



## UCD Sutherland School of Law

UCD Sutherland School of Law, University of Ulster, School of Law, Public Interest  
Law Alliance & Irish Clinical Legal Education Association

*present*

### **LAW IN ACTION: RE-IMAGINING CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND**

**Date:** Friday 13 June 2014.

**Time:** 10.00 am-5.30 pm

**Location:** Arthur Cox Clinical Legal Education Centre, UCD Sutherland School of  
Law

At a time of legal and social change, the opportunity emerges to reimagine legal education and its contribution to society on the island of Ireland, both North and South. This conference offers participants the opportunity to consider, plan and reflect on the increasing role for clinical legal education in Irish law schools. The impact of clinical legal education on the legal curriculum is something that will be critically considered, as well the impact of clinical legal education on a wider social justice agenda.

The conference builds on ICELA's previous work in bringing together the experiences of Northern/Irish law schools which engage a range of clinical legal education practices, all connected by an ambition to place experiential learning within law schools and develop public interest law in Ireland.

Our *Law in Action* conference aims to understand the impact of Irish clinical legal education and its contribution to legal education and social justice in Northern/Ireland.

We invite conference speakers and participants to consider some of the following issues:

- The changing nature of legal education in Ireland, with a consideration of the transformative potential of clinical legal education to the law school curriculum.
- The value – theoretically, practically and pedagogically - of internships as a form of clinical legal education.
- The contribution of organisations, both legal and non-legal, practitioner and non-practitioner, to clinical legal education in Ireland.
- The contribution of client-based clinical legal education in enabling client participation in administrative and legal processes.
- The challenges and opportunities in engaging students in live client work, legal research and public interest law in Northern/Ireland.
- The role of clinical legal education in identifying, supporting and progressing social justice and public interest law in Northern/Irish society.



### **Audience:**

This conference will be of interest to a range of audiences, in particular:

- Academics and legal educators who have an interest in legal education generally, clinical legal education, the interaction of law, public interest law and social justice;
- Policy makers in the arena of education in general and legal education in particular;
- Legal practitioners and NGOs working with and interested in working with law student interns, or having such students conduct expert research;
- Students and graduates with an interest in, or experience of, clinical legal education, public interest law or social justice programmes.

**CPD Points Available (4 group hours)**

## Programme

**10.00-10.30: Conference Registration, Tea and Coffee**

<b>10.30-11.30 Session 1: The Significance of Clinical Legal Education for Law Schools</b>	
Chair: <a href="#">Prof Imelda Maher</a>	
10.30-10.40	<a href="#">Prof Colin Scott</a> , Conference Opening, Dean of UCD Sutherland School of Law “Changing Times for Legal Education in Ireland”
10.40-11.10	Keynote: <a href="#">Prof Michael Martin</a> , Fordham University School of Law “Clinical Legal Education: Lessons from the U.S.”
11.10-11.30	Question & Answers

**11.30-11.50 Mid-Morning Break, Tea & Coffee**

<b>11.50-13.15 Session 2: Internships in Legal Education</b>	
Chair: <a href="#">Prof Richard Grimes</a>	
11.50-12.05	<a href="#">Dr David Fennelly</a> (TCD) Internships in Legal Education in Ireland
12.05-13.15	Interactive Workshop with Prof Richard Grimes, <i>Furthering Internships in Ireland</i>

**13.15-14.15 Lunch**

<b>14.15-15.30 Session 3: Doing Things Differently, Other Forms of Clinical Legal Education in Ireland</b>	
Chair: <a href="#">Noeline Blackwell</a> , FLAC/PILA	
14.15-14.35	<a href="#">Ciaran White</a> , (University of Ulster), Ulster Law Clinic
14.35-14.55	<a href="#">Deirdre Malone</a> , (Irish Penal Reform Trust) “Learning the Law in Community Contexts”
14.55-15.20	Question & Answers and further engagement from students who participated in these programmes and in other clinical legal education programmes in Ireland.

**15.20-15.40 Tea and Coffee**

**15.40-16.45 Session 4: The Trajectory of Legal Education in Ireland**

Chair: [Larry Donnelly](#) (NUIG)

Deans from across Law Schools and Law Departments in Ireland or their will provide a three minute reflection on “The Trajectory of Legal Education in Ireland.” The chair will then seek to tease out some issues on the future of legal education in Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

[Prof Michael Doherty](#) (NUIM)

[Prof Ursula Kilkelly](#) (UCC)

[Siobhán Leonard](#) (Griffith College Dublin)

[Dr Eugene McNamee](#) (UU)

[Prof Donncha O 'Conne II](#)

(NUIG) [Dr Lynn Ramsey](#)

(Letterkenny IT) [Prof Colin Scott](#)

(UCD)

**More speakers to be confirmed.**

**16.45-17.00 Conference Close, [Dr Liam Thornton \(UCD\)](#), “Furthering Clinical Legal Education in Ireland”**

**17:00 Drinks Reception, Sponsored by [UCD Sutherland School of Law](#), Gardiner Atrium.**

## Keynote Speakers



[Prof Michael Martin](#) is a Clinical Associate Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, teaching the Federal Litigation Clinic and Seminar. He has also taught Fundamental Lawyering Skills, Judicial Externships, the Justice and Welfare Clinic, and the Family Advocacy Clinic. In addition, he teaches International Human Rights and International Criminal Law as part of Fordham's Belfast-Dublin Summer Program. Prior to joining the faculty at Fordham, Professor Martin taught the Federal Litigation Clinic and Seminar at Brooklyn Law School (1998 - 1999) and was an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell (1994 - 1998). He also served as Sullivan & Cromwell's Pro Bono Fellow, exclusively prosecuting prisoner civil rights actions in the Southern District of New York from 1994 to 1995. Professor Martin clerked for the Hon. John F. Keenan, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, from 1992 to 1994.



[Prof Richard Grimes](#) joined York Law School in August 2010. Between 2000-2006, Richard was Professor and Director of Pro Bono Service at The College of Law. Prof. Grimes has also held academic positions at the University of Derby, Sheffield Hallam University, Manchester University, University College North Wales, University College Cork, and Keele University. At Sheffield Hallam University, Richard established an in-house legal practice where students, under the supervision of professionally qualified staff, conducted real casework as part of their studies. Richard qualified as a solicitor in 1977, working in general practice and in law centres, with a focus on litigation and social welfare law.

## Chairpersons and Panel Contributor Biographies



[Noeline Blackwell](#) has been the Director General of FLAC since 2005. Before that, she worked in general practice as a solicitor, with a particular interest in family law and in human rights law in general, refugee and immigration law in particular. She sits on the Law Society's Human Rights Committee and its Family Law and Civil Legal Aid Committee. She is a former Chairperson of the Irish section of Amnesty International and is a Trustee of Front Line, the Dublin-based international foundation for human rights defenders at risk.



[Neville Cox](#) LL.B., Ph.D. is a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin and a practising barrister. He is the author of *Blasphemy and the Law* (2000) and co-author of *Sport and the Law* (2004). He is also published on a wide variety of topics in law journals and books. He lectures in the areas of tort law, comparative law and sport and the law. He has been a visiting professor in the University of San Francisco and in Autumn of 2006 he will be a scholar-in-residence in Washington & Lee University in Virginia. In 2005 he was awarded a Provost's teaching award. He is acting Head of School and Director of the LL.M. degree programmes.



[Prof Michael Doherty](#) joined the Department of Law at NUI Maynooth in 2013 and is Head of the Department of Law. Michael lectures and researches in the areas of employment and labour law, industrial relations law and policy, and EU law. He has published widely in national and international outlets on these topics and presented his work at numerous domestic and international conferences. His work has focused, in particular, on collective employment rights, employee representation at work, the role of trade unions and the role of social pacts in socio-economic governance.



[Dr David Fennelly](#) is an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Legal Education in the law School. He is also a practising barrister. In 2013-2014, David will be teaching the Clinical Legal Education Module and a seminar on Current Issues in the Legal Profession. He will also be teaching EU External Relations Law on the LL.M. programme.



**[Prof Ursula Kilkelly](#)** is the Head of the Department of Law and Head of the College of Business and Law in University College Cork. Ursula is an international children's rights scholar. She has published widely on children's rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and youth justice. Ursula actively collaborates with colleagues across other disciplines including health and social work and social policy. She works closely with the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division and with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory. At UCC, Ursula directs the innovative Child Law Clinic, a research initiative which provides student-led research services to lawyers litigating children's issues.



**[Siobhán Leonard](#)** is head of the Law School in Griffith College Dublin. Siobhán is a qualified solicitor (in Northern Ireland & England and Wales) holding LLB and LLM (European Law), degrees from Queens University Belfast and UCD respectively. She also completed the Post Graduate Certificate in Further and Higher Education at Manchester Metropolitan University.



**[Prof Imelda Maher](#)** moved to UCD in 2006 to take up the newly established Sutherland Chair of European Law. She is interested in the relationship between law and governance especially in economic spheres. She has worked extensively in competition law and also on EU economic governance. She is general editor of Legal Studies, the journal of the Society of Legal Scholars of the UK and Ireland and a member of the editorial board of the European Law Journal and of the Irish Yearbook of International Law. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Economic and Social Research Council Centre for Competition Policy, University of East Anglia and is a non-governmental advisor to the International Competition Network. In 2008 she gave the prestigious general course lectures on economic governance at the Academy of European Law, European University Institute, Florence.



**[Deirdre Malone](#)** is Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust. Previously a barrister in private practice, Deirdre worked from one of the foremost human rights chambers in the UK; initially purely on criminal defence matters in the Youth Court, Magistrates Court and Crown Court and then as a member of the inquest and prison law team specialising in the representation of bereaved families at inquests into deaths of their loved ones within prisons and other places of detention. Deirdre has uniquely broad human rights experience having also worked in

Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties UK), in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ireland), and as a researcher for the Irish Attorney General.



[Dr Eugene McNamee](#) is the Head of the Law School at University of Ulster and moved to Ulster in 2006 from Birkbeck, University of London via a post-doctoral position at UCC examining Culture and Constitutionality in Northern Ireland. Eugene has published extensively in Law and Social Theory, Law and Visual Culture, Law and Literature, and International Law and the Humanities. He has a strong interest in the development of clinical legal education at Ulster.



[Prof Donncha O'Connell](#) is an Established Professor of Law and Head of the School of Law at NUI Galway. Donncha is a Commissioner (part-time) of the Law Reform Commission having been appointed by the government on the nomination of Attorney General, Máire Whelan, SC, in 2012. He is also a member of the Legal Aid Board. Donncha joined the Faculty of Law at NUI Galway (then UCG) in 1993 having completed an LL.M at the University of Edinburgh. From 1999 to 2002, while on leave of absence from NUIG, he was the first full-time Director of the Irish

Council for Civil Liberties, an NGO founded in 1976 by Mary Robinson and the late Kader Asmal. Donncha's research interests revolve around public law and human rights.



[Dr Lynn Ramsey](#) is Head of Department of Law & Humanities, Letterkenny Institute of Technology



[Prof Colin Scott](#) is Dean of Law and Professor of EU Regulation & Governance at UCD. Colin was a research associate of the ESRC Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR), based at the London School of Economics from 2000-2010. He is Director of the UCD Centre for Regulation and Governance, established in 2010. He is a co-author of the Irish State Administration Database (2010). He was Programme Chair of ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance Biennial Conference, 'Regulation in the Age of Crisis', held in Dublin in June 2010. He is a co-editor of Legal Studies and has previously held editorial responsibilities with



Law & Policy and the Modern Law Review. He was a Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges, from 2006-2009 where he taught on the interdisciplinary masters on European Law and Economic Analysis (ELEA).



**Ciaran White** is a Senior Lecturer in Law, Director of Ulster Law Clinic and Course Director of the LLM Clinical Legal Education at University of Ulster. Ciaran is a practising barrister and his specialities include Human Rights Law, Judicial Review, Employment Law, Equality Law, Family Law. In addition, Ciaran has authored *Law for Social Workers* (Lexis Nexis, 2005) and is a co-author of *Divorce in Northern Ireland*.

## Conference Convenors



comparative law.

[Larry Donnelly](#) is a native of Boston, MA, USA who holds both American and Irish passports. Larry is a lecturer in law in NUI Galway and teaches legal skills modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is the founder and director of the School of Law's highly regarded Clinical Legal Education programme. Larry presents conference papers and publishes law journal articles in Ireland and internationally on legal education and



representation to members of the public on social security and employment law issues. She is Assistant Editor of the *Journal of Social Security Law*; a member of the editorial panel of *Frontline: Social Welfare Law Quarterly*; and was sub-editor of the *Bulletin of Northern Ireland Law* from 1998-2011.

[Dr Gráinne McKeever](#) is a Reader in Law at the University of Ulster and has published widely on issues of social security and social justice. Her research has focused on numerous aspects of access to justice including the enforcement of socio-economic rights and the information, support and advice needs of tribunal users. Gráinne is Chair and Executive Director of Law Centre (NI) – a specialist not-for-profit advice organisation – and Associate Director of the Ulster Law Clinic within which LLM Clinical Legal Education students provide free advice and



[Dr Liam Thornton](#) is a graduate of UCC (BCL (Int.) & PhD) and is a lecturer in law and director of clinical legal education in the School of Law, UCD. Liam has a strong interest in social justice and law, and researches and publishes in areas relating to immigration law, social security law, European law, human rights law and clinical legal education. Liam is a Council Member for the Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC) and regularly offers pro-bono research expertise to non-profit organisations.