on 24 August and will close at 5pm on Thursday 10 September.

The Law Society is urging any solicitor who would like to contribute opinions and expertise to consider running for the two-year term. Solicitors who wish to run, nominate, or vote in the Council election must hold current Law Society membership (see lawsociety.ie/membership).

The nomination and voting processes are online only. Voting this year will open on 2 October, running until 5pm on 15 October – those wishing to vote must have renewed their membership by 30 September.

The results will be announced at the Law Society's AGM on 5 November.

Strategic priorities

The Council, the Law Society's governing body, provides leadership and governance, setting strategic priorities, overseeing performance, and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.

Comprising 31 elected members, four provincial delegates, and 13 nominated members, it represents the Law Society and its members,

both in the interests of the public and of the solicitors' profession generally. Members, who represent a diverse range of perspectives and experience, play an important role in supporting and developing the future of the solicitors' profession.

Keith Walsh SC recently told the *Gazette* that Council membership was "hugely beneficial" for those who were working for themselves: "You're dealing with other people, but you realise that their issues are the same," the Dublin-based family lawyer said.

'Amazing' experience

Solicitor and mediator Hilary O'Connor described her experience of being on the Council as "amazing".

"I now understand what the Law Society is doing, and what a massive machine it is. I am really impressed with the calibre of people involved," she told the *Gazette*.

Anyone with queries about Law Society membership or the election should contact solicitorservices@lawsociety.ie. More information about the election is available at lawsociety.ie/elections.

FUND TO HELP SOLICITORS IN NEED

The Solicitors' Benevolent Association (SBA) has reminded practitioners that it is available to assist members or former members of the solicitors' profession in Ireland, and their families, who are in need.

The association is a voluntary charitable body consisting of all members of the Law Society of Ireland and the Law Society of Northern Ireland, although it is independent of both. It provides help on a confidential basis throughout the island of Ireland.

Voluntary subscriptions

The SBA is funded mainly by annual voluntary subscriptions from solicitors, but it also welcomes additional donations and bequests. Solicitors are given the opportunity to make voluntary contributions when submitting their practising-certificate applications.

Solicitors can apply for assistance by downloading an application form at www.solicitorsbenevolentassociation.com and sending it to contact@solicitorsbenevolentassociation.com. Applications are considered by the SBA board, which may provide help in the form of monthly payments or occasional grants. Where there are realisable assets, the SBA may provide monthly grants by way of a loan.

Children helped

During the year to the end of November 2025, the association provided grants totalling just over €1 million to support 72 people. Beneficiaries ranged in age from 30 to 83 years – 26 of those receiving grants had children under 18 or in full-time education. The number of children indirectly helped was 58.

Most cases involved grants for living expenses, but some were also made to cover costs such as educational and medical expenses, electricity arrears, and funeral expenses.

ENDANGERED LAWYERS



Alex Soleil van Heerden



Wilson Sudi

Recent attacks on lawyers

This column usually focuses on one lawyer, or a few working together, and often in the context of political oppression. This month's column features reports received recently about non-state actors – ordinary people – putting lawyers in danger.

Mob outside chamber

Bangladesh, 9 August – After a bail hearing for a 2023 explosives case at the Chapainawabganj District and Sessions Judge Court, which the court granted, unruly supporters of the current government gathered on the court premises and staged a demonstration, then formed a mob in front of the judge's private chamber, breaking the glass in the chamber and courtroom doors and creating disorder. Police arrived and brought the situation under control.

Pulled from car

India, 17 July – Ankur Kumar (president of the Bargarh Bar Association) and his client (75) were attending the enforcement of Bombay High and Supreme Court orders to demolish illegal structures at Morjim. As a result of 10 or 12 people pulling them from their car and assaulting them, they required medical treatment.

Shot in his office

Israel, 4 August – Arbel Feldman was shot dead by a client over money due from a traffic-accident settlement in

his office in Rishon Lezion. The culprit (23) turned himself in.

Beaten in court

Malawi, 6 August – Wilson Sudi alleges he was attacked in the High Court in Blantyre by the losing party at the end of a court hearing. He was beaten, received hospital treatment, and his car was damaged. This is denied by the opponent's lawyer. The police are involved.

Assaulted in his office

Pakistan, 3 August – Advocate Muhammad Nadeem Hameed was allegedly assaulted after accepting a case against an influential person. According to the report, armed men entered his office, assaulted, confined, and robbed him, before fleeing when police arrived.

Kidnapped

South Africa, 7 August – Alex Soleil van Heerden (26) was kidnapped on returning to her apartment in Northcliff, Johannesburg, after exiting an Uber around 7pm. The Uber driver, though robbed and without a phone, reported the incident quickly to the Fairbanks police station. She was rescued 28 hours later as a result of community and state agency collaboration.

Alma Clissmann was a long-time member of the Human Rights Committee.

CJEU sparks crime-compensation change



Pic: Shutterstock

The Minister for Justice has published changes to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme that allow victims of violent crime to be compensated for pain and suffering. The scheme, which provides compensation to victims of violent crime in the State, has been in place since 1974, with previous major changes made to it in 1986 and 2021.

The Government decided to amend the scheme earlier this year after a [judgment](#) from the Court of Justice of the European Union found that national schemes could not exclude compensation for pain and suffering. The [revised scheme](#) also includes a provision for guidelines on the value of awards that can be made by the tribunal that administers the scheme.

Autumn guidelines

Minister Jim O'Callaghan said that the changes were designed to improve the scheme for victims, as well as help ensure its long-term financial viability. He added that the guidelines, to be published in the autumn, would help give certainty to both the victims of violent crime and to the State. The changes to the scheme also provide for transitional arrangements for new and existing undecided applications.

The minister also said that the Government was committed to further reform – including placing the current administrative scheme on a statutory footing.

Department of Justice officials have reconvened a working group to look at the scheme and are currently examining a report from the Law Reform Commission on victim compensation, published earlier this year.



Trainees conquer Kilimanjaro

A team of ten Law Society trainees has returned home triumphant after summiting Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak. They undertook the gruelling challenge to raise funds for the Ballymun Community Law Centre. The €10,000 target has been surpassed – the tally has already passed the €17,000-mark.

Standing at 5,895 metres, Kilimanjaro is no easy undertaking. Climbers face thin air, punishing temperatures, and days of relentless trekking before the final push to the summit, often made overnight in freezing conditions to reach the top by sunrise. As planned, the ten triumphant trainees unfurled their 'Access to Justice' flag on the roof of Africa.

Ballymun Community Law Centre praised the "dedication, determination, and hard work" of the trainee solicitors: "This fantastic achievement will go a long way in helping to promote access to justice. A huge thank you also to everyone who donated and showed their support along the way. Your generosity has made a real difference."

Proceedings searches in conveyancing

The Conveyancing Committee's view on conducting proceedings searches in addition to judgments searches (including *lis pendens*) on a typical conveyancing transaction is that this additional search is not necessary, as the only litigation that could affect priority of the land being acquired would appear on the judgments (*lis pendens*) search.

Notwithstanding this, when acting for a borrower or bank, it would be common for proceedings searches to be carried out by the lender's solicitor. Similarly, practitioners should be reminded that, if the property is subject to first registration, certified judgment searches for the preceding five years (and predecessors on title) will need to be lodged with the first registration application.

IRLI IN AFRICA



Strengthening justice through partnership

Strong justice systems are not built in isolation. They are strengthened through collaboration, professional exchange, and a willingness to learn from the experiences of others. While every legal system is shaped by its own history and context, many of the challenges facing justice institutions – from access to justice to criminal case management to the protection of human rights – are shared across jurisdictions.

At Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI), professional exchange is a central part of how we support long-term justice reform. It is not about exporting one country's legal system to another, but about creating opportunities for justice professionals to share expertise, build trusted relationships, and explore practical solutions to common challenges.

This year, with the support of Irish Aid (the Government of Ireland's development cooperation programme), IRLI welcomed two delegates from Malawi's Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid Bureau, to Ireland and Northern Ireland. The visit builds on an eight-year partnership between justice

institutions in Malawi and across the island of Ireland, demonstrating the value of sustained collaboration over time.

During the placement, delegates observed court proceedings, engaged with prosecutors, barristers, police, legal practitioners, and justice-sector professionals, and visited institutions across Dublin and Belfast. The programme also included opportunities to exchange ideas with IRLI's partners and directors, strengthening relationships that continue well beyond the duration of a single visit.

The exchange reflects IRLI's wider work in Malawi, where we partner with justice institutions to improve access to justice, reduce prolonged pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding, and strengthen institutional capacity and respect for human rights across the criminal-justice system.

Professional exchanges such as these recognise that learning flows in both directions. They enable justice professionals to reflect on their own practice, develop new perspectives, and build lasting networks between institutions working towards the same goal: fairer, more accessible, and more accountable justice systems.

The delegates also attended the Courts Service's Africa Day event, where they joined colleagues from across the justice sector in discussions on professional leadership, diversity, and shared learning. These conversations reinforced the importance of international partnerships in strengthening the rule of law.

As global justice challenges continue to evolve, sustained collaboration between legal institutions remains one of the most effective ways of supporting resilient justice systems. IRLI looks forward to continuing this long-standing partnership with colleagues in Malawi, and to welcoming future delegates in the years ahead. 

Elizabeth Bolger is director of operations at IRLI.



GOVERNMENT IN BREACH OF UN PRINCIPLES



Photo: Shutterstock

HEARTFELT TRIBUTES PAID TO JERRY HEALY

From: Juli Rea, JRAP O'Meara Solicitors, Cork.

• I know he eschews publicity and, indeed, is strongly opposed to the 'cult of personality' having any place in the performance of his role, but as Jerry Healy steps down as State Solicitor for Cork County, it was wonderful to hear the heartfelt tributes paid to him in court, on 10 July, by the judiciary, solicitor colleagues from the Southern Law Association, north and west Cork, the Cork Bar, Courts Service and the gardaí – and to have those comments endorsed by the probation services and his fellow State solicitors.

It was, of course, especially lovely to see DPP Catherine Pierse take the trouble to attend to laud one of the finest solicitors in the country, and wonderful for Jerry's family and office (including his son Darragh, now working with him) to get to hear of the high esteem in which he has long been held by his colleagues and the wider legal community.

Respect for people and the rule of law have always been Jerry's hallmarks, and it is so important to have those virtues acknowledged.

From: Pádraig Langsch, Langsch & Cunnane Solicitors LLP, Limerick.

• On 8 July, it was reported that a member of the judiciary had been very critical of solicitors' withdrawal of services after a murder suspect was left without representation at a garda station. It was reported that the judge read out the statement issued by the Law Society last October, which stated: "Solicitors cannot discriminate in favour of or against any person on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, economic or other status."

"These principles are provided for by the United Nations *Basic Principles*

on the Role of Lawyers, in the Council of Europe *Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer*, and in the Law Society's *Solicitor's Guide to Professional Conduct*."

While it is most welcome that the judge referred to the UN's *Principles on the Role of Lawyers*, it is somewhat regrettable that he did not refer to paragraph 3 of them, which provides: "Governments shall ensure the provision of *sufficient funding* [my emphasis] and other resources for legal services to the poor and, as necessary, to other disadvantaged persons."

So yes, most certainly there is a breach of the United Nations *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* – not by solicitors, but by the Irish Government.



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IRISH TIMES KEEPS MISSING THE POINT

From: Peter Connolly, Peter Connolly Solicitors, 6 Capel St, Dublin 1

• It's a pity that *The Irish Times* does not have any real appreciation of the work that criminal defence solicitors do. Maybe they have issues with the purpose of criminal defence and equality before the law? Criminals are criminals after all, but many people availing of free legal aid are just the vulnerable in society.

As solicitors, we have no issue with reform, but if there were any objective analysis of the economics of the work we do, the figures would show that, economically, we do not cost the taxpayer when one factors in the inputs made by us as a profession.

Does any other profession or trade out there have an expectation that it has to work for free, at rates eaten into by inflation for over 20 years?

The Irish Times keeps missing the point, in a big way:

- 1) The *Buchanan Report* [specifically the February 2000 report *An Examination of the Feasibility of Introducing a Public Defender System for Ireland*, by the Criminal Legal Aid Review Committee] costed the idea of a public defenders' office and found it would cost too much. The State would have to pay high salaries and pensions to attract lawyers.
- 2) Criminal defence is a necessary component in any democracy, and legal aid is a constitutional right. It must be an effective right for all who avail of it, whether it's the poor, the sick, or career criminals. The prosecution can object to legal aid.
- 3) The defence sector in free legal aid costs 1% of the budget and is not expensive for the taxpayer. In fact, it provides the best value for money – and always has done – yet we have to deal with a Victorian payment system. We have no guarantee of when we will get paid – I have had claims paid over three



years after a case has finished. Neither are we covered by the prompt payments legislation.

- 4) The sector is outsourced to private practitioners who have to absorb all the overheads in a fee structure set by Government.
- 5) The other experts we use – psychiatrists, doctors, defence forensic experts, be they accountants or forensic scientists (often based in the UK) or translators – are grossly underpaid, or never paid, and we have to deal with a massive amount of red tape in getting expert reports sanctioned by the Department of Justice.
- 6) Our fee structure is set and not index-linked. If it were, I would be back in court today.
- 7) The fee was better paid 25 years ago.
- 8) We had FEMPI-based cuts – we were the first and the last to have them restored. The word 'restored' is important here. This €520 'one-size-fits-all' is not restoration; neither is it a fee increase.
- 9) Solicitors here have had their fee rates published for many years and have not used EU law to stop that publication because we are not afraid of scrutiny.
- 10) The fees paid include VAT and, in the District Court, often include payment to barristers. In addition, those fees have to fund solicitors' offices.

Criminal treatment?

- 11) Law firms need to be viable – our operating profits are not high, and we need to have reasonable pay to keep our doors open.

The Minister for Justice is interfering with judicial discretion in the granting of legal aid, since separate cases all require separate work to attach the certificate to the defendant. One flat fee does not reflect the work that has to be done if that defendant has many cases and complex needs to be addressed. I, personally, would have no issue with the Comptroller and Auditor General being given a remit to vet the value for money for legal aid.

Finally, Ireland has one of the lowest spends on justice in the entire EU. I qualified in 1999 and started practice in 2003 as a defence solicitor. Before I qualified, the brief fee was the equivalent of IR£142. (When one accounts for inflation, that figure would equate to €295 today.) Prior to the introduction of the flat-fee scheme, we got paid just €240 for the first court appearance and €60 for each subsequent appearance. The fee rate 27 years ago paid more than it does today!

Striking lawyers don't tend to evoke much public sympathy, but pay peanuts and you will get monkeys. And all this against a backdrop of nearly €60 billion in Exchequer receipts, announced on 6 August! I rest my case. 

IRISH EMPLOYMENT LAW

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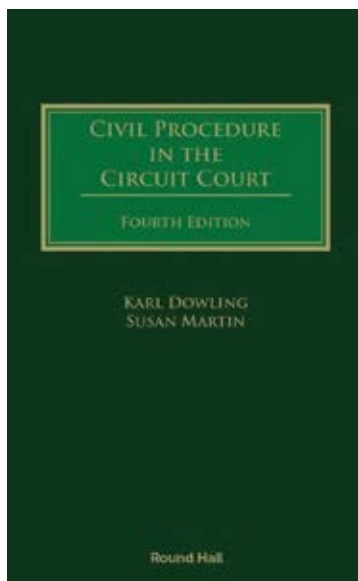
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Books

CIVIL PROCEDURE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

Karl Dowling BL and Dr Susan Martin. Round Hall (2025), www.roundhall.ie. Price: €295 (excl VAT); also available at legalbooks.ie for €265.



It is incumbent on busy practitioners to keep abreast of practice and procedure in one of the busiest courts in the country. While it has been scarcely eight years since the publication of the previous edition, as busy practitioners in the Circuit Court will attest, time has not stood still. This period has produced far-reaching changes in the statutory framework, case law, and procedural rules.

In addition to providing a complete overview of civil-court procedure at Circuit Court level and detailing every aspect of the procedure from debt collection and family law to contentious probate and employment, this fourth edition also provides us with new chapters on applications under the *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015*.

As an invaluable reference, the book is divided into 27 chapters, with earlier chapters covering

expected topics of jurisdiction (including the 2017 changes to the probate jurisdiction of the Circuit Court following section 47 of the *Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004*), commencement of proceedings, trial and evidence, pleadings, and powers of the county registrar, making it a must-read for novice solicitors and barristers. For more seasoned practitioners, the book provides a wealth of resources, practical guidance, and helpful insights through dedicated chapters on procedural matters, such as discovery, joinder and transfer of actions, third-party procedure, and security for costs, as well as chapters focused on specific areas of law, including planning, probate actions, personal injuries, family law, and landlord and tenant proceedings.

This reviewer recently had her first instruction since the commencement of the act to apply to the court to appoint a decision-making representative for an *Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 application*. The 26th chapter gives us step-by-step instructions, as well as a helpful, practical, consideration section reminding us that the will and preferences of the relevant person are paramount to the court. With the assistance of this book, many pitfalls that might have resulted in delays to the application were avoided.

Overall, Mr Dowling and Dr Martin have successfully risen to the challenge of producing a thoroughly researched and comprehensive fourth edition. Their work stands as an indispensable resource, and is essential reading for all litigation practitioners appearing before the Circuit Court.

Sonya M Lanigan is principal of John Lanigan & Nolan Solicitors, Kilkenny. She is a Council member of the Law Society and is vice-chair of the Litigation Committee.

PRACTICE, AND FAIR PROCEDURES, IN IRISH EMPLOYMENT LAW

Anthony Kerr SC, Cathal McGreal, and Kevin Roche. Bloomsbury Publishing (2026), www.bloomsburyprofessional.com. Price: €185 (incl VAT).



The *Workplace Relations Act 2015* represented a watershed moment in the development of employment rights dispute-resolution practice and procedure. Anthony Kerr, Cathal McGreal, and Kevin Roche have, very helpfully and expertly, set out the definitive practice and procedural road map for the initiating and defending of employment-rights claims, as well as the conduct of the hearings in the WRC, Labour Court, and the courts. As such, this book is essential reading for every legal and HR practitioner in the country.

The book analyses, in three sections, the complex web of practice and procedure that must be observed to successfully process employment-rights claims. In addition, the relevant legislation, rules, codes, and

guidelines are all set out in the appendices.

The first section covers practice and procedure before the WRC and Labour Court. Now, over ten years after the 2015 act, practitioners will have observed some matters that need to be addressed, such as the practice of allocating a half or one single day for complex cases that need up to three or four days. In addition, the guidelines that submissions be exchanged at least 15 working days before the hearing – but, in reality, sometimes arriving on the eve of the hearing – result in unnecessary delays and the adjournment of cases. Practitioners will be familiar with receiving submissions on the day of a hearing and being given a few moments to speed read! The guidelines on the use of AI in preparing submissions is also of interest.

The second section deals comprehensively with practice and procedure before the ordinary courts. Of interest is the growing significance of the Circuit Court in cases under the *Protected Disclosures Act 2014*, including interim relief under section 11(2) of the 2014 act preventing the dismissal of an employee. Also of interest is section 12 (7A) of the 2014 act, which extends the entitlement to seek interim relief where the employee claims to have suffered ‘penalisation’ short of dismissal for having made a protected disclosure.

The final chapter is of critical importance as it addresses a pivotal part of employment lawyers’ practice, namely, fair procedures in employment law. Legal and HR practitioners are heavily occupied with the conduct of workplace investigations that have become complex, protracted, and contentious.

This book is a great achievement and does a great service to legal and HR practitioners.

Terence McCrann is an MII accredited mediator and former chair of the Law Society’s Employment and Equality Committee. 

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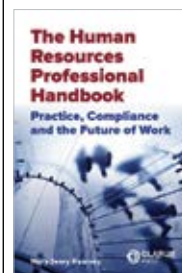


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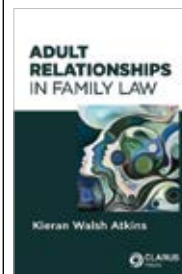


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RESHAPING CONVEYANCING

Digitisation is reshaping conveyancing, whether we welcome it or not. Sonia McEntee says that we can be led by this change – or lead it

Technology has steadily transformed professional life – and conveyancing is no exception. Few of us imagine that it would be possible, or desirable, to return to a paper-and-post-only based process. We know technology is most effective when it supports, rather than replaces, professional expertise. Digitising legal work without the benefit of that legal knowledge and judgement won't benefit either the profession or the public interest. The greatest value will be derived in combining technological innovation with solicitors' experience and skills.

While much of what is done involves engagement with others, we can't control when or how those stakeholders will move forward. It's time for us to bring what we can control into the digital age, while developing a platform ready for further integration. The Law Society's work on e-conveyancing first began in 2005 but has gathered major pace in recent years, fuelled by rising digital literacy, growing demand from clients, and

Solicitors review and approve documents through the platform and manage the pace of work so that clients always know what's needed from them

Government moves to digitise the process.

By and for solicitors

The eConveyancing Platform under development by the Law Society is being designed by solicitors, for solicitors – combining practical legal expertise with modern technology.

The benefits are readily identifiable:

- Standardising and automating time-consuming administrative tasks,
- One-time entry of information,
- Client onboarding,
- Single location for all relevant documents, and
- Ready access to templates and guidance notes with inbuilt prompts and flags.

It will transform contract preparation.

What has been built

The eConveyancing Platform has already been built to digitise client onboarding and pre-contract stages of the process.

Using the platform, clients can complete identity verification (IDV), apply qualified electronic signatures (QES), complete essential anti-money-laundering steps,

When asked about the operational improvements it could deliver, 75% of participants in a hands-on workshop anticipated 'transformational or significant benefits'

and provide other relevant documents at their own pace, in their own time.

Solicitors review and approve documents through the platform and manage the pace of work, so that clients always know what's needed from them. Using the platform to reduce administrative tasks, minimise duplication, and provide greater visibility to clients will facilitate solicitors to spend more time on legal advice and client service.

But don't just take our word for it. Colleagues who participated in a recent hands-on workshop shared overwhelmingly positive feedback. When asked about the operational improvements it could deliver, 75% anticipated transformational or significant benefits, while a further 17% expected moderate improvements to their day-to-day work. The key benefits highlighted were time savings and mitigating risk.



Images: Shutterstock

Suck it and see

Register now for a series of online and in-person events to get an up-close view of the eConveyancing Platform:

- **Wednesday 9 September:** webinar demonstration and project update,
- **Thursday 10 September:** in-person demonstration at the Law Society Well Within the Law Festival (East) in Dublin, and
- **Wednesday 14 October:** in-person demonstration at the Law Society Well Within the Law Festival (West) in Galway.

To learn more, book your place, or see upcoming events, visit lawsociety.ie/econveyancing.

What's to come

Two major areas where e-conveyancing can add further value are integration with case-management systems and managing contract exchange to completion through the same platform. Work in these areas has also advanced considerably. As with any significant profession-wide investment, members will have a direct say in the next stage of development. At this year's Law Society AGM, the profession will be asked to approve further investment to enable the launch of the eConveyancing Platform in 2027.

The Law Society continues to engage actively, not only with practitioners in this development, but also key stakeholders, including financial institutions and regulatory bodies, to ensure that developments in e-conveyancing are future-proofed, secure, and aligned with the needs of solicitors and clients.

See for yourself

Ahead of that crucial decision for the profession, you can take the opportunity to see and experience the eConveyancing Platform for yourself at any of the upcoming online and in-person events. We're looking for your insights, feedback, and questions. To see what's happening, learn more, and to register to

As solicitors see it

Practising solicitors shared their feedback from a hands-on demonstration in July, highlighting the main benefits of the eConveyancing Platform:

- "The onus and burden of having all relevant AML documents and necessary pre-contract information is on the client, and any delays are evidently theirs."
- "It is user-friendly for the firm and the client, reduces risk, and ensures the correct version of the contract and requisitions are being used."
- "It allows you to pass the completion of manual tasks to the client, keeping them in the process in terms of engagement. It is risk-reducing and reduces admin."

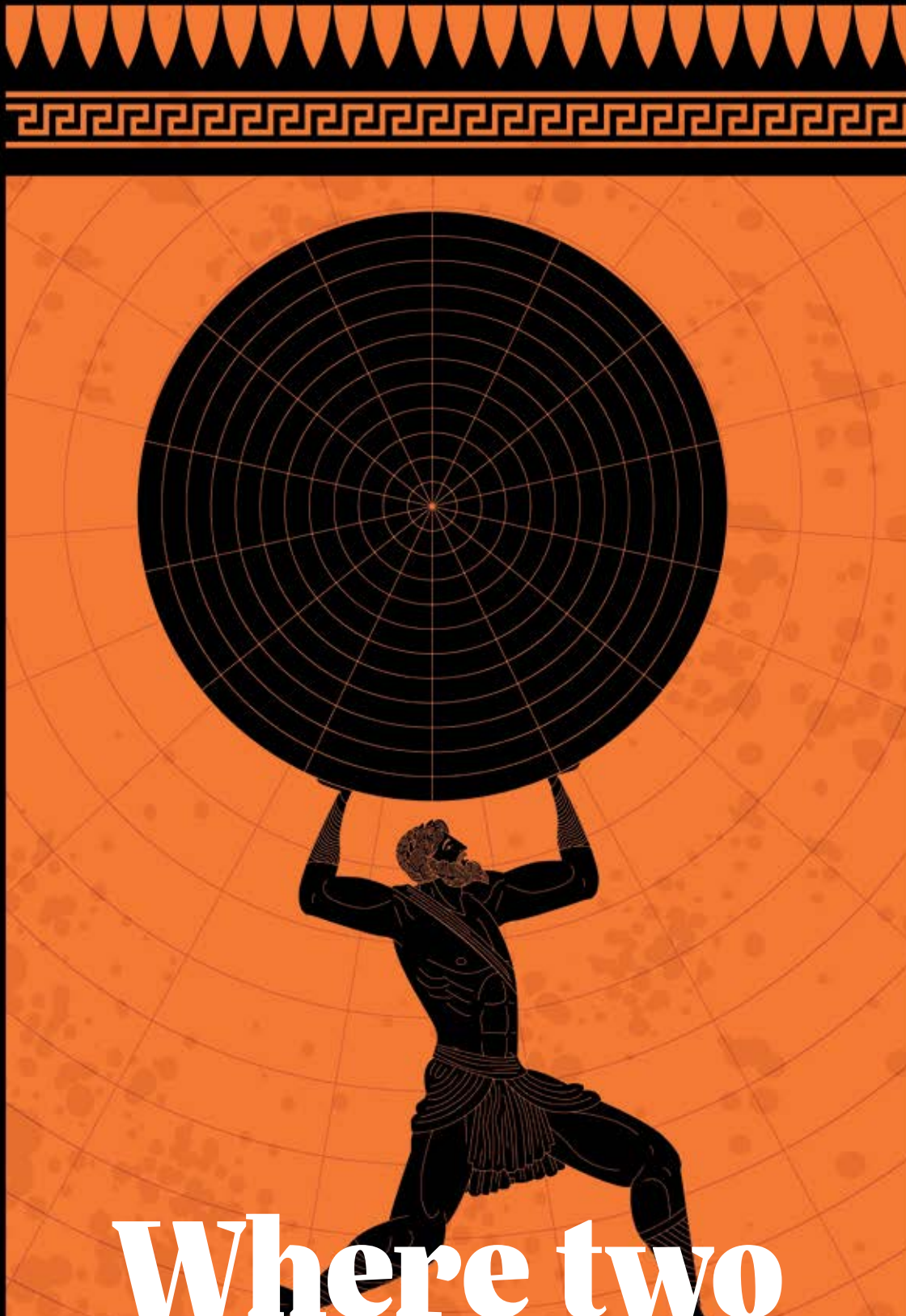


attend, visit lawsociety.ie/econveyancing.

Engaging with the project now, and supporting the next phase of development at the AGM, will help shape an electronic conveyancing system that reflects the needs of the profession,

supports clients, and safeguards standards for years to come. 🏠

Sonia McEntee is a member of the Council of the Law Society and is chair of the Law Society's eConveyancing Subcommittee.



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Where two worlds collide

Odysseus was warned: ‘You and your crew may still reach home, suffering all the way, if you only have the power to curb their wild desire and curb your own.’ This is equally valid when it comes to navigating the use of AI in legal practice.
Fiona Campbell and Shauna Gillan traverse the wine-dark sea

The calendar now sits at September 2026. We have recently seen the beauty of a solar eclipse and, on an entirely unrelated note, can safely say that artificial intelligence (AI) is beginning to eclipse some traditional methods of legal practice – for some practitioners considerably more than others.

Put simply, many lawyers are already using AI-assisted tools across a wide range of tasks, including document search and classification, comparison, summarisation, structuring information, and producing first drafts. Generative AI (GenAI) has extended those possibilities considerably: a user can now ask a system in natural language to produce legal research, draft submissions, summarise authorities, or suggest an answer to a legal problem within seconds. Against that backdrop, AI must still be used in a manner consistent with the existing professional obligations imposed on lawyers by the Law Society and Bar Council.

More recent Irish jurisprudence and guidance show the position developing quickly. The Court of Appeal (Costello P) has addressed the use of AI-generated authorities in *Guerin v O'Doherty*; different courts and tribunals have begun to issue guidance of their own; and, on 29 July 2026, High Court President David Barniville issued Practice Direction HC142 on the responsible use of GenAI in court documents, which took effect on 1 September (see ‘Practice notes’, p57). This was followed by CA16 from the Court of Appeal, to similar effect.

The practice directions state that, in light of the use of GenAI tools in legal proceedings, it is appropriate to highlight the associated risks, including inaccuracy, and to address the duties and obligations of parties and their legal representatives when such tools are used.

The emerging position is not one of prohibition, but rather an application of familiar professional duties to a technology capable of producing unusually convincing errors. The

recurring themes addressed by the regulators and the courts return to human responsibility, verification, competence and supervision, confidentiality and privilege – and the integrity of evidence and material placed before a court.

What do we mean by AI?

‘Artificial intelligence’ describes a broad range of technologies. For lawyers, an important distinction is between ‘discriminative AI’ and ‘generative AI’. Discriminative AI identifies, classifies or predicts on the basis of existing data. Technology-assisted review/predictive coding in discovery is a familiar legal example: a system may classify documents by relevance or identify patterns within a document-set without itself creating substantive new content.

Generative AI produces new content in response to a prompt. Large language models can generate text, summaries, translations, chronologies, draft clauses, research answers, or suggested submissions. They do so by identifying statistical patterns and predicting likely outputs. That is quite different from a lawyer understanding a legal proposition and determining that it is correct.

The Bar of Ireland’s *Ethical Toolkit* describes discriminative AI as classifying or distinguishing data, while generative AI produces new content. It also cautions that GenAI outputs are *predictions* rather than the product of human understanding. This means that the model uses probability to predict the most likely next word or sequence of words based on patterns in its training data, rather than understanding whether the resulting answer is legally correct.

Obviously, quite different technologies like these inevitably pose different risks; a document-classification system may misclassify material or reflect bias in its data, whereas a generative system may go further and create a judgment that does not exist (known as ‘hallucination’ for open-source data) and ‘fabricated output’ for enterprise-level licensed data), misstate a statute, invent a quotation, or produce a plausible legal argument with no proper foundation.

An AI output will never assume the lawyer’s professional responsibility for deciding whether that output can safely be used. With that in mind, best practice for AI-use in legal work would be to follow a model like this:

Prompt → Output → Human review → Verification → Decision

Professional guidance

The Law Society (*Guidelines for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by the Legal Profession in Ireland*, December 2025) and the Bar (*Ethical Toolkit: Ethical Use and Use Cases for Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice*, April 2025) have each published guidance on the use of GenAI in legal practice. As with any guidance, these publications are intended to assist practitioners in applying their existing professional duties when using AI – relied upon in tandem with the professional standards by which solicitors and barristers are already regulated.

There is considerable overlap in the principles identified by both bodies: practitioners remain responsible for the accuracy and reliability of their work and must protect confidential and privileged information, exercise appropriate competence and supervision, and independently check AI-assisted legal research or drafting before relying upon it or submitting it externally. The Bar expresses the practical approach as:

Prompt – Review – Verify – Repeat

The Bar's guidance goes further in relation to material that is intended to represent another person's own evidence or opinion. It advises that GenAI should not be used to draft affidavits, statements of truth, or witness statements, because those documents must contain the evidence of the person giving it. It takes a similarly restrictive approach to expert reports, save for limited circumstances where AI itself forms part of the subject matter and its use is appropriately identified.

Those considerations are also reflected in the aforementioned new practice directions.

Other jurisdictions

Since ChatGPT was released on 30 November 2022, courts across a number of common-law jurisdictions have had to grapple with an expanding range of problems arising from GenAI use in legal proceedings. The best-known starting point was *Mata v Avianca* in 2023, where a New York lawyer used ChatGPT for legal research, and submissions were filed containing non-existent cases and fabricated judicial opinions, ultimately resulting in sanctions.

Other examples followed quickly: in Canada, *Zhang v Chen* concerned reliance on fictitious authorities generated by ChatGPT; in *Kohls v Ellison* in Minnesota, an expert used GenAI in preparing a declaration that contained citations to non-existent academic material; and in Australia, *Valu v Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (No 2)* concerned a lawyer who incorporated AI-generated authorities into submissions without checking them and was referred to the professional regulator. The jurisprudence has, therefore, developed beyond the straightforward problem of invented cases and now extends to questions of



evidence, professional supervision, confidentiality, privilege and the extent to which lawyers can properly rely on AI-assisted work produced by others.

One particularly interesting development arose in *United States v Heppner* in February 2026. Bradley Heppner, who was the subject of a criminal investigation, had used Anthropic's Claude to prepare material addressing his anticipated defence, facts, and legal issues, without having been directed by his lawyers to do so.

The Southern District of New York held that his exchanges with Claude were neither protected by the US jurisprudence of attorney/client privilege nor by the work-product doctrine. The court also held that, to the extent Heppner had entered information that was already privileged into Claude, that privilege had been waived by disclosure to Claude and Anthropic. (Note that this decision turned on the particular circumstances, including that the exchanges were undertaken independently of counsel and the applicable data and privacy arrangements, so it should not be read as establishing that every interaction with an externally hosted AI system automatically waives privilege. It does, however, demonstrate that courts are now being asked to consider the consequences of AI use for privilege itself, rather than merely the accuracy of what AI produces. We will not discuss here the differences between privileged status in open source data LLMs (for example, open source Chat GPT) and licensed enterprise-level systems, for which the terms may define separate privilege and confidentiality considerations.)



‘Atrocious conduct’

More recently, and despite that backdrop of judicial warnings, the conduct considered in *Miller v Regions Bank* in May 2026 went considerably further. Alabama attorney Gregory Harp filed a brief containing four false quotations attributed to genuine authorities. When the US District Court subsequently ordered production of his ChatGPT history, Harp deleted his account and took further steps that prevented the relevant history from being produced.

The court drew an adverse inference as to what the deleted material would have shown and said that it had never expected to encounter “such atrocious conduct” from an officer of the court. Importantly, the court made clear that the sanction was not for the mere use of GenAI. It was concerned with the false legal material, the absence of reasonable verification, lack of candour, and the destruction of evidence after the problem had emerged. Harp was publicly reprimanded, disqualified from further participation in the case, referred to the relevant licensing authorities, and suspended from practice in that federal district for six months.

Closer to us geographically and in legal tradition, England and Wales has developed its own line of authority. The leading decision in 2025 was *R (Ayinde) v London Borough of Haringey and Al-Haroun v Qatar National Bank QPSC*. The two matters were heard together under what is known as the ‘Hamid jurisdiction’, through which the courts of England and Wales exercise their inherent supervisory

“

The common theme across all jurisprudences for these matters when they come before a court remains the same – independent human verification

powers in relation to the duties lawyers owe to the court and the integrity of the court process.

In *Ayinde*, judicial review settled and signed by a pupil barrister cited five cases that did not exist. The court did not find as a fact that she had used GenAI, and identified two possible explanations, one of which was that GenAI had been used and its output had not been checked.

In *Al-Haroun*, the scale was greater: 45 authorities had been cited, 18 of which did not exist, while a number of the remainder did not support the propositions or quotations attributed to them. One fictitious authority was purportedly a decision of Dias J – the very judge before whom the material was placed. The solicitor had relied on research carried out by his lay client, who accepted using publicly available AI tools among his research sources, without independently verifying the resulting authorities.

The court’s message was direct: lawyers remained responsible for material placed before a court, whether they produced it themselves, delegated the work to a junior, or relied on research supplied by somebody else. AI-assisted research must be checked against authoritative sources. The court considered the possible use of contempt powers, made or considered regulatory referrals, and stressed that the profession could expect a serious response where these obligations were not met.

Confidentiality and privilege

The English cases have continued since *Ayinde*. In *MS (Professional conduct; AI generated documents)*, a barrister ultimately accepted having used ChatGPT in work that relied on a fictitious authority and was referred to the Bar Standards Board.

In *UK and R*, the Upper Tribunal dealt with false authorities, inadequate supervision of junior legal staff, and the use of ChatGPT with client material. The tribunal took a particularly strong position on confidentiality and privilege, stating that uploading confidential material into an open-source AI tool, such as ChatGPT, placed it in the public domain, breached confidentiality, and waived privilege. As with our brief privilege comment regarding the *US Heppner* matter above, there is a lot more to this decision that would need, in substance, its own article to discuss.



Lawyers remained responsible for material placed before a court, whether they produced it themselves, delegated the work to a junior, or relied upon research supplied by somebody else. AI-assisted research must be checked against authoritative sources

Two further English decisions in 2026 demonstrate that the problem is not confined to invented case law. In *Cork v Smith*, a junior lawyer at international law firm Pinsent Masons used AI in legal research, and an invented quotation from the *Insolvency Rules* subsequently found its way into professional correspondence. Neither the junior lawyer nor those supervising the work had checked the statutory source.

More recently again, in *Tobosaru and Tofan* (8 July), formal submissions prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service contained two non-existent authorities. The CPS explained that the problem appeared to have arisen through AI use combined with a failure of human verification. The errors had not been identified by those preparing or reviewing the submissions, or by counsel, but by the opposing party. The court accepted the apology and remedial action taken, but recorded the episode as a further warning about the need for proper verification.

Without repeating the absolute obvious, the common theme across all of these when they come before a court remains the same – independent human verification is key.

Irish case law

Irish courts began sounding warnings before any detailed procedural framework existed. In *Coulston & Ors v Elliott & Anor*, Nolan J encountered submissions advanced by a litigant-in-person who could not explain the new legal argument contained in them and said that a friend had prepared the material. The judge did not make a finding that AI had, in fact, been used. He considered it highly likely either that somebody had purported to act as a lawyer or that a generative AI programme had been used. In warning of the latter possibility, he observed that GenAI could sound persuasive while being legally flawed.

Reddan v An Bord Pleanála provides another caution against overstating the evidence of AI use. An unfamiliar expression used by a litigant-in-person prompted Nolan J to say that it sounded as though it had come from an AI source and had the hallmarks of ChatGPT or a similar tool. Again, that was an inference rather than a finding that GenAI had been used. More fundamentally, the court was concerned with serious allegations being advanced without an adequate evidential or legal basis.

The position became considerably clearer with the Court of Appeal decision in *Guerin v O'Doherty* (March 2026). The proceedings concerned a civil defamation claim brought by James Guerin, a brother of the late journalist Veronica Guerin, against Gemma O'Doherty in respect of online and print publications made in July 2019. A first trial before a judge and jury in November 2023 ended when the jury was unable to agree a verdict, and a retrial was directed. O'Doherty subsequently sought to have the proceedings struck out; when that application was dismissed by the High Court, she appealed to the Court of Appeal.

There, O'Doherty, who was acting as a litigant-in-person, had used AI to assist in preparing written submissions, which included authorities that did not exist. Costello P described those authorities as hallucinations generated by the AI system. The court nevertheless did not suggest that AI-assisted legal research was prohibited. Parties may use AI for research, but they remain responsible for the resulting submissions and must independently establish that an authority is genuine and, at least, arguably supports the proposition for which it is cited.

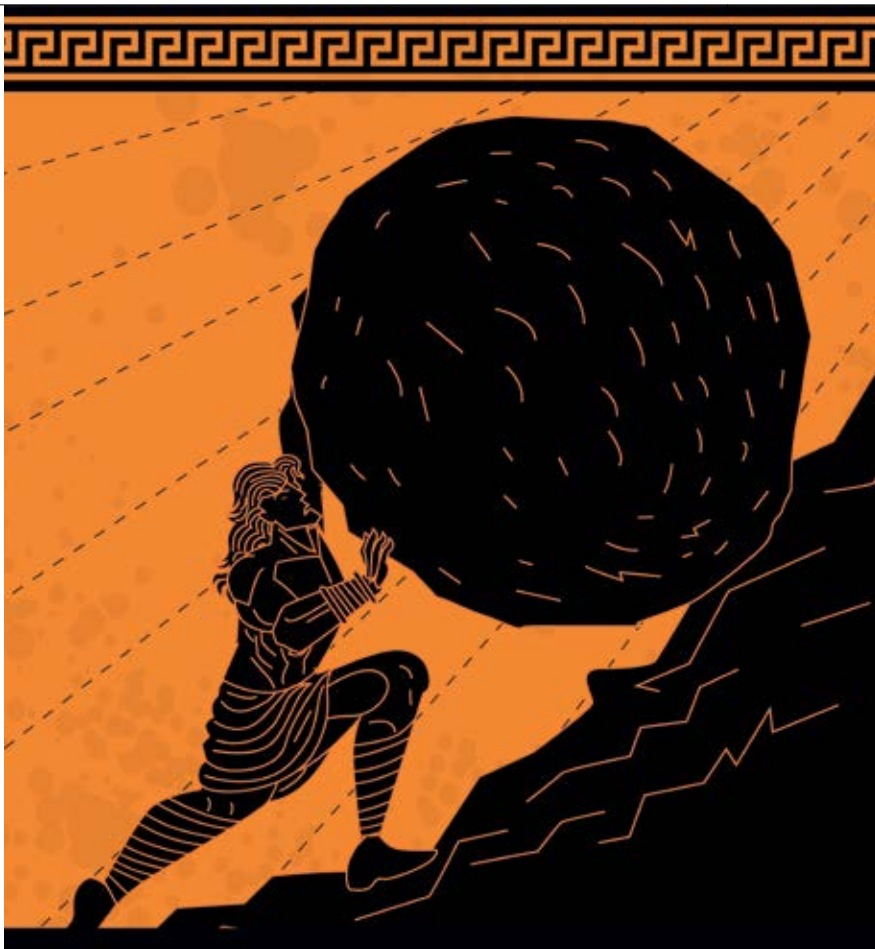
The court also said that parties using AI for legal research should expressly inform the other parties and the court. It warned that sanctions may be available where misuse of AI has the potential to mislead the court. On the facts, however, the court did not find that the defendant intended to mislead it and took account of the absence at that point of prior guidance directed to litigants-in-person.

That should not be taken to mean that the same latitude will necessarily be available in future cases. The judgment is better treated as a warning shot: where parties now have the benefit of published judicial and professional guidance, a repetition of the same failures of verification may attract a materially different response.

The Court of Appeal has acted upon its experience in *Guerin* and, on 11 August 2026, issued Practice Direction CA16, operative from 1 September 2026. This is designed to align with HC142 (see para 1), ensuring that its provisions continue to apply to any appeal from the High Court to the Court of Appeal.

Practice Direction HC142

The first of the High Court's formal procedural framework for GenAI use in civil proceedings came into operation on 1 September 2026. The scope of HC142 applies to:



- All documents used in civil proceedings, including pleadings, submissions, affidavits, witness statements, and expert reports – collectively defined as ‘court documents’;
- All persons involved in proceedings before the High Court, including parties, legal practitioners, witnesses, experts, and any third party required by the court to produce documents;
- All High Court proceedings, whether instituted before or after commencement of the practice direction, and
- All court documents prepared, produced, or generated after the date of commencement.

Unsurprisingly, like the other court-issued and regulatory guidance we have seen to date concerning GenAI, HC142’s central requirement is independent human verification of all source material – the verification standard differing from the type of court document, for example, the *content* of pleadings and submissions must be accurate; witness evidence must remain with the witness for witness statements and affidavits, meaning that any AI rewrites or finessing must not alter or drift from the witness’s own words; expert reports must represent the expert’s own opinion and reasoning, and the use of GenAI in drafting the report, analysing or interpreting information, or generating substantive content must be disclosed in

accordance with the practice direction.

The consequences of misuse are also made explicit. AI-related errors may lead to corrective steps, costs consequences, rejection or disregard of material, strike-out in an appropriate case and, for legal practitioners, possible referral to the relevant professional or regulatory body and personal costs orders.

Use and disclosure

There is currently no single rule requiring disclosure of every use of AI across Irish legal practice. In *Guerin*, the Court of Appeal said that parties using AI to assist with legal research should expressly inform both the court and the other parties, whereas the Law Society’s guidance states that solicitors are under no general positive obligation to disclose GenAI use to clients or other solicitors merely because it has been used, unless specifically asked or another transparency obligation applies.

The position also varies by forum: the Labour Court states that a party using AI may wish to reference its use; the International Protection Appeals Tribunal requires disclosure where submissions have been prepared using AI tools, even in part; and the Workplace Relations Commission asks parties to be open about AI use where appropriate.

HC142 adopts a more detailed approach for the High Court: GenAI use in preparing a court document does not, of itself, require disclosure, although the court may require a party to disclose and explain the nature and extent of that use, and specific requirements apply to affidavits, witness statements, and expert reports.

The position is, therefore, document-specific and forum-specific rather than a blanket disclosure obligation. As a practical matter, practitioners should keep a proportionate record sufficient to identify any material AI use and the checks undertaken, particularly for court-facing work, so that they can explain that use if required.

What this means in practice

- For private practitioners and barristers, the practical position follows from the guidance and authorities discussed above: understand the tool, protect confidential and privileged material, independently verify substantive AI-assisted work, and remain professionally responsible for the result. Where work falls within HC142 or another applicable court or tribunal requirement, that more specific framework must, of course, also be followed.
- The use-cases for in-house lawyers are likely to be considerably broader and will vary between organisations. AI might be used to summarise or compare documents, produce first drafts, assist with contract review or legal research, support internal investigations, or help the wider business with functions

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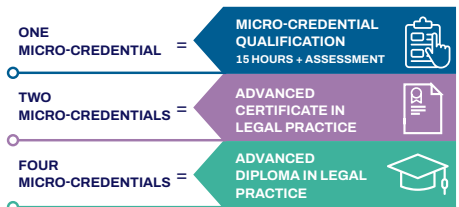
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ranging from HR and procurement to compliance and product development. Those activities will not necessarily be subject to an express procedural framework and, therefore, a proportionate, risk-based approach and validation log provides a useful practical standard.

The obvious starting point should be the use-case: what is the AI being asked to do, what information is being supplied to it, what system is being used, and where will the output ultimately go? A low-risk internal administrative task calls for a different level of scrutiny from legal advice, regulatory analysis, litigation work, or a decision affecting an individual. As the significance of the output increases, so too should the level of human review, verification, and oversight.

The same approach applies to the tool itself. Consumer, enterprise, and legal-specific AI systems may have materially different arrangements for data access, retention, security, and use for model training. In-house teams should, therefore, understand the environment in which information is being processed, particularly before supplying confidential, privileged, personal, or commercially sensitive material. Ultimately, the best practice is familiar: use AI proportionately to the task, verify what needs to be relied upon, preserve professional judgement, and be able to explain how a material output was produced and checked. Maintain a log or record of your decisions and results.

Changing landscape

Ireland enacted the *Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026* in July, establishing the AI Office of Ireland as the central coordinating authority within Ireland's distributed regulatory framework. Other competent authorities include the Data Protection Commission and, for relevant workplace uses, the WRC. The act is subject to commencement provisions and came into force, only in part, on 31 July 2026.

At EU level, the *AI Omnibus* entered into force on 27 July 2026 and revised aspects of the *AI Act* timetable, including the high-risk regime, while certain transparency obligations have applied since 2 August 2026. For in-house teams, AI governance, therefore, extends beyond technology policy and may engage data protection, employment, consumer, contractual, and other sector-specific obligations, depending on the use-case.

The principal principle

AI is a tool, not a decision-maker. It may make legal work faster, but professional judgement, responsibility, and verification remain human. An apparently convincing submission is still only as good as the lawyer who checks it.

There is, perhaps, an apt illustration in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. HAL 9000, the film's highly capable AI-system, plays a game of chess against

astronaut Frank Poole and, in doing so, gives an incorrect description of one of its moves. The error is easy to miss because HAL delivers it with complete confidence and apparent authority, and only someone following the game closely would recognise it.

The lesson for lawyers is equally simple: confidence is not verification. Never trust HAL to make the final call.

Fiona Campbell is an Irish- and UK-qualified solicitor and former Irish barrister. She leads Legal AI Innovation at Lexis Nexis UK. Shauna Gillan is an Irish- and UK-qualified barrister and deputy chair of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal.

LOOK IT UP

CASES:

- *Al-Haroun v Qatar National Bank QPSC* [2025] EWHC 1383 (Admin)
- *Cork v Smith* [2026] EWHC 1199 (Ch)
- *Coulston & Ors v Elliott & Anor* [2024] IEHC 697
- *Guerin v O'Doherty* [2026] IECA 48 (26 March 2026)
- *Kahls v Ellison* (US Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, No 25-1300; 9 February 2026)
- *Mata v Avianca* (US District Court, SD New York, 22-cv-1461 [PKC]; 22 June 2023)
- *Miller v Regions Bank* (US District Court Northern District of Alabama Southern Division, Case No 2:24-cv-1324-HDM; 21 May 2026)
- *MS (Professional conduct; AI generated documents)* [2025] UKUT 305 (IAC)
- *R (Ayinde) v London Borough of Haringey* [2025] EWHC 1383 (Admin)
- *Reddan v An Bord Pleanála* [2025] IEHC 172
- *Tobosaru and Tofan* [2026] EWHC 1720 (Admin)
- *UK and R (on the application of Munir) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2026] UKUT 81 (IAC)
- *United States v Heppner* (25 Cr 503 (JSR); 17 February 2026)
- *Valu v Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (No 2)* [2025] FedCFamC2G 95, Australia; 31 January 2025
- *Zhong v Chen* [Canada, 2024 BCSC 285]

LEGISLATION:

- *AI Omnibus* (Regulation (EU) 2026/1744 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 July 2026)
- *Practice Direction on the Responsible Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Court Documents* (HC 142, High Court and CA16, Court of Appeal)
- *Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026*

LITERATURE:

- *Ethical Toolkit: Ethical Use and Use Cases for Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice* (Bar of Ireland, April 2025)
- *Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence - Guidance for the Legal Profession* (Law Society, December 2025)

GHOST IN THE MACHINE

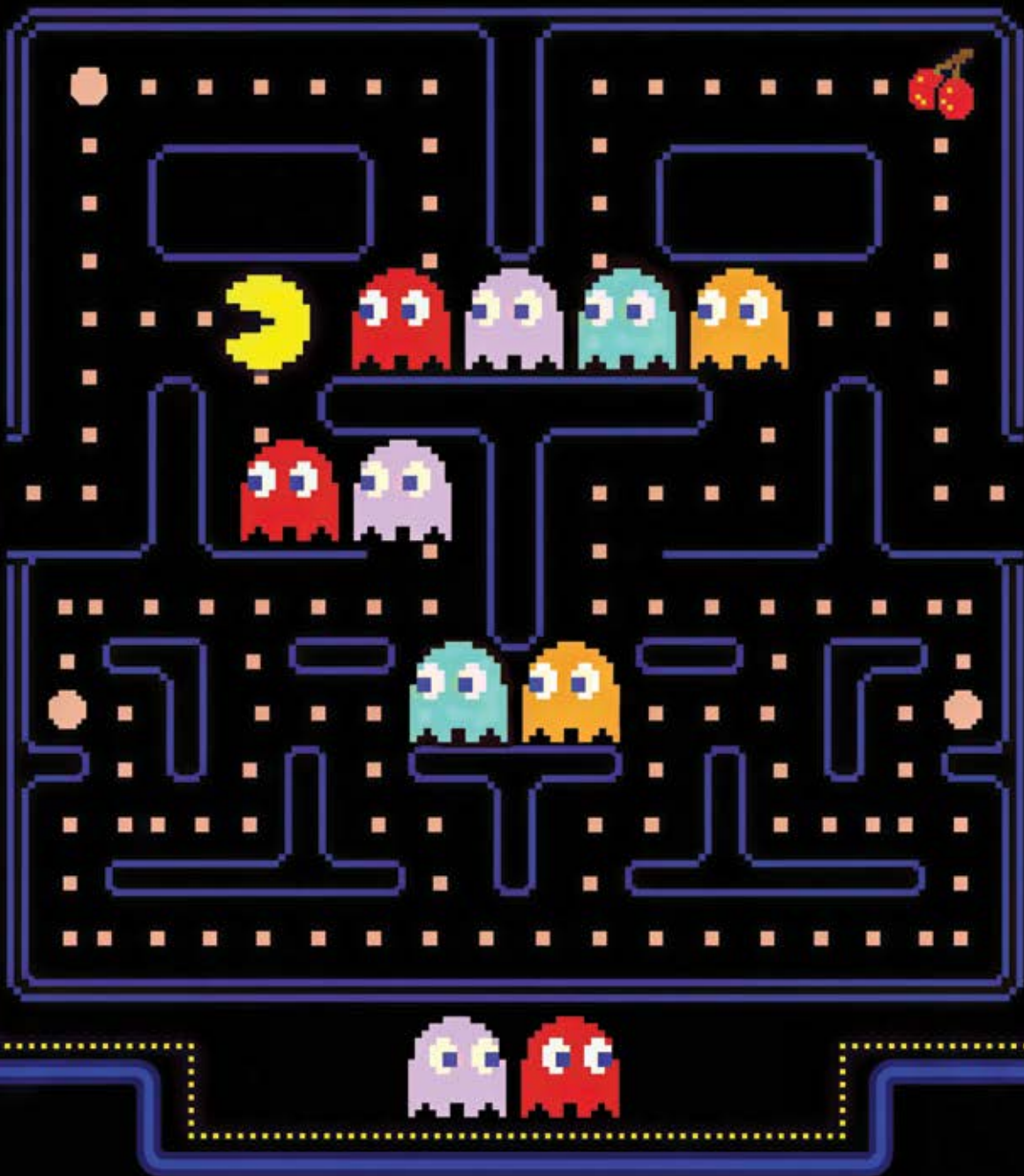


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AI is moving out of experimentation and into the day-to-day machinery of legal practice. Ger Perdisatt looks at what firms are finding and why the next constraint may have surprisingly little to do with AI models themselves



The new High Court Practice Direction HC142 on the responsible use of generative AI in court documents came into effect on 1 September (see p57). Its starting point is worth noting: the court accepts that AI may improve efficiency, reduce costs, and widen access to justice, but its use changes none of the obligations owed to the court. Whoever puts the document in remains responsible for it, whether or not a machine helped to write it.

That puts the most important piece on the table early. Human judgement stays primary. AI can inform, assist, draft, or automate around it, but professional responsibility doesn't migrate to the machine.

So, once you accept that, a wider question opens up: where can AI, and technology more generally, actually improve how a practice works?

A year ago, most conversations I had with firms started in the same place: what can it do? Now it's more likely to be: why is it really good at one task and laughably poor at the next? Why can one team find immediate value while another can't see a worthwhile use for it at all?

The instinct is to blame the technology. Better model. Better product. More AI. That isn't what we're seeing. The questions have changed.

Deus ex machina

When we developed the AI resources for the Law Society's Practice Essentials earlier this year, the pace of change was already



One of the clearest signs that a firm is getting better at AI is that it stops trying to use AI for everything

obvious. Any attempt to prescribe the right product, or a fixed set of use-cases, was going to age like milk.

The Society was prescient in making Practice Essentials practical rather than predictive: resources to help firms make good decisions as the technology moves, rather than pretending to know what the market will look like in a year (nobody does).

The AI resources cover safe-use patterns, shadow-AI discovery, vendor assessment, and workflow readiness – and the toolkit is built to keep evolving.

Several months on, that approach looks better rather than worse. Models have improved, products have multiplied, AI is turning up inside software that firms already own, and users – solicitors, legal executives, administrators, office managers and others – have gotten considerably more capable.

But adoption isn't moving in a neat line from curious to mature. In the same firm, one process may already be heavily automated while another practice area is only starting to map what's possible.

A litigation team might have work suited to AI-assisted drafting, while the accounts team can strip hours out of billing through automation that barely involves generative AI at all. One firm we work with has practice areas deliberately moving at different speeds on a shared technical and governance foundation.

So the useful unit of analysis isn't really the firm in the aggregate. It's the specific work to be done – department by department. Is this actually an AI problem?

Cogito, ergo sum

Once firms start implementing rather than demonstrating, they find that a lot of what gets called an 'AI use-case' is several distinct problems bundled together.

Take a typical request: can we use AI to automate this process? Maybe. AI might be right for reading an incoming document, classifying it, comparing versions, or preparing a draft. But if the next step is to calculate a known figure, populate a field, assemble a standard document, or move information reliably between systems, conventional software is often simpler and safer (and you've probably already bought it). There then is the final step where a solicitor has to exercise judgement.

Those are three different kinds of work: (i) tasks that can run deterministically; (ii) tasks where AI assists but a person approves; and (iii) tasks where the substantive decision stays human. One of the clearest signs that a firm is getting better at AI is that it stops trying to use AI for everything.

Most of the public energy around legal AI goes towards the legal work itself, understandably. The big legal-tech AI

platforms are showing sophisticated capability in research, contract review, document analysis and drafting. But a practice does a lot more than research an issue or draft a clause. Files have to be opened. Information gets extracted, checked, and re-entered. Documents are compared and assembled. Reports, schedules, and bills are produced. Deadlines are chased. Meeting participants is organised. The same information gets moved between systems that were never designed to talk to each other.

And this work sits across solicitors, legal executives, paralegals, secretaries, administrators, finance teams, and office managers.

There's a lot of low-hanging fruit in that machinery. It's less exciting than asking an AI to draft an ingenious argument – but saving ten minutes out of a process that runs hundreds of times a month lands on a practice much faster.

Which is why the requests we hear now are so specific: 'Open the matter and put the information in the right places'; 'Prepare a chronology'; 'Compare these versions'; 'Pull together the billing information'; 'Find the previous work'; 'Help someone new to the area understand how similar matters were handled'.

Those are far better approaches than answering the question: 'What can AI do?' Most don't need some future super-intelligent model. Today's AI technology is already capable of most of what's on that list. What it really lacks is reliable access to the context, systems, and accumulated know-how needed to do the job properly.

Ex nihilo nihil fit

This is where AI is exposing a much older problem. Firms aren't short of information. They have document-management systems, email, case-management and billing systems, shared drives, and years of closed matters. But information isn't knowledge.

A file may hold the final advice without recording why that route was chosen. A precedent bank may hold five versions of a clause without noting that one came from the other side, another was an

exceptional compromise, and a third is what the practice group actually uses now.

Firms have always filled those knowledge gaps with people. The partner remembers why a position was taken. The legal executive knows which template everyone really uses. The accounts team understands an unusual billing arrangement. The administrator knows why a step that looks redundant isn't. That's real organisational knowledge. The problem is that its meaning, authority, and context are rarely captured in a form that technology can reliably use.

AI didn't create that problem. It made the cost of it visible. A better AI model won't fix that. There's a major model release every few weeks, and the improvements are real. But suppose tomorrow's AI brain is twice as capable. Will it know which precedent represents the firm's current position? Why an unusual concession was made? That the document marked 'final' was superseded after a phone call nobody wrote down?

No. A better brain does more with the context available to it. It can't reliably conjure context that was never captured. That's why some of the more interesting AI work now starts a long way from drafting. It starts with how the work happens, which systems hold the relevant information, what's being repeated needlessly, what knowledge is missing, and which sources should be trusted.

On another engagement, we've turned decades of an organisation's own material into a connected, searchable system that runs privately. The AI brain is deliberately replaceable; as better ones arrive, it gets swapped. The durable asset is the organisation's own knowledge, made usable by whatever comes next.

Acta, non verba

Diagnose before you prescribe. That's also the logic behind Practice Essentials.

The value of a workflow-readiness diagnostic isn't that it tells a firm which product to buy. It forces a more basic question first: 'Is this piece of work actually ready?' The same goes for understanding what's already in use, where it's appropriate, and what to examine before buying anything else. Those are reasonably stable questions in a very unstable market.

When something doesn't work, the



Suppose tomorrow's AI brain is twice as capable. Will it know which precedent represents the firm's current position? Why an unusual concession was made? That the document marked 'final' was superseded after a phone call nobody wrote down? No



Image: Shutterstock

diagnosis might be the AI. But the issue may be that nobody agrees how the process should run. The relevant knowledge is scattered across closed matters and people's heads. A legacy system seems to offer no sensible way for modern technology to interact with it. On one current engagement, that means building around closed systems where value can be delivered now, while parking other work until a new core system is in.

Or someone may simply have seen an AI problem where a small piece of conventional automation would do the job better. The answer follows from the diagnosis – not the other way round.

Equo ne credite

The first phase of generative AI was mostly about handing people remarkable new capability and encouraging them to poke at it. That was necessary. Curiosity builds familiarity (and, in a few cases, familiarity has bred contempt).

The next phase is harder. It's about turning the occasional individual win into something a practice can use deliberately, across legal and operational work, without confusing automation with AI, or AI with professional judgement.

A more capable practice might end up using AI less in some processes because it has learned where straightforward automation is safer and simpler. It might get more out of improving file opening, billing, or matter administration than another drafting tool. It might get better



High Court Practice Direction HC142 puts the most important piece on the table early. Human judgement stays primary. AI can inform, assist, draft, or automate around it, but professional responsibility doesn't migrate to the machine

results from a smaller, cheaper model because its own knowledge is better organised. And it will leave certain decisions with people because, as HC142 makes explicit for court documents, responsibility doesn't disappear just because a machine contributed.

Alea iacta est

The models will keep changing, faster than any sensible practice can track, release by release. That's exactly why Practice Essentials has to keep evolving alongside them.

The more durable question is this: are we becoming the kind of practice that can take advantage of whatever comes next? That means understanding the work first: where technology helps, where certainty matters, what the firm needs to make accessible, and where human judgement belongs.

That's the journey that Practice Essentials is built to support: not just from curiosity to governance, but also from curiosity to capability.

Ger Perdissat is CEO and founder of AI Acuity. 



Explore the full suite of Practice Essentials on the Law Society website (lawsociety.ie/practice-essentials). For queries, suggestions or feedback, contact the Solicitor Services Department at solicitorservices@lawsociety.ie.

CHINESE BURN

Solicitors regularly encounter funds originating from abroad, including from China. Ciara McQuillan examines the steps an Irish solicitor should take when such funds are used in an Irish transaction

Solicitors practising in conveyancing and commercial property regularly encounter funds originating from abroad, including from the People's Republic of China.

Those funds are often substantial and are frequently used for property purchases, business acquisitions, and other investments.

AML legislation requires solicitors to obtain satisfactory information (and in some cases evidence) of a client's source of funds and source of wealth. Where money has passed through third-party settlement arrangements, underground banking networks, offshore structures, commingled accounts, or other mechanisms designed to bypass capital controls, obtaining reliable verification may prove exceptionally difficult or impossible.

Difficulty can arise in establishing the source of funds. The difficulty is not the client's nationality but, in

some cases, the inability to verify the lawful origin of the funds and how they left China.

China operates a restrictive foreign-exchange regime. Large transfers may reach Irish solicitors' client accounts through opaque routes, sometimes in breach of Chinese law. This presents a compliance challenge with solicitors' obligations under both the *Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010* and the *Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Regulations 2020* (as amended).

Solicitors providing AML-regulated legal services are designated persons under the 2010 act. Before establishing a business relationship, they must conduct customer due diligence, assess money-laundering and terrorist-financing risk, and apply a level of due diligence appropriate to the risk. They must also identify and verify the source of funds (the origin and transfer route of the monies used) and the source of wealth (how the client acquired those monies) with reliable, independent evidence. Funds from China will often require application of enhanced due diligence.





Chinese controls

China's foreign exchange controls are administered by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE). These controls apply to both individuals and corporate entities.

In the case of individuals, the central feature of the regime is the annual foreign exchange quota of US\$50,000 or its equivalent in other currencies. Each Chinese citizen may, through the authorised banking system, purchase foreign currency up to that limit in a calendar year. The quota is intended to meet ordinary personal needs, such as travel, overseas-education fees, and medical expenses. It is not, in the ordinary course, a lawful mechanism for overseas property investment. Chinese banks are accordingly required to verify the stated purpose of the foreign exchange purchase.

Where a client contends that funds were remitted lawfully through the Chinese foreign exchange system, SAFE-related filings, approvals, registrations, or bank confirmations may support that account. Such material is, however, evidential rather than determinative, and must be assessed against the amount transferred, the identity of the remitter, and the wider source of funds and source of wealth evidence.

The practical implication for an Irish solicitor is that a remittance of €300,000 or €500,000 for the purchase of Irish property cannot ordinarily be explained solely by reference to one individual's annual personal foreign-exchange quota. The amount also does not correspond naturally with the ordinary personal purposes for which that quota is generally available. Separate regulated channels may exist for particular forms of permitted outbound investment, but any reliance on such a channel should be supported by the relevant approvals, registrations, and bank records.

Accordingly, where a client or a family member has transferred a substantial sum from China to Ireland, the solicitor should obtain sufficient information and documentation to understand the source of the funds and the route by which they

were transferred. If the explanation is that the funds were remitted through the individual foreign-exchange quota, the solicitor should assess whether the amount, stated purpose, identity of each remitter, and supporting records are consistent with that explanation.

Any material inconsistency may indicate a possible breach of Chinese foreign-exchange controls and should prompt further enquiries. Such a breach would not, without more information, establish that an offence has been committed in Ireland or that the funds represent the proceeds of criminal conduct. The solicitor must instead assess whether the circumstances, as a whole, give rise to knowledge or suspicion, or reasonable grounds for suspicion, for the purposes of Irish anti-money-laundering legislation.

Circumventions

Practitioners should be alert to the principal methods by which value may be moved out of China in circumvention of capital controls. Each method carries distinct AML and evidential risks.

One method is *splitting*. Multiple individuals, often friends or relatives, each use their own annual quota to purchase foreign currency. The funds are then pooled in an overseas account and remitted onward to the solicitor's client account. The hallmark is a pattern of transfers below the individual threshold from persons who are not parties to the transaction and have no obvious connection to it. While this does not mean that the monies are the proceeds of crime, it does make establishing the source of funds difficult, because it would involve having to identify all parties splitting the funds.

Another route is *underground banking*. This requires particular attention, because it is difficult to detect from the receiving end of the transaction. It operates on a principle of value matching. A client in China deposits renminbi/yuan with an underground banker. The banker then instructs an associate or controlled account overseas to pay the equivalent amount in foreign currency to the client's nominated overseas account. The renminbi deposited in China never crosses a border. The foreign currency paid out overseas was already outside China in a separate pool of funds



Difficulty can arise in establishing the source of funds. The difficulty is not the client's nationality but, in some cases, the inability to verify the lawful origin of the funds, and how they left China





available to the network.

From the solicitor's perspective, the danger is that the funds received may appear legitimate on their face. The bank statement may show a transfer from a reputable overseas bank. A client may produce documentation showing a superficially plausible chain of transfers. The difficulty emerges only when the solicitor probes the source of wealth and the mechanism by which the funds left China.

For solicitors, the critical point is that funds passing through an underground banking network may be impossible to verify satisfactorily as legitimate. The solicitor may be unable to confirm the source of wealth because the link between the client's assets in China and the funds received in Ireland has been broken or obscured. The solicitor may also be unable to confirm the source of funds because the immediate source is a pool of commingled money of uncertain provenance.

Trade-based manipulation is another route. It may involve over-invoicing, under-invoicing, misdescription, undervaluation, or other manipulation of import and export transactions so that

value is retained offshore and later used as part of a capital transfer.

Cryptocurrency may also be used, resulting in conversion of renminbi into digital assets in China, transfer to an overseas wallet, conversion to a fiat currency, before deposit into a bank account.

Third-country routing creates a further difficulty. Funds may be sent to Hong Kong, Macau, or another intermediary jurisdiction before being transferred to Ireland. The intermediate jurisdiction creates a layer of apparent legitimacy, making the tracing of funds back to mainland China more difficult.

The concern is not merely that these routes are unusual, but they may obscure the true origin of the monies, making it materially harder to verify the source of funds and the transfer mechanism to a satisfactory standard.

Red flags

The following indicators, individually or combined, should alert the solicitor to the possibility that funds from China have been moved in circumvention of capital controls or through underground banking channels:

- Multiple transfers from different

named individuals who are not parties to the transaction, with no obvious relationship to the client,

- Funds arriving from third-party personal or corporate accounts without satisfactory explanation,
- Funds routed through intermediate jurisdictions, particularly Hong Kong, Macau, or Southeast Asian countries,
- A client's inability to provide a clear, consistent, and documented explanation of how the funds were accumulated and transferred out of China,
- Bank statements, tax returns, employment records, or other documents that cannot be independently verified or appear inconsistent,
- An amount grossly disproportionate to the client's declared income, occupation, or business activities,
- Source of wealth involving cash-intensive businesses where income is difficult to verify,
- Reluctance or inability to provide original Chinese-language documents with certified English translations,
- Funds arriving from a corporate account where the client is not a director or shareholder,

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- A structure that appears designed to avoid reporting thresholds or obscure the trail of funds.

No single red flag is determinative. However, the presence of several indicators should alert serious concern and require enhanced enquiry.

Practical risk mitigation

Solicitors and firms handling transactions involving funds from China should approach them with a structured risk assessment.

First, the firm's (business) practice-wide risk assessment should specifically address the risks associated with funds originating from China and should reflect the features of the Chinese capital control regime and the methods of circumvention described above.

Second, the solicitor should consider at the outset whether the transaction presents a higher risk of money-laundering or terrorist-financing, and whether enhanced due diligence is required.

Third, the solicitor should require a detailed written explanation dealing separately with the source of wealth and source of funds. The explanation should state how the funds were accumulated, how they were transferred from China to Ireland, and what transfer mechanism was used.

Fourth, the solicitor should obtain and retain supporting documentation. Depending on the circumstances, this may include Chinese personal income-tax returns, employment contracts, business-registration documents, bank statements showing the domestic accumulation of funds, and evidence of the lawful conversion and remittance of foreign currency. If the transfer was said to have been made through the banking system, the client should be able to produce documentation evidencing the foreign-exchange purchase and remittance. If no such documentation can be produced, the solicitor must consider why.

Fifth, in cases involving significant sums, the solicitor should consider independent verification of Chinese documents, including certified translation



China operates a restrictive foreign-exchange regime. Large transfers may reach Irish solicitors' client accounts through opaque routes, sometimes in breach of Chinese law



and, where warranted, a legal opinion from a Chinese law firm on the legality of the outbound transfer.

Sixth, where the solicitor forms a suspicion, or has reasonable grounds to suspect, that the funds represent the proceeds of criminal conduct or that money-laundering is being attempted, a suspicious transaction report must be made to FIU Ireland and the Revenue Commissioners. The obligation arises at the point of suspicion and does not depend on certainty. The solicitor must not inform the client that a report has been or will be made.

Finally, the solicitor should maintain contemporaneous file notes, recording the due diligence steps taken, the documents obtained, the risk assessment, and the reasons for any decision to proceed or decline the retainer.

Getting it wrong

The consequences of failing to discharge these obligations are severe. Under the 2010 act, a solicitor who fails to apply customer due diligence or enhanced due diligence, fails to report a suspicious transaction, or engages in or facilitates money-laundering may commit a criminal offence.

Beyond criminal liability, the solicitor may face regulatory consequences,

including disciplinary proceedings, which may cause reputational damage to the solicitor and firm.

The essential point is that the solicitor's obligation is to examine, apply due diligence proportionate to the risk, and report where suspicion arises. Commercial pressure cannot displace that duty. It requires specific knowledge, specific questions, a willingness to decline retainers when necessary, and reporting suspicious transactions as necessary.

Gatekeeper

The flow of funds from China into client accounts is a present and growing reality. It is driven by legitimate demand, including investment in property, education, and business, but it takes place against a capital-control regime that makes lawful large-scale transfers by individuals exceptionally difficult.

The gap between demand to move funds and the lawful channels available has created an environment in which splitting, underground banking, trade-based manipulation, third-country routing, and cryptocurrency may be used to move value offshore.

The Irish solicitor stands at the gateway. The critical question is not whether the client appears credible or whether the immediate remittance appears regular on its face. It is whether the solicitor can verify, by reliable and independent evidence, source of wealth, source of funds, and the route by which the funds entered the transaction. Where satisfactory verification is not forthcoming, the solicitor should not proceed on reassurance alone.

Firms should train fee-earners on these risks, update their risk assessments to reflect the Chinese capital-control environment, and seek specialist advice where the complexity of a transaction exceeds in-house expertise. 

Ciara McQuillan is an AML executive and solicitor in the AML Section of the Law Society's Regulation Department. She is grateful to the heads of AML and Regulatory Legal Services for their input on this article.

A COACH AND FOUR

The latest AI models have the potential to drive a coach and four through cybersecurity safety features. How can Irish law firms stay protected against attack? Tanya Moeller and Paul Delahunty attempt to hold the horses

When securing a law firm against cybersecurity threats, questions are usually asked as to how AI is disrupting the status quo. So, are there any particular actions that a practice manager should take to protect against cyberattacks in the age of AI?

If you are new to the topic, the question about the impact of AI on cybersecurity is timely. In April of this year, US-based AI developer Anthropic, best known for its Claude application, launched its new Mythos model, but stopped short of a general release. It stated that observed capabilities could “reshape cybersecurity” because “AI models have reached a level of coding capability where they can surpass all but the most skilled humans at finding and exploiting software vulnerabilities”.

Mythos found “thousands of high-severity

vulnerabilities, including some in every major operating system and web browser”. Anthropic feared that it would “not be long before such capabilities proliferate”, while the “fallout – for economies, public safety, and national security – could be severe”.

This prompted a flurry of activity between relevant stakeholders, such as governments, technology companies, national cybersecurity agencies, and regulators (including those operating in the financial sector). What is relevant is that a widespread analysis of Mythos’s impact on critical IT systems took place across the globe. In Ireland, the National Cyber Security Centre commented that, in the circumstances, the decision not to release its latest model on a general basis was a “responsible approach”.



AI duality

Reflecting on this example, there is an obvious duality in the use of AI for cybersecurity. On the one hand, AI improves defences against cyberattacks, since it improves continuously, calculates faster than humans can, and doesn't require sleep. On the other hand, it is precisely these capabilities that can be exploited by cyber-criminals.

In practical terms, the impact on law firms is immediate. Solicitors use software in a number of ways every day: for practice and client management, communication, processing of information, and online banking. The two major assets of law firms that make them attractive to cyber-criminals – sensitive information and funds in bank accounts – are at risk if AI can help to transform software applications into a

gateway to these assets. For example, if your laptop gets hacked, cyber-criminals can install keystroke monitoring software, without you realising it, and get your online banking credentials. If your browser is compromised, they can read the information you send to your bank when logging in via the internet.

Indeed, the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) warned in May that the “most significant AI cyber-development will highly likely come from AI-assisted vulnerability research and exploit development that enables access to systems through the discovery and exploitation of flaws in the underlying code or configuration”.

Irish law firms also need to respond to the fact that the improving capabilities of AI will increase the volume of cybersecurity attacks. In March, the NCSC (UK) warned

that AI “lowers the barrier” for novice cyber-criminals, leading to a “commoditisation of AI-enabled capability” in the cyber-crime market. In this way, “both state and non-state actors” would be facilitated.

Capability uplift

In addition, where cyberattacks occur, these can become more tailored towards the situation at a quicker pace. A key risk to law firms is the personalisation of cyberattacks to the unique environment of the situation, in order to trick a staff member into carrying out the wrong action – for example, typing an online banking password into a fraudulent website.

Cyber-criminals can secretly stay in your email account for months, monitoring cases, and then striking with a highly personalised email containing fraudulent bank account details. The NCSC (UK) found that AI provides “capability uplift in reconnaissance and social engineering, almost certainly making both more effective, efficient, and harder to attack”.

Law firms need to respond by adapting effectively. Speaking at the Oireachtas AI Committee, the Irish NCSC warned that a “potential for an ‘AI gap’” could emerge, “between those organisations that can adapt to this new environment, and those that cannot, or at least not quickly enough”.

In practical terms, adaptation here means that cybersecurity needs to be a top priority for law firms.

All about that baseline

Those who are new to this topic need to implement a baseline cybersecurity programme without further delay. In a nutshell, this consists of the following three steps:

- 1) *Implement a cybersecurity governance structure:* identify and define roles and powers. Who takes overall decisions (budget, timelines, risk appetite)? Who is responsible for IT architecture (hardware and software purchases, installations, and maintenance)? Who is the person who carries out cybersecurity services? Where you are a single practitioner or smaller law firm, unless you have the capacity and knowledge, you will most likely outsource the architecture and security services. However, outsourcing does not relieve you of your responsibility to manage your cybersecurity response. Discuss with your IT provider now how you can improve your defences. Equally, law firms should mitigate the cyber-risks posed by third-party providers, including cloud software vendors and managed-IT service providers, and ensure that appropriate outsourcing contracts are in place that cover vendor security obligations and breach reporting. If you are uncertain how to review third-party vendor contracts from this perspective, it may be worth taking legal advice from a trusted colleague in the profession.
- 2) *Understand your unique vulnerabilities:* every law firm suffers structural weak points, be it in the physical



The two major assets of law firms that make them attractive to cyber-criminals – sensitive information and funds in bank accounts – are at risk if AI can help to transform software applications into a gateway to these assets

environment, in behaviour on the road, in hardware, or in daily operational processes carried out by staff. It is an easy premise to believe that, where AI exploits software as an entry point, only the software needs regular maintenance. In fact, humans are still the weakest link in cybersecurity, and the environment in which software operates is crucial in preventing and mitigating cyberattacks. A robust cybersecurity risk assessment provides your law firm with the transparency it requires to understand where it is vulnerable.

- 3) *Mitigate your vulnerabilities:* once you have clarity where you are exposed, evaluate your responses. Usually this is done on a ‘probability versus impact’ matrix, where the likelihood of a risk occurring is measured against the consequences for your law firm if it did happen. For example, the risk of your entire client database being wiped might seem remote, but if it were to happen, it would be catastrophic were you not to have a functioning backup. As such, a risk mitigation plan sets out how you intend to deal with each risk, on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. You can accept, mitigate, transfer (by offloading), or avoid a risk. In practice, mitigation measures may include staff training, regular software updates and patching, secure backups, and the use of multi-factor authentication to reduce the risk of unauthorised access to systems and accounts.

Law firms that already have a cybersecurity programme in place are likely to already be on the road to risk mitigation. In the context of recent AI developments, it would be wise now to take stock of your cybersecurity efforts and determine whether you need to adapt your approach.

Prepare for the worst

No cybersecurity programme can eliminate risk entirely, particularly as AI increases the scale and sophistication of cyberattacks. Law firms should, therefore, also



prepare for the possibility that an incident will occur. An incident response and recovery plan should set out who is responsible for responding to a cyberattack, how systems and data can be restored, and when clients, insurers, regulators, or other stakeholders need to be notified. We recommend that you carry out a dry run during a quiet phase in your practice's calendar.

In fact, an additional key building-block to surviving the 'AI gap' mentioned above is to achieve a solid 'cybersecurity maintenance phase'. This is the ideal status quo for any law firm: your cybersecurity risk-assessment is regularly reviewed, your risk-mitigation plan is flexibly adjusted on a regular basis, and risk-mitigation actions – such as mock incidents, IT updates, patching, and staff training – are carried out at recommended intervals. As AI challenges traditional cybersecurity protections, your maintenance phase must remain continuously dynamic and responsive.

For the latest updates on cybersecurity developments, continuously check the Law Society's website at lawsociety.ie/cyber-security. We are planning to make an introductory guide available after the summer break and present this at

“

Cyber-criminals can secretly stay in your email account for months, monitoring cases, and then striking with a highly personalised email containing fraudulent bank account details

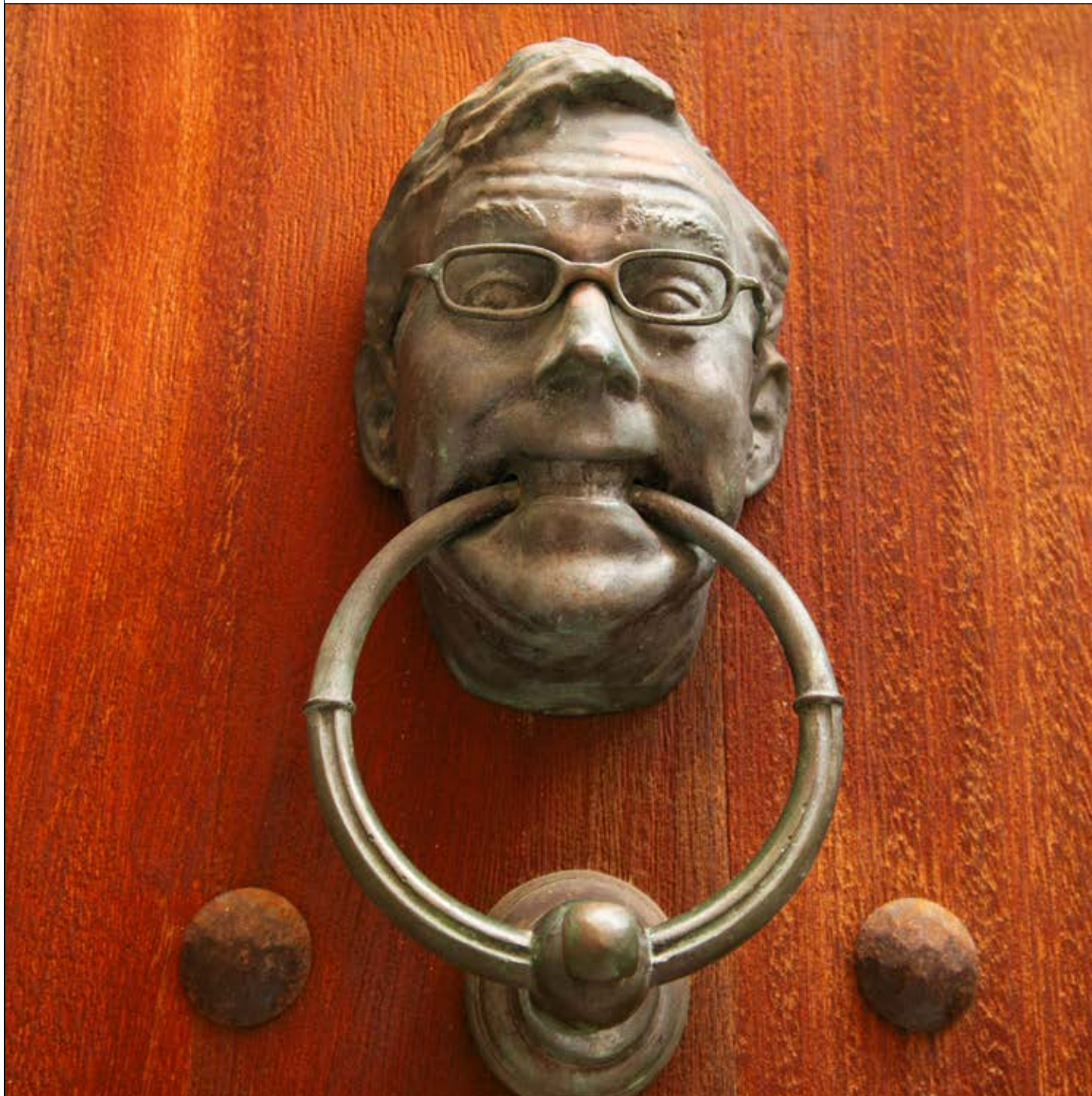
the Technology Committee's conference in November. As this is still some months away, it is strongly recommended that you start preparing now.

Tanya Moeller is an in-house counsel (she has co-authored this article in a personal capacity). Paul Delahunty is chief information security officer at Stryve Secure.

LOOK IT UP

LITERATURE:

- 'Impact of AI on cyber-threat from now to 2027' - NCSC (UK) assessment highlighting the impacts on cyber-threat from AI developments between now until 2027 (7 May 2025)
- 'Opening address - Oireachtas Committee on Artificial Intelligence' (14 April 2026; National Cyber Security Centre (Ireland))
- 'Powerful AI should not be released without safeguards, National Cyber Security Centre says', Sean Murray (*Irish Examiner*, 14 April 2026)
- 'Project Glasswing - securing critical software for the AI era' (an initiative that brings together Amazon Web Services, Anthropic, Apple, Broadcom, Cisco, CrowdStrike, Google, JPMorganChase, the Linux Foundation, Microsoft, NVIDIA, and Palo Alto Networks in an effort to secure the world's most critical software)
- 'The human layer of security: why people are still the weakest link in 2026', Oluwakorede Akinsete (*Security Boulevard*, 6 February 2026)
- 'The near-term impact of AI on the cyber-threat' (NCSC (UK) assessment focusing on how AI will affect the efficacy of cyber-operations and the implications for the cyber-threat over the next two years, 24 January 2024)

A bronze door knocker in the shape of a man's head with glasses, set against a wooden door. The man's mouth is open, and a large ring is attached to it. The door is made of dark wood with a vertical grain. There are two small, round, dark metal studs on either side of the knocker's base.

Knocking on your door?

Three themes dominate the DPC's 2025 annual report: policies, transparency, and training. Where these were lacking, incidents occurred, complaints followed, and the DPC engaged – sometimes by knocking on the office door. Elaine Morrissey answers it

The DPC's 2025 *Annual Report and Case Studies* confirms what most practitioners already suspect: the same failures keep recurring.

The numbers show a regulator doing more – with less patience for excuses – including:

- Fines imposed: €652 million (2024) versus €530.77 million (2025); cumulative since May 2018, €4.04 billion,
- Cases concluded: 10,510 (2024) versus 11,734 (2025) – up 12%,
- Data-breach notifications: 7,781 (2024) versus 6,521 (2025) – down 16%,
- Electronic marketing investigations: 146 (2024) versus 275 (2025) – up 88%,
- New cases: 16,160 – up 45%.

Electronic direct-marketing complaints are up 24% (245 new complaints in 2025), cases progressing to the formal complaint-handling process are up 27%, and the DPC's first *Public Attitudes Survey* found strong public awareness of data protection rights – 70% of respondents trust the DPC to uphold them.

Biggest headache

Data-subject access requests (DSARs) continue to rule the roost. DSARs remain the DPC's biggest headache – and everyone else's. Of GDPR complaints received, access requests accounted for 42%, erasure 17%, and fair processing 16%, with 1,280 complaints on the right of access alone.

The report states that organisations “must do more to enhance transparency

... when responding to subject-access requests”. Where exemptions are relied on, organisations “frequently fail to clearly explain to the individual the rationale for applying those restrictions”.

It is the most repeated message across this year's case studies: document the reason for any restriction or exemption relied on. Case Study 2 warns that personal data cannot be withheld “without careful consideration of the concept of necessity and proportionality”, while Case Study 4 requires an organisation to “demonstrate the reasoning for any restrictions and/or exemptions made over the right of access”.

Privilege exemption

In Case Study 1, a national school withheld records, citing legal advice and litigation privilege under section 162 of the 2018 act. The DPC undertook a detailed review of the records and information provided by the school and found that the school had correctly applied the privilege exemption. The

lesson: keep a schedule of what is withheld or redacted and why, tied to the provision relied upon.

The DPC also published *Subject Access Requests: A Data Controller's Guide* in 2025. Its principles were tested in *Patreon Ireland Ltd*, where the DPC confirmed that an access request can be made through any channel, and that the clock starts when the request lands – not when it reaches the right department. Patreon sat on the request for months and was reprimanded.

Of the queries received by the Law Society's IP and Data Protection Law Committee, the majority relate to DSARs received by firms from clients, former clients, or third parties. These are challenging requests for solicitors, but it is important to deal with them within the timeline (one month) and to document all decision-making. The most important thing is not to ignore the request – ultimately, that may result in engagement with the DPC.

The use of GenAI

The report flags an issue that solicitors are already dealing with: individuals are increasingly using GenAI to draft their own DSARs and complaints. The DPC notes that AI-drafted requests are often inaccurate or invalid, which frustrates the process for all involved.

Case Study 28 highlights inappropriate use of AI that caused a data breach. An employee at a financial services firm uploaded 32 CVs – including passport and visa details – to a free external AI tool to get through the work faster. There was no data-processing agreement with the

“

Of the queries received by the Law Society's IP and Data Protection Law Committee, the majority relate to DSARs received by firms from clients, former clients, or third parties



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Diploma in Sports Law	6 October 2026	€2,700
Diploma in Technology and IP Law	7 October 2026	€3,095
Diploma in Construction Law	10 October 2026	€2,700
Diploma in Regulation, Compliance and Risk Management	13 October 2026	€2,700
Diploma in Judicial Skills and Decision-Making	17 October 2026	€3,095
Certificate in Enforcement for Public Bodies	20 October 2026	€1,750
Diploma in Family Law	22 October 2026	€2,700
Certificate in Immigration Law and Practice	29 October 2026	€1,750
Diploma in Education Law	30 October 2026	€2,700
Certificate in Legal Skills for Legal Secretaries	3 November 2026	€950
Diploma in Legal Skills for Legal Executives	3 November 2026	€2,500

All lectures are webcast and available to view on playback, allowing participants to catch up on coursework at a time suitable to their own needs.
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09/26



provider, the data left the organisation's control, and the organisation's data loss prevention tool flagged the upload, which it then notified to the DPC as a breach. The organisation had no policy on AI tools at all – precisely the gap the DPC's key takeaway zeroes in on.

The Law Society's [guidance on generative AI](#) warns against exactly this: free and paid consumer versions of GenAI tools are not suitable for personal or client confidential data. Case Study 28 highlights that every organisation should have an AI policy setting out which AI tools staff may use, for what purposes, and what data may be inputted. Staff then need to be made aware of it and trained on it.

Training never gets old

The *Cubic Telecom* decision shows why training is not a box-ticking exercise. A support contractor misread a customer's subject access request as an erasure request and deleted the individual's personal data. The lesson: staff need to recognise a rights request and know what to do with it.

In 2025, the DPC also carried out 13 site visits to organisations that had ignored its complaints process or a rights request.

The premises included restaurants, a GP's surgery, a solicitor's office, and several sole traders' addresses. Firms are data controllers too – ignoring the DPC can escalate from a letter to a knock on the door.

Sharp focus

Transparency runs through the report and case studies, and ties in with the European Data Protection Board's October 2025 announcement that transparency obligations under articles 12–14 of the GDPR will be the focus of its 2026 coordinated enforcement action: participating authorities, including the DPC, will assess whether controllers give individuals clear, accessible information about their processing.

Expect the 2026 annual report to reflect that focus. Now is the time to review firm and client policies against the transparency requirements, particularly as AI use increases.

Not just a footnote

Children's data was arguably the DPC's headline act in 2025. The 'Pause Before You Post' campaign, tackling parents' sharing of

children's images online, generated over 150 million views worldwide. For any firm or client working with children, this is a sharp reminder to check compliance.

Keep the paper trail

The DPC's 'Kick-Start Compliance' sports data conference (applicable to all organisations) produced a ten-point checklist, running from knowing what data you hold, to having a breach plan, and finishing on the point that matters most – keep records of decision, processes, policies, and training.

The *City of Dublin Education and Training Board* (CDETB) decision shows the cost of failing that – poor security and a two-year delay in notifying data subjects led to a €125,000 fine, reduced meaningfully by CDETB's cooperation once the DPC came calling. Worth remembering the next time a client asks whether owning up is worth it.

Looking ahead

This year brings the European Data Protection Board's transparency sweep and, if 2025 is any guide, more data-subject requests and complaints. Solicitors (for their own firms and when advising) should focus on procedures, transparency, and training – and document it, to show the DPC what was done, when, and why. 

Elaine Morrissey is chair of the Law Society's IP and Data Protection Law Committee.

LOOK IT UP

- [Annual Report and Case Studies](#) (DPC, 2025),
- [Subject Access Requests: A Data Controller's Guide](#) (DPC, 2025),
- ['Pause Before You Post'/'Sharenting' resources](#) (DPC, 2026),
- [Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI by the Legal Profession](#) (Law Society of Ireland),
- [Practice Essentials: Data Protection](#) (Law Society of Ireland guidance and templates to support compliance with data-protection obligations, including policies and procedures),
- [Intellectual Property and Data Protection Law](#) (Law Society webpage for data-protection guidance)

‘Defections’ from rules-based order increasing

Europe’s assumptions about the US as a protector have gone and “are not coming back”. This was just one of the issues aired during the Law Society’s Summer School, held on 9 July. Andrew Fanning reports



Avril Haines (former director of US National Intelligence) delivers her keynote address, with Mark Garrett (Law Society director general)

A conference in the Law Society has heard that Europe’s assumptions about the US as a protector have gone and “are not coming back”. Professor Federico Fabbrini, the founding director of DCU’s Dublin European Law Institute, was speaking at the Law Society’s Centre for Justice and Law Reform Summer School at Blackhall Place on 9 July.

The event brought together leading international figures in law, diplomacy, security, and politics to examine whether

While the EU had been “an extraordinary success” in preventing war, it had become so successful it had forgotten “the reality of warfare”

the rules-based international order could survive an age of disruption.

A panel discussion, chaired by *Irish Times* political editor Pat Leahy, focused on “taking the pulse of the rules-based international order”. International-law expert Dr Christine Ahlborn (University of Graz) argued that, while there has been a change in the international order, it is still rules-based, evidenced by a range of rules covering aviation and other sectors that still operate every day across the world.

She added that article

2(4) of the *UN Charter*, which calls on states to refrain from the use of force against other countries, was still alive, while the International Court of Justice was dealing with more cases than ever.

The academic told the event that declarations about the death of the rules-based order have been particularly prominent in the West, pointing to a view from the global South that there has been a selective focus on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Dr Ahlborn told the summer school that power was now becoming more diffuse and regional institutions more important.

She concluded that international law was being “contested and reinterpreted”, though the changes might not be to the West’s liking, with “more actors on the stage”

States ‘arming up’

Stephen Pomper (International Crisis Group) argued, however, that we were now seeing “tectonic” changes, with increased “defection” from the rules-based order from those that had been most invested in it, such as the US.

There had been an erosion of support for the principle of non-intervention, he said, adding that states could no longer rely on



Rose Gottemoeller (former deputy secretary general of NATO), Dr Dmytro Kuleba, and General Seán Clancy



Dr Christine Ahlborn

international rules to provide protection, and were “arming up” as a result.

Pomper added, however, that small and medium-sized countries were not yet ready to write off the rules-based international order completely.

Ukraine ‘turning point’

Prof Federico Fabbrini told the conference that Russian aggression against Ukraine had been a “turning point” for the EU. The war had posed a “fundamental challenge” for the EU, which was conceived as a peacetime organisation, and



Prof Federico Fabbrini

had exposed its “structural shortcomings”.

While the EU had been “an extraordinary success” in preventing war, the professor stated that it had become so successful it had forgotten “the reality of warfare”.

The EU-law expert described the EU’s response, however, as “unprecedented” and “remarkably flexible”, citing its support for Ukrainian forces, the development of new funding mechanisms, and changes in energy policy.

US’s domestic focus

On the effect of US President Donald Trump on international relations, Pomper told the event that he did not see the US “coming back” to its pre-Trump positions. The US, he argued, would be more focused

on domestic challenges than restoring international institutions.

Dr Ahlborn said that the increasing dissatisfaction of the global South with the current system dated from the 1960s and 1970s, independently of Trump or the US, adding that his exit would not bring this process to an end.

Prof Fabbrini said that the current situation was a “decision moment” for Europe, adding that old assumptions about the US as a protector were gone: “The old days are not coming back, whatever happens; I think trust has been broken,” he concluded.

Andrew Fanning is a freelance journalist at the Law Society Gazette. 

Four million documents. Four weeks.

In a high-stakes investigation, the challenge is no longer collecting data: it is finding the evidence that matters. Enda Lowry and Tom O'Halloran explain how forensic technology, eDiscovery and disciplined Continuous Active Learning (CAL) review can turn information overload into defensible insight.

More than four million documents were potentially in scope. The deadline was four weeks. The review team had four people.

Tom O'Halloran designed and implemented a CAL review methodology that reduced that population to about 25,000 records for human review. The team identified more than 8,500 relevant documents – roughly one relevant record in every three reviewed – and completed the exercise on time.

A conventional keyword-led approach would have required several hundred thousand documents to be reviewed, materially increasing cost and duration, without locating additional relevant material. The difference was not an AI tool in isolation. It was a defensible method: careful scoping, informed decisions about data and issues, iterative testing, quality control and a clear audit trail.

The information problem

This example captures the problem now facing legal and compliance teams. Litigation, investigations, regulatory

inquiries and data subject access requests unfold across email, collaboration platforms, mobile devices, cloud repositories and enterprise applications. The risk increasingly lies not in whether evidence can be found, but in the time, cost and effort required to identify it among overwhelming volumes of material.

Preservation and collection still matter, but they are only the start. The decisive question is whether a team can identify, understand and act on the small fraction of information that will shape legal strategy, regulatory response or commercial decisions.

Broad keyword searches and linear review can generate large volumes of false positives. They consume budgets, extend timetables and distract reviewers from the facts that matter. The answer is not simply to add more reviewers. It is to interrogate the data more intelligently and direct expert attention where it is most valuable.

AI with professional judgement

AI can help, but only when it is treated as part of an investigative methodology

rather than as a shortcut. At Teneo, the principle is simple: AI should accelerate expertise, not replace it.

Our forensic and eDiscovery specialists work with client legal teams to choose appropriate techniques, train and test models, examine results and document the decisions made along the way. Analytics can assist in prioritising likely relevant material, group near-duplicates, reconstruct conversations, identify patterns and surface unexpected connections. Human reviewers still determine relevance, privilege, context and legal significance.

“AI should accelerate expertise, not replace it.”

That combination can make review faster and more precise while preserving transparency. A defensible workflow should explain what data was collected, how it was processed, why particular methods were used, what was tested and how quality was assured. Efficiency gains that cannot survive scrutiny are not genuine gains.

The discipline is especially

important where CAL review informs a regulatory response or court process. Validation, sampling and documented quality assurance allow the legal team to rely on the result, explain how it was reached and defend it under scrutiny, rather than asking others to trust a black box.

Defensibility check

- Scope tied to the legal issues
- Repeatable testing and validation
- Documented reviewer decisions
- Quality assurance and sampling
- Complete audit trail

One team, full lifecycle

Technology itself is no longer a meaningful differentiator. Access to software has become increasingly commoditised, but experienced judgement has not. Teneo combines digital forensics, eDiscovery, managed review, investigations, cyber response, data-breach support, DSARs, blockchain investigations and data analytics within one multidisciplinary team.

That matters because evidence rarely moves neatly through separate workstreams. A cyber incident may become a regulatory inquiry. A data breach may trigger litigation. A fraud investigation may require forensic accounting, mobile-



device analysis, disclosure and expert testimony. An integrated team reduces hand-offs, preserves context and keeps the evidential chain intact.

Teneo services

- Forensic preservation and collection
- eDiscovery, analytics and managed review
- Internal and regulatory investigations
- Cyber response and data-breach support
- DSAR response and blockchain investigations
- Reporting, production and expert testimony
- Forensic accounting, valuations and disputes
- Insolvency and restructuring

Clients can be supported from preservation and collection through processing, search, review, analysis, reporting, production and expert witness support. Law firms can also draw on these capabilities matter by matter, gaining sophisticated infrastructure and senior expertise without building a full forensic

technology function in-house.

For small and mid-sized firms, this can be a practical leveller. Advanced review methods make it possible to manage data-heavy matters with smaller teams and more predictable cost, while the law firm retains control of legal strategy and client relationships.

Beyond document review

Many legal and compliance functions know that AI will reshape their work, but have not yet settled where it should be used or how it should be governed. Teneo helps teams evaluate use cases, establish governance and validation frameworks, and integrate technology into existing processes in a practical, proportionate and defensible way.

Privacy by design

Investigation strategy must also reflect data-protection obligations. Teneo applies data minimisation, proportionality and targeted collection so that teams process what is necessary, rather than everything that is

available. This is particularly important on cross-border matters, where data location, transfer restrictions and regulatory expectations can shape the workflow.

Evidence is protected through encryption, role-based access controls, audit trails and strict chain-of-custody procedures. Processing takes place in secure forensic environments using recognised methodologies. These controls are not administrative extras; they underpin confidentiality, evidential integrity and the ability to explain the work later.

Global scale, Irish judgement

Complex matters rarely respect organisational or national boundaries. Teneo's global platform gives clients

access to international specialists, cross-border data capabilities and additional review resources, while maintaining direct access to senior practitioners who understand the Irish legal and regulatory environment.

This combination is relevant across litigation, regulatory investigations, fraud allegations, shareholder disputes, insolvency proceedings and data breaches. It also allows forensic technology to be joined with forensic accounting, financial analysis, valuation, restructuring and dispute support where a matter demands more than document review.

The four-million-document investigation didn't succeed because a machine made the decisions. It succeeded because the technology effectively focused expert attention, the method was tested and the team could account for what it had done. As data volumes grow, that discipline will become less optional. The objective is not to review more data, it is to reach the right evidence sooner, control cost and risk, and make better decisions when the stakes are high. 

Enda Lowry and Tom O'Halloran lead Teneo's Forensic Technology practice in Ireland. [Enda Lowry / Teneo] Tom O'Halloran / Teneo



IN-PERSON AND LIVE ONLINE COURSES

08 Sept	Retirement Planning for Law Firm Partners & Sole Practitioners	5 hours	Law Society of Ireland	€185
09 Sept	Younger Members Committee Conference 2026	2 hours	The Imperial Hotel, Cork	Free
22 Sept	Bitesize Briefing: Local Property Tax with Revenue Commissioners	1 general	Live Zoom webinar	€65
23 Sept	Connaught Solicitors' Symposium 2026	6 hours	Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar	€165
24 Sept	Human Rights & Equality Committee Annual Lecture 2026	1 general	Live Zoom webinar	Free
25 Sept	Family & Child Law Conference 2026	5 hours	Law Society of Ireland	€175
01 Oct	Essential General Practice Update Kerry 2026	6 hours	Ballygarry House Hotel, Tralee	€165
06 Oct	Law Society Skillnet Wellbeing Summit 2026 - Navigating Transitions	2.5 professional development	Live Zoom webinar	Free
07 Oct	Inhouse & Public Sector Committee Conference 2026	3.5 hours	Law Society of Ireland	€175
08 Oct	General Practice Update Kilkenny 2026	6 hours	Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny	€165
13 Oct	Bitesize Briefing: Certificate of Title Update	1 hour	Live Zoom webinar	€65
15 Oct	Litigation Committee Annual Conference 2026	3 general	Law Society of Ireland	€175
16 Oct	North East CPD Day	6 hours	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	€165
20 Oct	Regulation Matters: Ethics for In-house lawyers	1 hour	Live Zoom webinar	€65
22 Oct	Setting up in Practice	3.5 hours	Law Society of Ireland	€95
22 Oct	Bitesize Briefing: Assisted-Decision Making update	1 general	Live Zoom webinar	€65

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TRAINING - IN-PERSON

23 Sept	AI Practical Workshop - Advanced	3 professional development	Law Society of Ireland	€175
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MICRO-CREDENTIALS

From 16 Sept	Micro-credential - Communications Skills for Legal Leaders	16.5 hours	Live Zoom Meetings	€495
From 21 Sept	Micro-credential - Advocacy	15 hours	Law Society of Ireland	€750
From 21 Oct	Micro-credential - Business Development - the Highly Trusted Legal Advisor Programme	17 hours	Law Society of Ireland	€495
From 10 Nov	Micro-credential in ESG	15 hours	Live Zoom Meetings	€950
From 24 Nov	Micro-credential - Bookkeeping and Accounts for a Law Firm	15 hours	Hybrid	€750

*Law Society Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and member companies, Law Society Skillnet members are eligible for this subsidised training.

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COUNCIL REPORT

Law Society Council meeting 15 May 2026

At its recent meeting, the Council received a range of updates on key strategic and operational matters.

Policy update

Dr Brian Hunt, director of policy, provided updates on a range of key policy and legislative developments affecting the profession.

Criminal Legal Aid

The chair of the Criminal Law Committee, Dr Shane McCarthy, reported on recent correspondence from the Minister for Justice following the Law Society's submission. While the minister signalled openness to further engagement, he did not concede to the concerns raised.

The Law Society has responded positively to continued dialogue, while reaffirming support for reform, but for those reforms to reflect the work done in the District Courts.

Concerns remain about the flat-fee proposal, particularly the lack of complete and reliable underlying data.

The chair acknowledged the continued efforts by both the president and executive team, while noting that practitioners remain significantly concerned, especially given the approaching implementation date.

Civil Reform Bill

Following feedback, the discovery regime was revised so that document production is only required after a defence is delivered, rather than at the outset. However, the monetary jurisdiction of the District and Circuit Courts is to remain unchanged.

Complaints handling by the LSRA

The level of complaints not upheld by the LSRA is trending at 50% – and is at 63% for the period September 2025 to March 2026.

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to review the Legal Services Regulatory Authority, which is due to occur during the summer.

Consultation processes

Work has commenced on the Law Society's pre-budget submission.

Consultations on artificial intelligence and on the reform of non-court adjudicative bodies are ongoing.

Environmental judicial reviews

Despite the large volume of submissions (over 1,400) received regarding the scale of fees for environmental judicial reviews, there has been no engagement from the department. The regulations giving effect to the changes were signed off on 12 May.

Practice Essentials toolkit

The director of solicitor services, Antionette Moriarty, and Solicitor Services executive Karen Dowdall, outlined the newly launched Practice Essentials toolkit introduced by the president at Blackhall Place on 28 April.

Developed from the 2025 profession-wide survey, the toolkit provides practical resources to support small and medium-sized practices across several areas, including cybersecurity, data protection, information technology, and human resources. It offers user-friendly guidance and practical templates developed in conjunction with a panel of industry experts.

The ongoing promotion of the toolkit will focus on targeted engagement with members, including at cluster and bar-association events. Further phases are planned.

Finance, operations and HR update

Gillian Cregan (director of finance, operations and human resources) updated members on the newly integrated function covering finance, IT, facilities, human resources, and projects and innovation. She provided an update on key operational activities that included a strong financial performance for 2025, delivery of phase 1 of the Law Society's website, and the benefits accruing from enhancements across the Blackhall Place campus.

DG's report

Director general Mark Garrett highlighted the recent publication of the Government's annual progress report, which outlines the possible effects of continue geopolitical uncertainty, which will likely have an impact on the profession. The Law Society will ensure that this is kept under review.

Engagement with key stakeholders continues to be a priority, and reference was made to a recent meeting with the newly appointed CEO of the LSRA, as well as ongoing dialogue with the Minister for Justice. The director general reminded members about the upcoming Calcutta Run and the annual Summer School hosted by the Centre for Justice and Law Reform.

Appointments

The Council confirmed the appointment of Laura O'Malley (senior associate in DLA Piper Ireland LLP's tax team) to the TALC Audit Subcommittee.

Submissions

The meeting noted the following submissions made by the Law Society:

- Submission on the review of the District Court costs schedule (to the District Court Rules Committee on 13 April 2026),
- Submission regarding changes to merger-and-acquisitions notifications to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (to the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment on 1 May 2026),
- Review of the processing of indictable offences in the criminal justice system (to PA Consulting on 21 April 2026),
- Consultation on the draft policy document *Legalisation of Irish Public Documents* (to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 30 April 2026).

Congratulations

The president congratulated Keith Walsh SC on the success of the recent launch of the Dublin Law and Business Alumni Chapter of the University of Galway, which was launched by President of Ireland Catherine Connolly at Blackhall Place on 28 April, and to Dr Bill Holohan SC on his election as president and chair of the Association of Common Law Notaries.

NOTICES: THE HIGH COURT

In the matter of section 85 of the *Legal Services Regulation Act 2015*, and in the matter of Ronan O'Brien (solicitor number S13772), a legal practitioner previously practising as Ronan O'Brien & Co, Solicitors, 69 Church Street, Cavan, Co Cavan, and in the matter of the *Solicitors Acts 1954-2015* [2026 no 42 SA; Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal record no 2024-LPDT12] *Law Society of Ireland (applicant) Ronan O'Brien (respondent)*

Upon application by the applicant for orders pursuant to section 85 of the *Legal Services Regulation Act 2015*, on foot of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal's determination, dated 14 October 2025, that the respondent solicitor was guilty of misconduct in that he:

- 1) Misappropriated client funds held in the client ledger account of William and Lorraine Kehoe in the amount of €239,500 to partly fund the acquisition of two properties in Cavan, namely 69 Church Street, Cavan, on behalf of the respondent legal practitioner, and 37 Connolly Street, Cavan, on behalf of his client Drumesta Limited, as admitted in his replying affidavit sworn on 13 May 2024,
- 2) Caused, permitted, or allowed a deficit of €6,150 to arise on the client ledger of the estate of Paul O'Halloran (deceased) by making an unauthorised payment for that amount to an unrelated litigation client, Jiri Sarisky, on 27 September 2023, in breach of regulations 7(1)(a)(i) and 7(2)(a) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014* (SI 516 of 2014) and the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations*

2023 (SI 118 of 2023),

- 3) Caused, permitted, or allowed a deficit of €239,500 to arise on the file of William and Lorraine Kehoe by making an unauthorised payment to O'Brien Lynam Solicitors for that amount on 30 November 2022, contrary to regulations 7(1)(a)(i) and 7(2)(a) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014*,
- 4) Failed to produce suitable vouching documentation for a payment of €105,750 from the client account to the firm's office no 2 account on 8 April 2024, posted to the client ledger of Drumesta Limited, in breach of regulation 13(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations*,
- 5) Failed to maintain proper books of account and such relevant supporting documentation to enable the client moneys handled and dealt with by the respondent legal practitioner to be duly recorded and the entries relevant thereto to the books of account to be properly vouched, including failure to produce a file regarding a personal transaction of the respondent legal practitioner when requested, in breach of regulation 13(1) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations*,
- 6) Caused, permitted, or allowed a deficit of €22,500 to arise on client reference ONM003001 by making an unauthorised payment for that amount to Collins Crowley Solicitors on 21 December 2023 on behalf of the respondent legal practitioner, in breach of regulations 7(2)(a) and 13(2)(a) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations*,
- 7) Caused, permitted, or allowed a debit balance of €10,000 to arise on client reference DUH001008 by making an

unauthorised payment for that amount to the relevant client on 3 March 2023, when no client moneys were held on behalf of that client, and by failing to maintain proper books of account that showed the true financial position in relation to this payment, in breach of regulations 7(2)(a) and 13(2)(a) of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations*,

- 8) Failed to document client risk assessments as required by regulation 7 of the *Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Regulations) 2020* (SI 377 of 2020) on the following matters: client references LYM005002; OHI001001; CUP010003; DUL002002; FAC003001; KEL002001; FAB003012.

Take notice that, by order of the President of the High Court made on 11 June 2026, it was ordered that:

- 1) Pursuant to section 85(7)(f) of the *Legal Services Regulation Act 2015*, the respondent's name be struck off the Roll of Solicitors,
- 2) Pursuant to section 85(7)(h)(iii) of the act, the respondent pay the sum of €10,114.50, being the applicant's costs in the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal proceedings herein,
- 3) Pursuant to section 85(8), the respondent pay to the applicant their costs of the application herein, such costs being measured in the sum of €3,978, to be paid by the respondent to the applicant forthwith.

Niamh Muldoon, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services Regulatory Authority
Dr Niall Connors, Registrar of Solicitors, Law Society of Ireland

In the matter of section 85 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015, and in the matter of Gráinne Tuohy, a legal practitioner previously practising as Gráinne Tuohy, Solicitor, 26 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2 [2026 no 43SA; Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal record no 2022-LPDT14]

**Law Society of Ireland (applicant)
Gráinne Tuohy (respondent)**

Upon application by the applicant for orders pursuant to section 85 of the *Legal Services Regulation Act 2015*, on foot of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal's determination, dated 12 August 2024, that the respondent solicitor was guilty of misconduct in that she:

- 1) Caused, permitted, and/or improperly allowed an apparent deficit of €335,914 on her client account, as at 4 January 2022,
- 2) Attempted to conceal the deficit on the client account by posting numerous journal entries between unrelated client ledger accounts, a process also known as 'teeming and lading',
- 3) Caused the following breaches of the *Solicitors Accounts Regulations 2014* (SI 516 of 2014):
 - (a) Breach of regulation 13(1), as proper books of account were not maintained at all times by the solicitor;
 - (b) Regulation 13(2), as the books of account do not show the true financial position in relation to the solicitor's transactions with clients' moneys;
 - (c) Regulation 13(4), as each of the solicitor's transactions with clients' money was not recorded;
 - (d) Regulation 13(7), as an office cash bank or office ledgers were not maintained;

- (e) Regulation 13(7)(a), as no nominal ledger accounts were maintained;
- (f) Regulation 13(8), as balancing statements for clients' accounts were not prepared at the due date;
- (g) Regulation 13(9), for failing to prepare an office balancing statement within two months of the accounting date;
- (h) Regulation 7(1)(a), for withdrawing client money in a manner not allowable by the regulation;
- (i) Regulation 7(2)(a), for allowing a debit balance to arise on a client ledger;
- (j) Regulation 9(4), by the withdrawal of moneys from the client account other than as permitted;
- (k) Regulation 11(4), for the failure to record fee notes on the office side of the relevant client ledger account;
- (l) Regulation 25, for not maintaining the minimum accounting records required by a solicitor; and

- (m) Regulation 26(1), for failing to file reporting accountant's reports not later than six months after the end of the accounting year.

Take notice that, by order of the President of the High Court made on 9 June 2026, it was ordered that:

- 1) Pursuant to section 85(7)(f) of the *Legal Services Regulation Act 2015*, the respondent's name be struck off the Roll of Solicitors,
- 2) Pursuant to section 85(7)(h)(iii) of the act, the respondent pay the sum of €8,434.50, being the applicant's measured costs in the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal proceedings herein,
- 3) Pursuant to section 85(8), the respondent do pay the applicant their costs of the application herein, measured in the agreed sum of €4,128.

Niamh Muldoon, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services Regulatory Authority

Dr Niall Connors, Registrar of Solicitors, Law Society of Ireland 



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HC 132 – Clinical Negligence List (as amended on 30 July 2026)

The President of the High Court hereby issues the following practice direction in accordance with the general authority of the President of the High Court and s11(12) and (13) of the *Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*.

1. Effective date

This practice direction will come into effect on 28 April 2025 (the ‘effective date’).

2. Purpose and objectives

- 1) This practice direction establishes a dedicated Clinical Negligence List within the Dublin Personal Injuries List of the High Court for the purpose of managing clinical negligence proceedings in a structured manner to ensure that such cases receive focused attention and enhanced case management generally by experienced judges.
- 2) The amendment to HC 132 (amended with effect from 4 August 2026) is contained in paragraph 7(3) below. The purpose of the amendment is to provide for targeted case management and specific directions from the court in cases where any party considers that further adversarial investigation of liability or assessment of quantum may be unnecessary or substantially reduced. In such circumstances, any party may apply to have the proceedings listed before the judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List.

3. Scope

- 1) The Clinical Negligence List shall encompass all proceedings in which a claim for damages for personal injuries arises from alleged negligence or breach of duty in the provision of clinical or health care, treatment, or advice (‘clinical negligence proceedings’).
- 2) This practice direction applies to all clinical negligence proceedings before the High Court (‘the court’) from the effective date.
- 3) The Clinical Negligence List

shall apply to all stages of clinical negligence proceedings, including mentions, applications for dates for trial, interlocutory applications, case-management directions hearings, hearings and cost applications, pursuant to the *Rules of the Superior Courts*, but shall exclude motions, including *ex parte* applications, ordinarily listed in the Monday Common Law Motion Lists.

4. Judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List

- 1) The Clinical Negligence List shall be presided over by the judge of the High Court who is assigned to manage the Personal Injuries List (‘the judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List’). That judge shall, with the consent of the President of the High Court, assign cases within the Clinical Negligence List to judges drawn from those assigned to the Personal Injuries List who are experienced in dealing with clinical negligence proceedings.
- 2) The functions of the judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List may, where necessary, be exercised by one of the other judges assigned to the list.

5. Clinical Negligence List

The Clinical Negligence List shall apply to all clinical negligence proceedings, irrespective of whether they were commenced prior to or after the introduction of this practice direction.

6. Interlocutory applications

- 1) Interlocutory applications necessary for the management of clinical negligence proceedings (excluding those appropriate for the Monday Common Law Motion Lists) and applications for case-management directions shall be heard in the Clinical Negligence List, but only with the prior leave of the judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List, which may be applied for *ex parte*.
- 2) Once such leave has been granted,

applications for case-management directions and any other interlocutory relief shall be made to the judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List and heard in accordance with the usual rules governing such applications.

7. Case management

- 1) The judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List may, at his or her discretion or upon application by a party, issue case-management directions to facilitate the efficient preparation and hearing of clinical negligence proceedings.
- 1) Such directions may include:
 - a) Timetables for the exchange of expert reports,
 - b) Directions, where the law permits, for mediation,
 - c) Orders relating to witness statements or expert evidence,
 - d) Any other directions necessary to ensure the fair and expeditious resolution of clinical negligence proceedings.
- 1) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 7(1), where any party considers, in light of matters known to it, that further adversarial investigation of liability, or assessment of *quantum*, may be unnecessary or substantially reduced, that party may apply to have the proceedings listed before the judge in charge of the Clinical Negligence List for targeted case management and such directions as the court considers appropriate.

8. Review

This practice direction will be kept under regular review and will be amended or modified, where necessary. The amendment made on 30 July 2026 (with effect from 4 August 2026) is made following such review.

Issued by the President of the High Court on 8 April 2025.

Mr Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court (30 July 2026)

HC 142 – Responsible use of generative artificial intelligence in court documents

I, David Barnville, President of the High Court, hereby issue the following practice direction in accordance with the general authority of the President of the High Court, the inherent powers of the High Court to regulate its own procedures, and section 11(12) and (13) of the *Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*.

Purpose of this practice direction

- 1) this practice direction provides guidance on the court's expectations concerning the appropriate and responsible use of generative artificial intelligence tools ('GenAI tools') in connection with legal proceedings and the implications of such for practice and procedure in the High Court. It highlights the risks associated with the use of GenAI tools, including the risk of inaccuracy, and addresses the duties and obligations of parties and their legal representatives when such tools are used.
- 2) For the purposes of this practice direction, 'generative artificial intelligence' (GenAI) means AI technology or software capable of generating new content, including text, images, audio, video, data or computer code, typically in response to user prompts or instructions.

Scope of this practice direction

- 3) This practice direction applies to:
 - a) All documents used in civil proceedings, including pleadings, submissions, affidavits, witness statements and expert reports (collectively, 'court documents'),
 - b) All persons involved in proceedings before the court, including parties, legal practitioners, witnesses, experts, and any third party required by the court to produce documents,
 - c) All proceedings before the court, whether instituted before or after its commencement, and
 - d) All court documents prepared, produced, or generated after the date of commencement.
- 4) In this practice direction, references to the 'court' mean the High Court.

Date of commencement

- 5) This practice direction will come into operation on 1 September 2026 and shall be read together with existing practice directions. Paragraphs 3(c) and (d) above should be noted.

General approach

- 6) The court recognises that GenAI tools may assist in the efficient conduct of litigation, including by reducing costs and enhancing access to justice.
- 7) Any use of GenAI tools must be appropriate and undertaken responsibly and with due care so as not to adversely affect the integrity of court processes and the proper administration of justice.
- 8) The use of GenAI tools does not diminish or alter any obligation owed to the court by parties, legal practitioners, witnesses, experts, or any other person involved in proceedings.
- 9) All court users are responsible for the content of their court documents notwithstanding the use of any GenAI tool.

Risks associated with GenAI tools

- 10) Known risks and limitations associated with GenAI tools (as of the date of this practice direction) include:
 - a) *Inaccuracy*: GenAI tools may produce responses and material that appear plausible but are false or misleading, and the output may also be affected by the terms of prompts. They may generate fabricated, manipulated or 'deep fake' material, fictitious cases, legislative provisions, academic references, or other authorities (known as 'hallucinations'). GenAI tools may also generate incorrect legal propositions or inaccurately summarise genuine sources.
 - b) *Bias and incompleteness*: Outputs may reflect inaccuracies, omissions, or biases arising from the completeness or reliability of the data on which the tool has been

trained or the manner in which the data is processed.

- c) *Factual errors*: Outputs may contain factual errors and may incorrectly assert, when asked, that information is accurate when it is not.
- d) *Confidentiality and privacy risks*: Information entered into a GenAI tool may be retained, processed, or disclosed to other people in ways that are not apparent to the user, even if that is not intended. Entering information into a confidential GenAI tool may breach obligations if outputs from the tool are later used by other persons and/or for different purposes.
- e) *Legal privilege*: Information entered into GenAI tools or systems (including search results) may be required to be disclosed in legal proceedings. Privileged information entered into non-private GenAI tools or systems may lose its privileged status.

Responsibilities and expectations

- 11) The court must be able to rely on the integrity and accuracy of all court documents.
- 12) Any person responsible for a court document, including a party, legal practitioner, deponent, witness, expert or any other person, must ensure that any material generated wholly or partly with the assistance of a GenAI tool has been appropriately and independently verified before it is used in proceedings. Any limitation on the ability to do so must be disclosed to the court.
- 13) It is not sufficient to use the same or other GenAI tools to confirm that information is accurate. However, persons responsible for a court document may verify GenAI content by referring to original source material housed within a GenAI tool. Detailed guidance on what the verification process should entail has been included at paragraphs 18 and 19.
- 14) Any person who uses GenAI tools in civil

proceedings should have a reasonable understanding of the limitations and risks of using such GenAI tools. Users of GenAI tools remain personally responsible for the accuracy of their court documents.

Professional obligations of legal practitioners

- 15) Legal practitioners remain subject to all applicable professional and ethical obligations under their professional rules or codes of conduct, including obligations to act competently, diligently, and independently, and to ensure that the court is not misled. The use of GenAI tools to assist in the completion of legal tasks does not diminish or alter those obligations, including practitioners' duties to the court in the conduct of litigation.
- 16) Irrespective of the tools used, legal practitioners must exercise oversight and verify the accuracy and suitability of information provided by any GenAI system.
- 17) Legal practitioners are also required to ensure that their clients are informed of and understand their duty to the court, and that persons swearing affidavits or making witness statements understand their personal responsibility to confirm the truth and completeness of any such document and not to mislead the court.

Verification requirement

- 18) Content produced using GenAI must be verified under human control and supervision. Court users are responsible for ensuring that content produced by GenAI is current, complete, accurate, and relevant. If GenAI has been used to produce material to be submitted to the court, court users should:
 - a) Fact-check and proofread,
 - b) Edit and adapt the content to meet the particular circumstances of the case, and
 - c) Verify that any references to case law, legislation, textbooks, or articles exist and stand for the legal propositions attributed to them. Extracts or quotes must be verified as accurate and correctly attributed to the original source.
- 19) Particular care must be taken to ensure that all exhibits, images, recordings and other evidential materials are authentic

and as represented. Fabricated, manipulated, or 'deep fake' material must never be used or presented to the court.

- 20) Failure to comply strictly with these requirements may mislead the court and other parties, cause delay and wasted costs, adversely affect the integrity of the proceedings, and undermine public confidence in the administration of justice.
- 21) Without prejudice to the particular requirements in relation to certain court documents set out in paragraphs 25 to 28 (regarding affidavits and witness statements) and paragraphs 29 to 31 (regarding expert reports), a party or other person must – where directed by the court – disclose whether GenAI tools were used in connection with the preparation of any court document and, if so, the nature and extent of that use. All persons are expected to be in a position to so inform the court if requested to do so.

Use of GenAI in particular categories of court document

- 22) Subject to the particular requirements in relation to certain court documents set out below, any applicable rule of court or an order of the court providing otherwise, the use of GenAI tools in the preparation of a court document does not of itself require disclosure.

Pleadings:

- 23) Parties and their legal representative(s) (if any) responsible for pleadings must ensure that:
 - a) All pleaded facts have been verified and checked for accuracy,
 - b) Any claim for relief is based on proper legal principles,
 - c) Any legal authorities relied upon have been verified to exist and support the proposition for which they are cited, and
 - d) Chronologies have been checked for accuracy.

Submissions:

- 24) Parties and their legal representative(s) (if any) using GenAI tools to prepare submissions must independently verify

all legal authorities, citations, quotations, and references relied upon in court documents using authoritative sources.

Affidavits and witness statements:

- 25) Particular caution must be exercised if GenAI tools are used to assist in the preparation of affidavits, witness statements, or other documents which form the evidence or potential evidence of a witness.
- 26) A witness statement or affidavit intended to stand as evidence in proceedings must reflect the witness's own recollection, knowledge and evidence.
- 27) Unless the court otherwise directs, the person making any such witness statement or swearing any such affidavit shall include a declaration in one of the opening paragraphs of the document in the following form (amended or adapted as appropriate):

"I declare that generative artificial intelligence has not been used for the purposes of generating the substantive content of this [witness statement/ affidavit] (including by way of altering, embellishing, strengthening, diluting, or rephrasing the evidence set out) and that this [witness statement/affidavit] reflects my personal knowledge, recollection and evidence."
- 28) For the avoidance of doubt, the use of GenAI tools for administrative or ancillary purposes unconnected to the generation of substantive content (such as formatting, spell-checking or similar functions) shall not prevent the declaration referred to in paragraph 27 being made.

Expert reports:

- 29) An expert report must reflect the expert's own opinion, expertise, and reasoning process and shall contain a declaration at the start of the report in the following terms (amended as appropriate):

"I declare that, save as otherwise expressly stated, generative artificial intelligence has not been used for the purposes of generating the substantive content of this report, which reflects my own opinions, knowledge and evidence."
- 30) Where GenAI tools have been used in

the preparation of an expert report, the expert must disclose the nature and extent of that use to the extent necessary to enable the court and the parties properly to assess the reliability, independence, and evidential weight of the opinion expressed.

- 31) The disclosure required by paragraph 30 shall include any material use of GenAI tools in drafting, analysing, interpreting, or generating substantive content for the report.

Court ordered restrictions on disclosure

- 32) Where information or documents (including documents obtained on discovery) are subject to an order of the court or to an express or implied undertaking restricting their use, disclosure, or dissemination, GenAI tools should not be employed in respect of such information or documents if the use of those tools would involve, or create a risk of, disclosure or dissemination contrary to that order or undertaking.

Appropriate response to the identification of potential GenAI issues

- 33) If a party identifies a potential issue with court documents prepared, produced, or generated by another party (whether or not potentially due to the use of GenAI tools), they should draw the matter to the other party's attention and, in the absence of an appropriate response within a reasonable period, they should draw the matter to the attention of the court.

- 34) If a party or its legal representative(s) (if any) identify, or are informed of, an issue with the accuracy of their court documents (whether or not due to the use of GenAI tools), they should notify the other party or parties and the court without delay, explaining the issue and substituting clean and marked up versions of the document(s), and bear the costs of the exercise unless the court orders otherwise.

Consequences of non-compliance

- 35) Parties who fail to comply with this practice direction may be subject to sanctions including (but not limited to) adverse cost orders, orders disregarding or rejecting court documents in whole or in part, or the striking out of their claim or defence (where appropriate).
- 36) Legal practitioners who fail to comply with this practice direction (for example, by citing non-existent sources, or inaccurately referencing genuine sources, or failing to promptly remedy any issue where necessary) may be the subject of a referral to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority under the *Legal Services Regulation Act 2015* (as amended) or their professional body, and/or costs orders may be made against them personally.
- 37) The court may take into account any misuse of GenAI tools when exercising case-management powers or determining costs in accordance with law.

Litigants in person

- 38) For the avoidance of doubt, this practice direction also applies to litigants-in-person.

- 39) Litigants-in-person must familiarise themselves with the guidance for non-lawyers on the responsible use of generative AI in court proceedings, which is available on the Courts Service [website](#).
- 40) Litigants-in-person, therefore, are subject to the same obligations of accuracy and candour as represented parties. Litigants-in-person owe a duty to the court to ensure the accuracy of all references to legislation, cases, or other sources referred to in their court documents, and in any oral submissions or evidence adduced by them or on their behalf. If they use GenAI tools, they should verify the outputs using reliable and authoritative sources, such as (but not limited to) the Courts Service, the Law Reform Commission, or other reputable official websites.
- 41) Any litigant-in person whose court documents contain inaccurate references or references to non-existent sources generated by the use of GenAI tools may be the subject of sanctions in accordance with paragraphs 35-37 (as appropriate).

Review

- 42) Due to the rapidly developing nature of the technology relevant to GenAI tools and GenAI in general, the court's approach to the responsible use of GenAI in court proceedings and this practice direction will be kept under regular review and may be amended or adapted from time to time.

Mr Justice David Barnville, President of the High Court (29 July 2026)

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New Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Regulations 2026

The Council of the Law Society, with the concurrence of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority, has approved the introduction of the *Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Regulations 2026* (SI 367 of 2026). These regulations take effect on 1 September 2026.

The new regulations amend the *Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Regulations 2020* to incorporate the legislative changes brought about by the *Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2021*. The new regulations do not impose any new obligations on solicitors regarding their statutory AML obligations, nor do they confer any new powers on the Law Society

regarding its statutory role as the competent authority for solicitors (in the context of monitoring and securing their compliance with AML obligations).

Solicitors are reminded of their obligations under the current anti-money-laundering legislation, the *Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010* (as amended). Solicitors must be able to demonstrate that they have policies, controls, and procedures in place for the prevention and detection of money-laundering and terrorist-financing offences.

AML compliance is assessed by the Law Society's investigating accountants during their routine inspections. Solicitors are reminded that failure to comply with the *Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist*

Financing) Regulations 2020, as amended, may result in one or more of the following courses of action:

- Requirement to take remedial action,
- Requirement to attend a meeting of the Regulation of Practice Committee to explain failure to comply,
- Requirement to undertake professional training in AML/CFT,
- Requirement to undertake an independent AML audit pursuant to regulation 5(10)(c) of the *Solicitors (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Regulations 2020*,
- Referral to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal.

Niall Connors, director of regulation and Registrar of Solicitors

TAXATION COMMITTEE

Revenue guidance on tax clearance and non-resident vendors

In May 2026, Revenue updated its guidance on requests for clearance on the disposal of land and buildings by non-resident vendors (*Revenue's Tax and Duty Manual* (TDM) Part 45-01-05). The Taxation Committee has issued a new practice note to take account of this updated guidance.

This supplements and updates previous practice notes on this topic and should be read together with the updated TDM, which contains the detailed Revenue process and documentation requirements. Updates to the TDM are reflected in the practice note, as well as some other clarifications recently provided to the Taxation Committee by Revenue.

Updates covered in the new practice note include the following:

- Where a non-resident vendor disposes

of Irish land or buildings and no chargeable gain arises, a clearance request is not required if the property was not rented during the period of ownership,

- Where the property was rented during the period of ownership, a clearance request should still be submitted to Revenue, notwithstanding that no chargeable gain arises,
- Where the property was not rented during the period of ownership, the vendor should provide the solicitor with written confirmation of that fact,
- Solicitors should establish at the outset whether the property was rented at any time during the period of ownership, as this may affect whether a clearance request is required,
- Where section 1035 TCA 1997 applies, it falls outside the clearance process described in TDM Part 45-01-05 and so must be dealt with separately on a case-by-case basis.

We recommend that solicitors read the full practice note, which can be accessed at www.lawsociety.ie/revenuetdm.

The updated Revenue guidance can also be accessed at revenue.ie (search for 'Tax and Duty Manual' (TDM) Part 45-01-05'). 





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TO BOOK

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WILLS

Awoponle, Oluwatobi (otherwise Tobì) (deceased),

late of 25 Hallwell Green, Adamstown, Lucan, and Apt 21 The Barrington Building, Cherrywood Avenue, Cherrywood Town Centre, Dublin 18, who died on 23 June 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Emma Clancy, Geoghegan Solicitors, Main Street, Lucan, Co Dublin; tel: 01 628 2947, email: info@geoghegansolicitors.ie

Begley, Margaret (deceased),

late of St Therese, 4 Avondale Drive, Greystones, Limerick, who died on 8 May 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact David O'Brien, McMahon O'Brien Tynan, Solicitors, Mill House, Henry Street, Limerick; DX 3004; tel: 061 315 100, email: dobrien@modlaw.com

Bourke, Eileen (deceased),

late of Apartment 12 Hillcrest, 94/95 Rathgar Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6, and formerly of 2 Flemingstown Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14, who died on 25 June 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Barror & Co, Solicitors, 45 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2; tel: 01 661 0677, email: info@barrorandco.ie

Breen, Barry (orsee Finnbar Patrick Breen) (deceased), late of 2 Forest Park, Courtown, Co Wexford, or 2 Forest Park,

Courtown Harbour, Gorey, Co Wexford, and formerly of The Beeches, Mountainpole, Kells, Co Meath; Old Parochial House, Cortown, Kells, Co Meath; 53 Tuskar Court, Marina Village, Arklow, Co Wicklow; and 100 Herberton Road, Rialto, Dublin 8, who died on 5 January 2024. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Thornton & Co, Solicitors, 1 Maudlin Street, Kells, Co Meath; tel: 046 924 9836, email: dcthorntonsolicitors@gmail.com

Carroll, Anna Marie

(orsee Nancy) (née Looby) (deceased), late of Ballinagar, Tullamore, Co Offaly, formerly Glengarriff, Co Cork, and Augharan, Aughavas, Co Leitrim, who died on 17 October 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Joahanna McGowan, Solicitor, 1 Bridge Lane, Tullamore, Co Offaly; tel: 057 932 5051, email: info@jmcgowansolicitor.ie

Carroll, David (deceased), late of 7 Marine Villas, Howth, Co Dublin, who died on 22 November 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Kane Tuohy LLP, 19-26 Pembroke Street Lower, Dublin 2; tel: 01 672 2233, email: info@kanetuohy.ie

Chevalier, William Johnston (deceased), late of Sligo Road, Quignalecka, Ballina, Co Mayo, who died on 9 February 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made

by the above-named deceased please contact Denis M Molloy, Solicitors, Bridge Street, Ballina, Co Mayo; tel: 096 70660, email: denismolloylaw@gmail.com

Comiskey, Noel (deceased), late of 2 Avonbeg Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, who died on 25 December 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased, dated 25 October 2002, please contact John Glynn & Co, Solicitors, Law Chambers, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Dempsey, Marie (deceased), late of 549 O'Neill Park,

PROFESSIONAL NOTICE RATES

RATES IN THE PROFESSIONAL NOTICES SECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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Deadline for the October 2026 Gazette is Monday 14 September 2026.

No recruitment advertisements will be published that include references to ranges of post-qualification experience (PQE). The Gazette Editorial Board has taken this decision based on legal advice that indicates that such references may be in breach of the *Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004*.

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Maynooth, Co Kildare, who died on 24 October 2025. Take notice that any persons having a claim against the estate or any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Donal O'Kelly, McGroddy Brennan LLP, Solicitors, 33 Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2; tel: 01 440 4890, email: dokelly@mcgroddybrennan.ie

Doyle, John (Jay) (deceased), late of Tombrack, Ferns, Co Wexford, who died on 28 September 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Patrick J Farrell & Co, Solicitors; tel: 045 431 542, email: reception@pjf.ie

Fahy, John (deceased), late of Currafaireen, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co Galway, who died on 13 February 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Cormac McCarthy, Solicitors, Swangate, Athenry, Co Galway; tel: 091 875 111, email: admin@mccarthysolicitors.ie

Fitzgerald, Margaret (deceased), late of Cherryville, Kildare, Co Kildare, who died on 13 April 1966. Would any

person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Seamus Boyle, James A Boyle & Co, Solicitors, Claregate Street, Kildare Town, Co Kildare; tel: 045 531 045, email: info@jaboyle.ie

Fox, Patrick (deceased), late of Reynoldstown, The Naul, Co Dublin, who died on 22 May 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Paul Smyth, Smyth & Son, Solicitors, Rope Walk, Drogheda, Co Louth; tel: 041 983 8616, email: psmyth@smythandson.ie

Fox, Sean (Patrick Joseph) (deceased), late of Rodstown, Balrath, Kells, Co Meath, who died on 5 June 2026. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Nathaniel Lacy LLP, Solicitors, Kenlis Place, Kells, Co Meath; tel: 046 928 0718, email: tcarolan@nlacy.ie

Freeman, John (deceased), late of Lisduff, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co Clare, who died on 20 April 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or professing to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Bowen & Co, Solicitors, Pound

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Street, Sixmilebridge, Co Clare; tel: 061 717 767, email: gwen@bowensolicitors.ie

Gallagher Yvonne (deceased), late of Aishling Cottage, Ballycloughan, Carrickboy, Co Longford, N39 YY94, who died on 6 February 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Connellan & Noone Solicitors LLP, 3 Church Street, Longford, Co Longford; tel: 043 334 6440, email: info@connellannoonesolicitors.ie

Gavin, Tina (deceased), late of 36 Drumcliffe Drive, Cabra, Dublin 7, who died on 2 December 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased on 25 October 2016, or any subsequent will made by the above-named deceased, please contact Doyle and Co LLP, 123 Cabra Road, Dublin 7; tel: 01 838 3388, email: mail@doyleandcompany.ie

Healy, Rosemary (deceased), late of Oldtown Road, Celbridge, Co Kildare, who died on 22 April 2025. Would any person having

knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact James V Tighe & Co, Solicitors, Main Street, Celbridge, Co Kildare; email: info@jamesvtighe.com

Heneghan, Niall (deceased), late of Marbella, Malaga, Spain (and formerly of 5 Sallins Wharf, Sallins, Co Kildare), who died on 16 March 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Oliver P Morahan & Son LLP Solicitors, Unit E1 Westpoint, Altamont Street, Westport, Co Mayo; tel: 098 250 75, email: info@morahans.ie

Kennedy, Patrick (deceased), late of 4 Windy Harbour, Athboy, Co Meath, and formerly of 4 Griffin Park, Trim, Co Meath, who died on 7 April 2025. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of an original testamentary document of Patrick Kennedy (deceased), dated 16 October 2020, please contact Brian Callaghan, Regan McEntee & Partners Solicitors, High Street, Trim, Co Meath; DX92002 Trim; tel: 046 943 1202



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Lyons, Patrick (deceased),

late of Ballymartin, Borris, Co Carlow, who died on 29 November 2023. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact James Cody and Sons Solicitors LLP, The Parade, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow; DX167001 Bagenalstown; tel: 059 972 1303, email: reception@jamescody.ie

McElligott, Valerie

(deceased), late of Coolard, Listowel, Co Kerry, who died on 10 April 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will executed by the above-named deceased please contact John Martin, John F Martin & Co, Solicitors, 28 Woodquay, Galway; tel: 091 575 075, email: info@jfm.ie

McGoldrick, Colm

(deceased), late of 106 Captain's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, who died on 25 December 2024. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Howell Kelly Solicitors, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 VOF8; tel: 01 403 0777, email: info@howellkelly.ie

McGoldrick, James (or

Jimmy) (deceased), late of 106 Captain's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, who died on 11 June 2019. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Howell Kelly Solicitors, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 VOF8; tel: 01 403 0777, email: info@howellkelly.ie

McGoldrick, Winifred

(deceased), late of 106 Captain's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, who died on 10 September 2001. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Howell Kelly Solicitors, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin D22 VOF8; tel: 01 403 0777, email: info@howellkelly.ie

McGrath, Aaron Paul

(deceased), late of 2 Fulton Street, Seattle, WA 98109; 69 Dingle Road, Cabra, Dublin 7; and 5 Killeenreendowney Avenue, Ballyphehane, Cork. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased, who died on 15 November 2024, please contact EOS Solicitors, Ballineadig, Farran, Ovens, Co Cork; tel: 021 245 5610, email: info@eossolicitors.ie

McGrath, Michael

(deceased), late of Ennisnag, Stoneyford, Co Kilkenny, who died on 24 January 1966. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased, please contact WA Smithwick & Sons, Solicitors, 43 Parliament Street, Kilkenny; email: info@smithwicksolicitors.ie

McKeogh, Eamon

(deceased), late of Charlemont, Monkstown, Co Cork, who died on 27 May 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will executed by the above-named deceased please contact Finian Dullea, TJ Hegarty LLP Solicitors, 58 South Mall, Cork; DX 2021 Cork; tel 021 427 0351, email: fdullea@tjhegarty.ie

McNamara, Mary

(deceased), late of Clarelodge, Old Knock Road, Claremorris, Co Mayo, who died on 14 February 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact P O'Connor & Son, Solicitors, Swinford, Co Mayo; tel: 094 905 000, email: law@poconsol.ie

Mackey, Brian (deceased),

late of 48 Sandymount, Ardkeen Woods, Ardkeen Village, Waterford, and also formerly of 3 Sylvan Close, Grantstown Park, Waterford, who died on 2 October 2024. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased

please contact Hegarty & Co, Solicitors (quoting ref: FG/CC/MAL104002), 4 St Andrews Terrace, Newtown, Waterford; tel: 051 841 577, email: info@hegartysolicitors.com

Merriman, Patrick J (otherwise PJ Merriman) (deceased),

late of Lower Drumgould, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, otherwise known as 'Woodview', Drumgould Lower, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased, who died on 13 July 2025, please contact Niamh Moriarty & Co, Solicitors, Parnell Road, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford; tel: 053 923 7666, email: reception@niamhmoriarty.ie

Mohan, Philip (deceased),

late of 3 Mount Anthony North, Rathmines, Dublin 6, who died on 8 July 2026. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Brian Callaghan, Regan McEntee & Partners Solicitors LLP, High Street, Trim, Co Meath; DX 92002 Trim; tel: 046 943 1202

Nolan, Padraic (or

Padraig) (deceased), late of Lisnagard, Elphin, Co Roscommon, who died on 20 May 2026. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Callan Tansey Solicitors LLP; email: info@callantansey.ie

Nugent, Michael (otherwise Mick Nugent) (deceased),

late of Baronstown West, Milford, Newbridge, Co Kildare, who died on 30 April 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Nichola Delaney, O'Flaherty &

Brown Solicitors, Greenville, Athy Road, Carlow; tel: 059 913 0500, email: nichola@oflahertybrowne.ie

O'Carroll, Marie (otherwise Hannah Maria (Marie) (née Broderick) (deceased)), late of Coillagurteen, Moyvane, Listowel, Co Kerry, Aras Mhuire Nursing Home, Greenville, Listowel, Co Kerry, and Ballylongford, Co Kerry, who died at Aras Mhuire Nursing Home, Greenville, Listowel, Co Kerry, on 1 February 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Stephen Maher, Solicitors, 6 The Courts, Main Street, Newbridge, Co Kildare; tel: 045 432 220, email: tom.broderick@maherbroderick.ie

O'Leary, Eileen (deceased), late of 21 Palmbury Orchard, Togher, Cork, who died on 10 April 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact FitzGerald Law LLP, Solicitors, 6 Lapps Quay, Cork; tel: 028 21000, email: law@fitzsols.com

O'Neill, Teresa (deceased), late of 4 Rathmines Avenue Court, Rathmines, Dublin 6, who died on 10 May 2020. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact John Gaynor & Co, Solicitors LLP, 42-46 Thomas Street, Dublin D08 AW86; tel: 01 454 0068, email: chris@jgs.ie

Rossiter, Barbara (deceased), late of Oakenlawn House, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow, who

died on 29 January 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Flynn O'Driscoll LLP, No 1 Grant's Row, Lower Mount Street, Dublin D02 HX96; tel: 01 642 4220, email: viviennekane@fod.ie

Ruane, Nora (orise Nonie) (deceased), late of 45 Dublin Road, Renmore, Galway, who died on 29 March 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Paul Kavanagh, Shields & Kavanagh Solicitors LLP, 1 An Clarin, Prospect, Athenry, Co Galway, H65 FN51; tel: 091 877 288, email: paul@skssolicitors.com

Russell, Teresa (née Corrigan) (deceased), late of 84 The Island Apartments, Chapelizod, Dublin 20, and formerly of Ballinavocran, Bunclody, Co Wexford, and 43 Dundela Park, Sandycove, Co Dublin, who died on 4 February 2026. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Crean & O'Flaherty Solicitors LLP, Mill Wood, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co Wexford; tel: 053 937 7938, email: michael@creanandco.ie

Ryan, Laurence (Larry) (deceased), late of Liscreagh, Bouladuff, Thurles, Co Tipperary, who died on 6 January 2026. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of any will made or purported to have been made by the above-named deceased, or if any firm is holding same, please contact Annemarie Hennessy; tel: 0044 777 408 5395,

EXPERT WITNESS:
OPHTHALMOLOGY
Consultant Ophthalmologist Louis Clearkin is available to accept instruction in civil litigation.
Please visit:
www.louisclearkin.com

email: annemarie.hennessy@gmail.com

Slater, Catherine (deceased), late of 54 St Brigid's Park, Foxrock, Dublin 18, who died on 7 June 2026. Would any person having knowledge of any will made by the above-named deceased please contact Amy Fitzpatrick, Brendan Maloney & Co, Solicitors, Kilbride Cottage, Killarney Road, Bray, Co Wicklow; tel: 01 286 5700, email: amy@brendanmaloney.ie

Smalle, Timothy (deceased), who died on 6 March 2026, late of Clonard, 18 Avondale Drive, Greystones, Limerick. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Gerard P Yelverton, Yelverton & Co, Solicitors, 2/3 Hartstonge Place, Upper Hartstonge Street, Limerick; email: info@yelverton.ie

White, Ellen Elizabeth (née Moody) (deceased), who died on 31 January 2026, late of Coolamaddra, Donard, Dunnavin, Co Wicklow. Would any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of a will made by the above-named deceased please contact Edel O'Brien, Augustus

Cullen Law LLP, 7 Wentworth Place, Wicklow; tel: 0404 67412, email: edel.obrien@acslsolicitors.ie

TITLE DEEDS

To the personal representatives of Robert William Pilsworth and/or any persons having or claiming a documentary freehold in certain lands comprised in Folio 6557, Co Laois, situate

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Take notice that I, Martin Muldowney, being a person entitled under the *Statute of Limitations*, intend to apply to the Midland Circuit Court at the earliest opportunity for a declaration that, through long possession, I have extinguished the documentary fee simple title in the above-mentioned premises. Let any person having or claiming to own the freehold or any other interest in said property appear at said court and/or contact my solicitors, PP Ryan & Co, Rathdowney, Co Laois; tel: 0505 46145

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: PP Ryan & Co (solicitors for the applicant), Rathdowney, Co Laois

Notice is hereby given to Norman Edward Cole, the registered owner of the lands at Dunmore, Clonakilty, Co Cork, comprised in Folio CK56120, or to any person on his behalf, of the following Circuit Court proceedings in Cork county

In the matter of section 19 of the *Registration of Deeds and Title Act 1964-2006*, and in the matter of lands registered in Folio CK56120 in the name of Norman Edward Cole, between Mary McCarthy O'Neill (applicant) and Denis P McCarthy, Norman Edward Cole, and Tailte Éireann (respondents), record number 2026/00740; equity proceedings, record number 2026/00681, between Mary McCarthy O'Neill (plaintiff) and Denis P McCarthy, Maríosa McCarthy, Norman Edward Cole, and Tailte Éireann (defendants).

Would Norman Edward Cole, or his solicitor on his

behalf, please contact the undersigned to obtain copies of these proceedings within 21 days of the date of this notice, or judgment will be sought against him thereafter in his absence.

Dated 4 September 2026
Signed: O'Donovan Murphy & Partners LLP (solicitors for the applicant), The Quay, Bantry, Co Cork

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019 and in the matter of the lands at 73 Ballybough Road, Dublin 3, D03HW13

Take notice that John Walsh of 73 Ballybough Road, Dublin 3, intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of the city of Dublin for the acquisition of the fee simple and all intermediate interests in the land described in the schedule hereto, which said lands are held under lease dated 9 September 1889 between John O'Sullivan of the one part and Edward Gilligan of the other part for a term of 150 years, and as set out in the map annexed to the said deed at a yearly rent of 50 pounds, and take notice that any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the said lands or any part thereof and, in particular that they are the successors in title of the said John O'Sullivan, late of 73 Ballybough Road, are hereby called upon to furnish evidence of their title to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such evidence being received, the said John Walsh intends to proceed with the said intended application at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and to apply to the

county registrar of the city Dublin for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons entitled to the reversion expectant on the determination of the aforesaid lease and any interests superior thereto are unknown and unascertained. **Schedule:** all that and those the lands and hereditaments, property, and business known as 73 Ballybough Road, Dublin 3.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Stephanie Tierney Law Firm (solicitors for the applicants), Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, A63 HP86

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2005, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of an application by Maureen Higgins in respect of the premises known as 96 Terenure Road East, Terenure, Dublin 6W

Take notice any person having an interest in the freehold estate in the following property: 96 Terenure Road East, Terenure, Dublin 6W (the property), being all of the property demised by a lease dated 25 July 1890 between Charles Robert Whitton of the one part and Annie Teresa Cahill of the other part.

Take notice that Maureen Higgins (the applicant) intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of Dublin for the acquisition of the freehold interest in the property, and any parties asserting that they hold a superior interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of their title to the property to the below named within 21 days from the date of this

notice. In default of any such notice being received, the applicants intend to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for the county of Dublin for the directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest(s) including the freehold reversion in the property are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Leslie Hammond, Hammond & Associates Solicitors (solicitors for the applicants), 23 Upper Albert Road, Glenageary, Co Dublin A96 Y670

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of an application by Eamon Galligan and Roger Galligan (as named executors of the will of Eileen Galligan)

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in all that and those that plot of ground forming part of the premises 'Streamwood', Avoca Avenue, Blackrock, in the parish of Kill, barony of Rathdown, and county of Dublin, held under an indenture of lease dated 8 March 1946, made between Samuel RR Wiltshire of the one part and William Nugent Crawford of the other part for the term of 110 ½ years from 29 September 1945 at the yearly rent of £10 (the 1946 lease).

Take notice that said Eamon Galligan and Roger Galligan (as named executors

of the will of Eileen Galligan), being entitled to the lessee's interest in the said plot of ground (the property), intend to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin to vest in them the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the property, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest in the property is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below-named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the said Eamon Galligan and Roger Galligan (as named executors of the will of Eileen Galligan) intend to proceed with the application before the Dublin county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the Dublin county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests including the freehold reversion in the property are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed Notley Solicitors
(solicitors for the applicants),
Upper Cranford Centre,
Stillorgan Road, Montrose,
Dublin 4

In the matter of the premises consisting of a house and premises situated at Chapel Lane, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12C6X8, and in the matter of intended proceedings entitled An Chúirt Chuarda, the Circuit Court, Western Circuit, county of Mayo, Landlord and Tenant Civil Bill, in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019 between Marian

Cullinane (plaintiff) and the representatives of the Very Rev Patrick MacManus, Patrick Joseph Conway, John K Conway, and Mary Letitia Conway (defendants)

Take notice any person having any superior interest in the property consisting of a house situated at Chapel Lane, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12C6X8 (the property), being part of the premises demised by a lease dated 30 June 1882 (the lease) from the Very Rev Patrick MacManus, Patrick Joseph Conway, John K Conway, and Mary Letitia Conway to John Kelly for a term of 99 years from 1 May 1882, subject to the yearly rent of £3.10s sterling and the covenants therein contained, and take notice that Marian Cullinane, being the person in occupation of the property for the interest arising on foot of the lease, intends to apply to the Circuit Court, South Western Circuit, county of Limerick, for a declaration that she is entitled to a reversionary lease in the property, and any party or parties asserting that they hold a superior interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title to the property to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, Marian Cullinane intends to proceed with the application before the said court at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the said court for such orders or directions as may be appropriate on the basis that persons entitled to superior interest(s) in the premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Keane McEllin

(solicitors for the plaintiffs),
James Street, Claremorris,
Co Mayo, F12 N528

In the matter of the premises consisting of a house and premises situated at Chapel Lane, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12C6X8, and in the matter of intended proceedings entitled An Chúirt Chuarda, the Circuit Court, Western Circuit, county of Mayo, Landlord and Tenant Civil Bill, in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2019 between Nell Rynne (plaintiff) and the representatives of the Very Rev Patrick MacManus, Patrick Joseph Conway, John K Conway, and Mary Letitia Conway (defendants)

Take notice that any person having any superior interest in the property consisting of a house situated at Chapel Lane, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12C6X8 (the property), being part of the premises demised by a lease dated 30 June 1882 (the lease) from the Very Rev Patrick MacManus, Patrick Joseph Conway, John K Conway, and Mary Letitia Conway to John Kelly for a term of 99 years from 1 May 1882, subject to the yearly rent of £3.10s sterling and the covenants therein contained, and take notice that Nell Rynne, being the person in occupation of the property for the interest arising on foot of the lease, intends to apply to the Circuit Court, South Western Circuit, Co Limerick, for a declaration that he is entitled to a reversionary lease in the property, and any party or parties asserting that they hold a superior interest in the property are called upon to furnish evidence of title

to the property to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, Nell Rynne intends to proceed with the application before the said court at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the said court for such orders or directions as may be appropriate on the basis that persons entitled to superior interest(s) in the premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Keane McEllin
(solicitors for the plaintiffs),
James Street, Claremorris, Co Mayo, F12 N528

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2005, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of the premises 611 and 613 North Circular Road, Dublin 1: application of Patrick Broughal

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in the properties, the original premises being the subject of an indenture of lease of 13 July 1822 between the Right Honourable Charles John Earl of Blessington of the one part and Samuel Scott of the other part for a term of 997 years and six months, from 29 September 1931 for two years and six months, and thereafter at a yearly rent of £300, and to the covenants on the lessee's part and the conditions contained therein, and therein described as "all that and those that lost piece or parcel of ground situate on the north side of the Summer Hill in county Dublin adjoining the Circular Road, containing in breadth in the front to Summer Hill aforesaid, 430



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feet in breadth; in the rear 451 feet, six inches in depth; from front to rear on the east side 780 feet; and on the west side 497 feet, be the same more or less meared and bounded as herein mentioned".

Take notice that Patrick Broughal, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest therein (the applicant) intends to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin to vest in him the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the properties, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest therein is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests, including the freehold reversion in the said premises, are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Niall Cawley & Co
(solicitors for the applicant),
Main Street, Blackrock,
Co Dublin

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2005, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of the premises

615 and 617 North Circular Road, Dublin 1: application of Patrick Broughal

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in the properties, the original premises being the subject of an indenture of lease of 13 July 1822 between the Right Honourable Charles John Earl of Blessington of the one part and Samuel Scott of the other part for a term of 997 years and six months, from 29 September 1931 for two years and six months, and thereafter at a yearly rent of £300, and to the covenants on the lessee's part and the conditions contained therein, and therein described as "all that and those that lost piece or parcel of ground situate on the north side of the Summer Hill in Co Dublin adjoining the Circular Road, containing in breadth in the front to Summer Hill aforesaid 430 feet in breadth; in the rear 451 feet, six inches in depth; from front to rear on the east side, 780 feet; and on the west side, 497 feet, be the same more or less meared and bounded as herein mentioned.

Take notice that the Patrick Broughal, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest therein (the applicant) intends to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin to vest in him the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the properties, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest therein is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the

applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests, including the freehold reversion in the said premises, are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Niall Cawley & Co
(solicitors for the applicant),
Main Street, Blackrock,
Co Dublin

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1967-2005, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of the premises 611 North Circular Road and 29A and 29B Richmond Cottages, Dublin 1: application of Patrick Broughal

Any person having a freehold estate or any intermediate interest in the properties, the original premises being the subject of an indenture of lease of 13 July 1822 between the Right Honourable Charles John Earl of Blessington of the one part and Samuel Scott of the other part for a term of 997 years and six months, from 29 September 1931 for two years and six months, and thereafter at a yearly rent of £300, and to the covenants on the lessee's part and the conditions contained therein, and therein described as "all that and those, that lost piece or parcel of ground situate on the north side of the Summer Hill in Co Dublin adjoining the Circular Road, containing in breadth in the front to

Summer Hill aforesaid 430 feet in breadth; in the rear, 451 feet, six inches in depth; from front to rear on the east side, 780 feet; and on the west side 497 feet, be the same more or less meared and bounded as herein mentioned".

Take notice that the Patrick Broughal, being the person entitled to the lessee's interest therein (the applicant) intends to apply to the county registrar of the county of Dublin to vest in him the fee simple and any intermediate interests in the properties, and any party asserting that they hold a superior interest therein is called upon to furnish evidence of title to same to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, the applicant intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interests, including the freehold reversion in the said premises, are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026
Signed: Niall Cawley & Co
(solicitors for the applicant),
Main Street, Blackrock,
Co Dublin

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2019, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act 1978, and in the matter of an application by MY Talbot Properties

gazette

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Limited, and in the matter of the property known as Unit 5, 13 Store Street, Dublin 1

Take notice any person having an interest in the freehold estate of or any intermediate interest in the property now known as Unit 5, 13 Store Street, Dublin 1, held under a fee farm grant dated 1 November 1921 and made between Sir Timothy Calvert Eden, the Hon Laura Jane Tighe, and Robert Hugh Moran Tighe of the one part and Louisa Loughnan of the other part, subject to a perpetual rent of £11 9 shillings and 4p per annum (now indemnified) and the covenants and conditions contained therein, and take notice that MY Talbot Properties Limited intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county and city of Dublin for the acquisition of the freehold interest in the aforementioned property, and that any party asserting a superior interest in the aforementioned property is called upon to furnish

evidence of such title to the aforementioned property to the undermentioned solicitors within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of such notice being received, the applicant, MY Talbot Properties Limited, intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar in the county and city of Dublin for such directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the person or persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest or interests, including the freehold reversion, to the aforementioned property is unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026

Signed: Tom Collins & Co (solicitors for the applicants), 132 Terenure Road N, Terenure, Dublin, D6W Y838

In the matter of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Acts 1967-2005, and in the matter of the Landlord and Tenant

(Ground Rents) (No 2) Act 1978, as amended, and in the matter of an application by Catherine Bruton in respect of 152 Rathgar Road, Dublin 6

Take notice any person having any interest in the freehold estate of the following property: 152 Rathgar Road, Dublin, held under an indenture of lease dated 30 March 1853 between Alexander Parker of the first part, Isabella Elisa Duffield of the second part, and Michael Meade of the third part for a term of 300 years from 25 March 1853, subject to the yearly rent of £16 and having being assigned to Catherine Bruton, the applicant herein, by an indenture of assignment dated 22 November 1976.

Take notice that Catherine Bruton intends to submit an application to the county registrar for the county of the city of Dublin for acquisition of the freehold interest in the aforesaid properties, and any party asserting that they hold

a superior interest in the aforesaid premises (or any of them) are called upon to furnish evidence of the title to the aforementioned premises to the below named within 21 days from the date of this notice.

In default of any such notice being received, Catherine Bruton intends to proceed with the application before the county registrar at the end of 21 days from the date of this notice and will apply to the county registrar for the county of the city of Dublin for directions as may be appropriate on the basis that the persons beneficially entitled to the superior interest including the freehold reversion in each of the aforesaid premises are unknown or unascertained.

Date: 4 September 2026

Signed: Neligan Solicitors (solicitors for applicant), Courthouse Square, Maynooth, Co Kildare, W23 H2Y7 ☒



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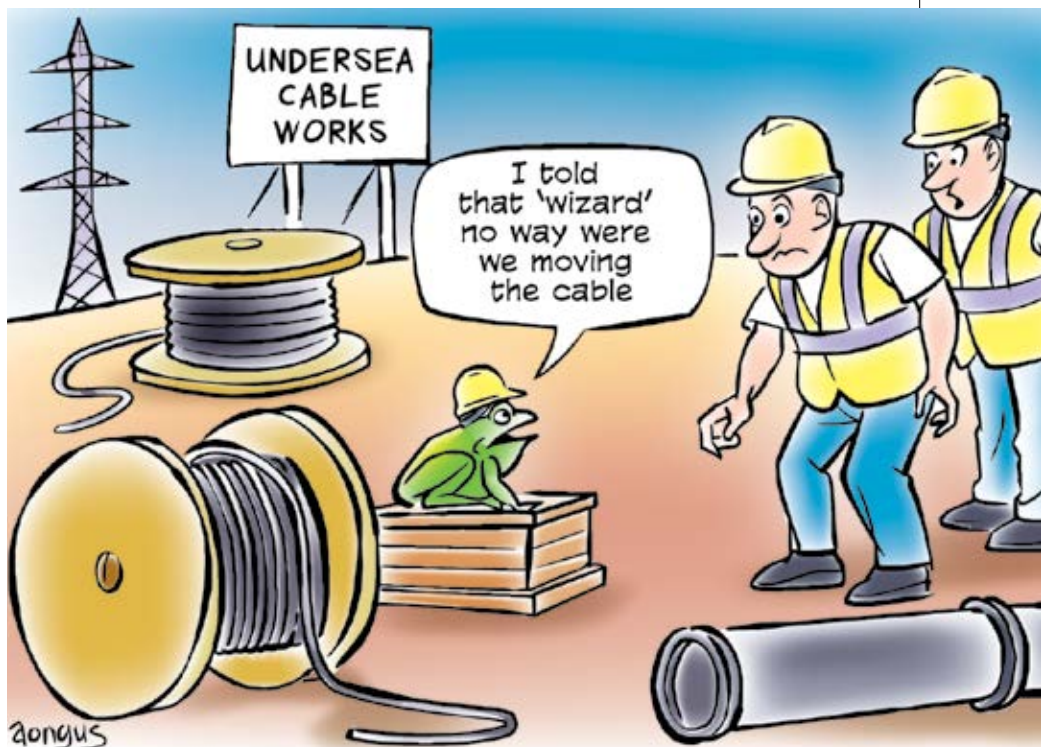
Elf and safety?

A £430-million power cable linking Ireland and Britain has been rerouted after nerds objected that it would disturb the fictional grave of the fictional Dobby, an elf in the fictional *Harry Potter* series.

The Guardian reports that, in the film adaptation of *Deathly Hallows*, Dobby was buried on Freshwater West beach in Pembrokeshire, and fans still leave stones there reading 'Here lies Dobby'.

Project manager Simon Ludlam said the firm was inundated with calls after a BBC interview revealed the interconnector's planned route. Ludlam admitted he didn't know who Dobby was, recalling a colleague telling him: "We're going to go straight through Dobby's grave."

Planners found an alternative path – one that passes close to actual, genuine Bronze Age burial remains instead.



Man bites shark

Shoppers in Australia may be unwittingly eating endangered sharks sold as 'flake' – the catch-all (ahem...) term used for fish fillets in Australian chippers.

According to [IFLScience.com](https://www.iflscience.com), researchers DNA tested flake products and discovered rare species, including the short-fin mako and smooth hammerhead. Only gummy shark and New Zealand rig are recommended under the Australian Fish Names Standard, but the system isn't mandatory, leaving room for mislabelling. Just 27% of samples matched the approved guidelines.

Researchers said the absence of national



labelling laws "potentially opens the door to fraudulent practices", undermining consumer trust and putting protected species at risk.

'Alexa, burn the books'

Amazon has been secretly scanning and destroying rare books to train its AI models, an investigation by 404 Media has found.

According to [Futurism.com](https://www.futurism.com), a bookseller grew suspicious after receiving an order for 1,000 books from an anonymous buyer, and hid an AirTag inside one rare volume. The trail led to a warehouse in Nevada, where workers say books are stripped of their spines, scanned, and shredded.

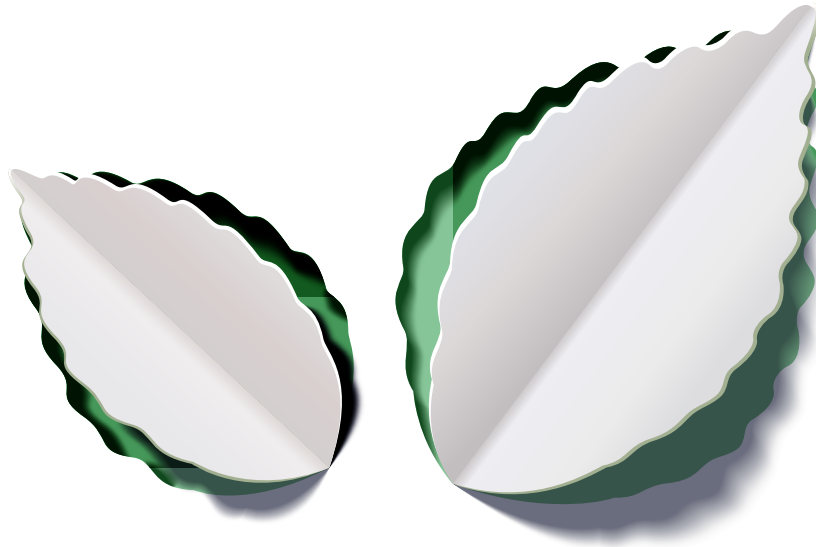
Amazon said only that it "purchases books through commercial channels to help develop and improve" its products. The practice echoes revelations about Anthropic, whose destruction of scanned books a judge ruled 'transformative', not a copyright breach.

Frozen assets

A Welsh man has been jailed for storing his mother's body in a freezer for almost three years while claiming more than £70,000 in benefits and from her savings.

The Guardian reports that Christopher

Phillips (60) had cared for his mother since 2008 and told police she was visiting cousins when officers came to check on her welfare. Her body was later found beneath a leopard-print throw, surrounded by flowers and a birthday card addressed from him and the family dog.



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