

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

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch

Session 4: 2.00 – 2.45

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

2.45 – 3.00: Coffee

Session 5: 3.00 – 3.45pm

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

Session 6: 3.45 – 4.30pm

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

4.30pm: Conference Concludes