

# 'Current issues in Irish public law'

## 28 May 2025: Programme



UCD Centre for  
Constitutional Studies



**9.15: Registration opens**

**General panels: Plenary**

**9.45 – 10.45**

### **Session 1: Constitutional stability and the rule of law**

**Chair: Hon. Mr. Justice O'Donnell, Chief Justice**

**Colm O'Cinneide, UCL:** An island of stability?: Irish constitutional law and the democratic rule of law crisis.

**Joelle Grogan CEU/UCD:** In stormy seas: democratic deconsolidation and rule of law breakdown beyond Ireland.

**10.45 -11.15: Coffee**

**11.15 – 12.15**

### **Session 2: General issues in public law**

**Chair: Hon. Mr. Justice O'Moore**

**Joe Jeffers SC:** Mandamus and contempt after *M McD (A Child)* [2024] IESC 6 and *B (a Minor) v Child and Family Agency & ors* [2025] IESC 2).

**Catherine Donnelly SC, TCD:** *Kelly v UCD*: Confirmations, clarifications and challenges for objective bias.

**Eoin Carolan SC, UCD:** Liability in tort for the exercise of statutory powers after *Barlow* [2025] IESC 14

## Specialist panels: Parallel

### Session 3: 12. 15 – 1.00

Parliamentary Privilege in practice	Equality before the law
<p><b>Chair: Catherine Donnelly SC</b></p> <p><b>Mellissa English SC, Chief Parliamentary legal Adviser in the Office of Parliamentary Legal Advisers:</b> Kerins; 2014-2024, a watershed moment in Irish constitutional law?</p> <p><b>Ramona Quinn, Parliamentary Services Legal Adviser in the Office of Parliamentary legal Advisers:</b> Parliamentary Privilege: balancing the rights.</p>	<p><b>Mairead McKenna SC:</b> Mallon v. Minister for Justice [2024] IESC 20.</p> <p><b>Ronan Lupton SC, UCD:</b> “Aging out, the timeless debate”.</p>

### 1.00 – 2.00 Lunch

### Session 4: 2.00 – 2.45

Legal costs and access to justice	Regulation and investigations
<p><b>Sarah Cooney BL:</b> <i>Little v Chief Appeals Officer</i> [2024] IESC 53 and legal costs in public law proceedings.</p> <p><b>Colm Ó Néill BL:</b> Litigation funding.</p>	<p><b>Cathal Ó’Curraín, Addleshaw Goddard:</b> Commissions of Investigation: emerging issues and the case for reform.</p> <p><b>Ailbhe O’Neill SC, TCD:</b> Financial services regulation.</p>

### 2.45 – 3.00: Coffee

## Session 5: 3.00 – 3.45pm

Information and data protection	Commercial and arbitration Chair: Hon. Ms. Justice Hyland
<p><b>Niall Michel, Mason Hayes &amp; Curran:</b> High Court FOI appeals on procedural grounds.</p> <p><b>David Kelly, Office of the Attorney General:</b> Data Retention and the CJEU.</p>	<p><b>Graham Kenny, Eversheds Sutherland:</b> Final awards: objections to arbitral awards on the grounds of public policy.</p> <p><b>Francis Kieran BL:</b> Aviation analysed: from foreign fighter jets to the passenger cap.</p>

## Session 6: 3.45 – 4.30pm

Immigration and citizenship	Planning and environmental
<p><b>John O’Dowd, UCD:</b> Recent developments in citizenship law.</p> <p><b>Aoife McMahon BL:</b> EU free movement of persons: recent developments.</p>	<p><b>Brendan Slattery, McCann Fitzgerald:</b> Harmless error: not every mistake means a decision should be quashed.</p> <p><b>John Kenny BL:</b> The Habitats Directive: An update on key developments.</p>

**4.30pm: Conference Concludes**