Annual Conference

Friday 9th May 2025, 9.00am - 4.30pm

ciarb.
Ireland Branch



Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - Ireland Branch

'Does the Forum fit the Fuss'

Event Co-sponsors

WILLIAM FRY
conlex
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QUANTEX QUANTITY SURVEYING • PROJECT MANAGEMENT • DISPUTE RESOLUTION
KROLL
mdo ARCHITECTS
bam
KEITH WALSH SOLICITORS LLP incorporating Durkan Solicitors

Venue

National Gallery of IRELAND

The National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square West, Dublin 2

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Session 1 Infrastructure - NEC & Fidic DAAB & Early Warning

Session 2 Mandatory Mediation

Session 3 Public Works Contracts – If the Standing Conciliators Process is working, why do we still have so many disputes?

Session 4 Adjudication - Is Witness Evidence worth the paper it is written on?

Session 5 Arbitration – Does the technical arbitrator have a future

Session 6 ADR – What are we missing - fitting the forum to the fuss

Conference co-sponsers

Byrne Wallace Sheilds LLP
William Fry LLP Solicitors
Hamish Lal Partners
Kroll
Smyth & Son Solicitors
Conlex
GDCL Consulting Engineers
Keith Walsh Solicitors LLP
Quantex
BAM Ireland
MDO Architects
Creed McStay Solicitors LLP

4. Opening Remarks

Catherine Needham BL
Chair - Ciarb Ireland Branch

5. Keynote address

The Hon Ms Justice Nuala Jackson (Judge of the High Court)

6. Speaker biographies

A brief background for each of the conference speakers

Conference programme

The conference will comprise of six open discussion sessions debating the 'pros and cons' of various methods utilised in Alternative Dispute Resolution in different Sectors.

09.00	Conference registration and coffee
09.20	Welcome and opening remarks Catherine Needham BL Chair of Ciarb Ireland Branch
09.30	Keynote speaker The Hon. Ms. Justice Nuala Jackson (Judge of the High Court)
	Morning Session
10.00	Session 1 - Infrastructure - NEC & Fidic DAAB & Early Warning Moderator - Niav O'Higgins Speaker - Damien Keogh Speaker - Gerry Monaghan Speaker - James Golden Speaker - Dermot Malone
10.45	Session 2 - Mandatory Mediation Moderator - Laura Donnelly BL Speaker - Keith Walsh SC Speaker - Niall Buckley SC Speaker - Sara Moorhead SC Speaker - Tim Bouchier-Hayes
11.30	Coffee break
10.45	Session 3 - Public Works Contracts - If the Standing Conciliators Process is working, why do we still have so many disputes? Moderator - Meg Burke BL Speaker - Lydia Bunni BL Speaker - Dominic Donnelly

12.30 **Break for light lunch**

Afternoon Session

14.00 **Session 4 - Adjudication -**
Is Witness Evidence worth the paper it is written on?

Moderator -Maebh Gogarty

Speaker - Martin Cooney

Speaker - Siobhan Kenny

Speaker - Jarlath Kearney

14.45 **Session 5 - Arbitration -**
Does the technical arbitrator have a future?

Moderator - Kate Ahern BL

Speaker - Arran Dowling-Hussey BL

Speaker - James O'Donoghue

Speaker - Joan O'Conor

15.30 **Coffee break**

15.30 **Session 6 - ADR -**
'What are we missing - fitting the forum to the fuss'

Moderator - The Hon. Ms. Justice Sara Phelan
(Judge of the High Court)

Speaker - Hamish Lal

Speaker - Mariana Verdes BL

Speaker - Cathy Smith SC

Speaker - Jarleth Heneghan

16.30 **Conference close**

Speaker - Ian Talbot

Speaker - Bernard Gogarty

Speaker - The Hon. Mr. Justice David Barnville
(Judge of the High Court)

17.00 **Post Conference Reception**

The Cellar Bar, The Merrion Hotel, Dublin 2

Opening Remarks

Catherine Needham BL
Chair - Ciarb Ireland Branch



Catherine Needham BL holds a MSc Business and Finance, the Barrister at Law Degree (The Honourable Society in Kings Inns), a Certificate in Commercial Contracts (The Law Society of Ireland), a Post Graduate Diploma in Construction Law and Contract Law (Trinity College Dublin), a Professional Diploma in Arbitration Law (UCD) and is a PhD (Law) Candidate.

Catherine is a Junior Counsel practising in Commercial and Public Law, Media Law and Property Law, Construction Law. She has appeared before the Irish Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the High Court.

She is a member of the Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee of the Bar of Ireland, the Construction Bar of Ireland and the Negotiation Committee of the Bar of Ireland. She is a committee member of The Society of Construction Law (SCL) Astra and Co. Regional Coordinator of SCL (Ireland).

She is the current Chair of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) (Irish branch).

She is a National Committee Nomination Commission Member with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

She is a Co-Editor of The Bar Review and Co-Editor of the Construction, Engineering and Energy Law Journal of Ireland (C.E.E.J).

In addition, she is a Tutor in the Post Graduate Diploma in Construction Law and Contract Law (Trinity College Dublin) since 2022 and recently sat on the arbitral tribunal for Mock Arbitration.

She is an Accredited Commercial Mediator (CEDR), Family Law Mediator (ARC) and Accredited Fellow Arbitrator (FCIArb).

Finally, she has been nominated by The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD to be a member of the RIAI Professional Conduct Committee (The Board of the RIAI is the registration body for Architects) pursuant to section 23 of the Building Control Act 2007.

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Keynote address

The Hon. Ms. Justice Nuala Jackson (Judge of the High Court)



The Hon. Ms Justice Nuala Jackson is a Judge of the High Court of Ireland. She sits primarily hearing family law cases, high net worth financial remedy cases and child law cases.

A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, she subsequently completed LL.M. degrees at the University of Cambridge and Cardiff University. She has lectured and presented extensively in the area of family and child law. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she practised as a barrister, latterly as Senior Counsel, She is an accredited mediator having trained as such with Resolution and CEDR. She was formerly Chairperson of the Family Lawyers' Association of Ireland. She served for many years as a committee member of the Family Law Arbitration Scheme and as a family law representative on the committee of CIArb (Irish branch).

Immediately prior to appointment as a judge, she was Chair of the Legal Aid Board and Vice-Chair of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board. She is a Judicial Fellow of the International Academy of Family Law.

She is trying to understand AI. She has recently undertaken courses in Ethical AI and the Oxford Artificial Intelligence Program with the said Business School.

Niav O'Higgins



Niav is widely regarded as one of the leading construction lawyers in Ireland and has some 30 years' experience of advising various parties across a broad range of construction and infrastructure projects, in both the private and public sectors, and has advised state and semi-state bodies, and various stakeholders including developers, tenants, contractors, consultants, as well as institutional and other investors and funders.

Niav's breadth of experience, across different sectors, gives Niav a real understanding of the imperatives driving the different players involved in construction, allowing her to unlock solutions in the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts, professional appointments, and related transactional documentation. She also provides solution-driven advice on dispute avoidance and resolution, and has experience in advising clients involved in adjudications, conciliations, mediation, and arbitration.

Niav is a CEDR Accredited Mediator (2007). She also completed the RICS Diploma in Adjudication in 2014 and since 2021, has been an adjudicator on the Ministerial panel of adjudicators, and has acted as both adjudicator and party representative on numerous statutory adjudications under the Construction Contracts Act 2013.

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Damien Keogh



Damien Keogh is a Senior Counsel, and acts as an arbitrator, mediator, adjudicator and conciliator. Damien is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a lecturer in arbitration law, conciliation and dispute resolution in Trinity College, Dublin and the Law Society. Damien is also an experienced Conciliator, and a CEDR Accredited Mediator. Damien is also on the Ministers Panel of Adjudicators and is co-Author of the leading legal text "Adjudication Practice and Procedure in Ireland".

Damien is recognised as a "Leading Individual" in Construction law as ranked by the Legal 500, and a "Leader in his field" and "among the World's leading Construction lawyers" as ranked by Who's Who Legal: Construction.

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Gerry Monaghan



A Chartered Engineer with over 30 years' experience in the delivery of utility, infrastructure and building assets in Ireland and internationally. A FIDIC Certified Adjudicator and member of the FIDIC President's List of approved Dispute Adjudicators.

A Chartered Arbitrator and CEDR Accredited Mediator with significant experience as an arbitrator, mediator, conciliator and adjudicator for energy and general construction disputes.

Construction contracts and disputes resolution specialist. Experienced in the use of civil engineering and building contracts (IEI, GCCC Public Works, RIAI, GDLA) and other model contract forms (NEC, FIDIC and Joint IMechE/IEE including MF/1) together with professional services contracts.

A technical and commercially minded professional who has advised on investment strategies and improvement programmes for regulated utility infrastructure.

Accomplished in the project and programme management of major construction projects and capital investment programmes.

Experienced in capital investment programme management using traditional or PPP models. Project funding and planning, design, procurement, construction management, cost control.

Chartered Arbitrator, Fellow at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Chairman of the Engineers Ireland Dispute Resolution Board. Member of the Engineers Ireland Arbitrator, Adjudicator and Conciliator panels. Delegate member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Arbitration and ADR (2024 - 2027). Member of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Users' Council. Member of the Offshore Wind Task Group at the DRBF.

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James Golden

BEng LLB



James Golden is a Director at Quigg Golden and a seasoned construction adjudicator, mediator, and party representative. He has over 30 years' experience helping and representing employers, contractors, subcontractors and consultants throughout the UK, Ireland, as well as experience in Hong Kong and the Middle East. He has extremely strong practical and theoretical knowledge on all the standard forms of building contracts used in the UK and Ireland and has provided advice to central governments, local governments, and contracting organisations on contractual and disputed issues. He regularly acts as the dispute resolver in adjudication, conciliation and mediation, in addition to representing parties in all forms of ADR forums, including litigation and arbitration.

James is experienced in all aspects of dispute resolution and large-scale project management. Always commercially minded, he has a reputation of grasping the key issues quickly and thoroughly and an ability to explain them to decision makers and clients alike.

He is a practising adjudicator: a member of a number of appointing body panels including the Institution of Civil Engineers, TeCSA and the ministerial panel in Ireland.

James' experience includes acting as an Expert Witness in arbitration and litigation. He has acted as an expert on programming and commercial matters in litigation and arbitration.

James Golden is an active member of a range of organisations including the ICE, the Society of Construction Law, the Adjudication Society, the Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors, the NEC users group and also serves as Chair of the ICE DRP committee.

He is also a training tutor on the NEC forms of contract for the Institution of Civil Engineers.

*Holds the degree of barrister but does not hold a practising certificate from, and is not fully regulated by, the Bar Standards Board and cannot appear as a barrister in court. The BSB can consider a complaint but cannot require a payment of compensation.

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Dermot Malone

BE, MBA, BL, C. Eng, FIEI, FCIArb.



Dermot qualified as a Mechanical Engineer in 1992 and worked for 10 years as a Senior Project Engineer with Tobin, one of Ireland's leading firms of Consulting Engineers, and is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institute of Engineers Ireland.

After completing an MBA in 2003, Dermot has worked in project, asset backed and utility finance across the globe. Initially working as a project finance banker to structure and execute PPP and infrastructure deals in the UK and Ireland for DEPFA Bank, subsequently Dermot lead on restructuring, execution, private placement, trade sales and debt trading for a global portfolio of infrastructure and asset finance (loans, bonds and derivatives) transactions.

Dermot has deep practical experience in resolving commercial, financial, contractual and structural issues within PPP deals (Transportation /Healthcare/Social Accommodation), Regulated Utilities (Electricity, Gas and Water), Ports/Airports, Aircraft Finance, Project Finance (Energy /Renewables) and with Financial Guaranty and multi-lateral financial institutions

More recently Dermot has become a qualified Barrister, Arbitrator and Accredited Mediator and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

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Laura Donnelly

BL



Laura Donnelly BL is a practising barrister called to the bar in 2018. She practises in a wide range of civil litigation with a particular interest in financial services and insolvency.

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Niall Buckley
SC



Niall Buckley is a Senior Counsel practising in commercial, public, media and property law, with a keen interest in access to justice, legal education and alternative dispute resolution.

He is a CEDR accredited mediator, and regularly acts as party representative and mediator in mediations and is current chair of the Bar Council's Advanced Negotiation Committee.

Niall is the Vice President of the Irish Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a committee member of the Commercial Litigation Association of Ireland and a former committee member of the Irish National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce.

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Sara Moorhead
SC



Sara Moorhead is a Senior Counsel, mediator, and legal consultant with a career spanning three decades at the Bar of Ireland. Sara is a member of The Law Library and holds accreditation as a mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and the Mediators Institute of Ireland. Sara's expertise encompasses public law, administrative law, and commercial disputes.

Sara has served as independent counsel on significant public interest matters, including her appointment in 2018 to conduct an independent review of the role and remuneration of local authority councillors in Ireland.

Her comprehensive report, which recommended substantial reforms was subsequently adopted by the government in 2021. She has also advised on complex legal issues, including those involving the Dáil, notably in cases related to parliamentary privilege.

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Keith Walsh

SC



Keith has a well earned reputation as one of Ireland's leading family law solicitors. He was the first family law solicitor to be appointed Senior Counsel by the government of Ireland in 2021 due to his expertise in family law. He is a very experienced solicitor who is interested in ensuring that the rights of his clients are diligently defended and protected. He has been very active in advocating for reform of the family law justice system and appears regularly in the media discussing family law issues.

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Tim Bouchier-Hayes



With over 50 years' experience in private practice, Tim is the most experienced and well-regarded construction lawyer in Ireland. He has dealt with public authorities, developers, architects, engineers, surveyors and builders on all aspects of construction projects and has been consulted by private developers and public authorities in relation to a very large number of the major construction projects undertaken in Ireland over the past three decades.

Alongside his private practice (where he has often represented his clients in mediation), Tim has built up a reputation as an effective mediator in his own right. With a long held belief in the power of bringing people together to help them resolve their disputes, His mediation practice naturally has a focus on the construction and property sector but, increasingly, he is asked to mediate a wide variety of commercial disputes.

Current Appointments:

Member of IPOS Mediation, the Award winning dispute resolution chambers in the United Kingdom.

Board Member and Vice Chairperson of the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board.

Member of the Investment Committee of the Land Development Agency – formerly Board Director.

Director of Ecocem Materials Limited

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Meg Burke
BL



Meg is a proud graduate of University College Cork with a degree in Law & French. She also studied at Universite Robert Schuman, Strasbourg and worked in the Office of the Public Defender, San Francisco, California prior to completing her studies.

As a full time barrister Meg has extensive experience in the field of litigation having been called to the Bar in 2006, following her Barrister at Law Degree in the Honorable Society of King's Inns. She specializes in Commercial Law, Local Government, Judicial Review and Personal Injuries. She is a member of the Cork and Munster Circuits and is a committee member of the Tort & Insurance Bar and the Bar of Ireland ADR Committee. She also acts as Chairperson for the Mental Health Commission in respect of tribunal hearings.

Meg is an I.M.I. Accredited Mediator and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and regularly acts as an Arbitrator in a variety of disputes. She is a panel member on the Law Society's Arbitration Panel and is an Irish appointee to the Commission on Arbitration and ADR of the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris. Meg is a long-standing committee member of the C.I.Arb. Irish Branch and is also an Adjunct Law Professor in University College Cork.

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Lydia Bunni
BL



Lydia Bunni is a distinguished barrister, adjudicator, arbitrator, and mediator, called to the Bar in Ireland since 2006. Lydia holds an LLB and LLM, is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), and possesses a Diploma in Construction Law from Trinity College Dublin, equipping her with specialized expertise in complex legal disputes.

As counsel, Lydia specialises in construction disputes, construction insurance, arbitration, environmental law, and planning law, advising a diverse clientele including contractors, employers, designers, insurance companies, and private entities.

Lydia is a prominent figure in the legal community, serving as the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Construction Bar Association of Ireland which she co-founded. She is also an accomplished academic, lecturing on construction law and dispute resolution at Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, and the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland.

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Dominic Donnelly



Dominic is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with a degree in surveying and a first-class honours degree in law. He is also holds a diploma in Adjudication and is a member of the RICS Panel of Adjudicators. Domonic currently serves as a Group Head of Legal at Cunningham, following his previous role as Commercial Director for a Northernn Ireland based contrator. He has significant experience in alternative dispute resolution (ADR), procurement challenges and enforcement across both UK and Irish jurisdictions. Dominic has delivered guest lectures to surveying students at Ulster Univeristy and presented formally to the UK adjudication body ARBRIX.

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Dermot Durack

FSCSI



Dermot Durack is a Director at Quigg Golden where he provides advice and support on both contentious and non-contentious construction and procurement matters. His specialties include dispute resolution such as adjudication and conciliation and he also advises on contract drafting and procurement.

Dermot is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and Barrister at Law (non-practicing) with 35 years Construction Experience. During his career, Dermot has worked for Clients, Contractors and Sub-contractors and has extensive experience of Quantity Surveying, Procurement, Contract Administration and Project Management on large complex projects including pharmaceutical, data centres, power plants, medical and food projects.

Dermot is also active in the industry volunteering with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of which he is the immediate Past Chair and the Society of Chartered Surveyors and sits on a number of Panels as a Dispute Resolver including the Irish Ministerial Panel of Adjudicators.

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Maebh Gogarty



Maebh is a graduate of National University of Ireland Galway (BA.Int, LLB), University of College Dublin (LLM in Commercial Law) and Trinity College Dublin (HDip in Construction Law and Contract Administration) and qualified as a Solicitor in Ireland in 2013. Having carried out her training with the firm Maebh spent a number of years working in two of the Top Five tier commercial firms in Dublin specialising in non-contentious construction law before returning to join the firm as a Senior Solicitor in May 2018.

Maebh has extensive experience in Construction Law (both contentious and non-contentious matters), procurement, employment law, Conveyancing, litigation including Personal Injuries, Commercial Litigation and Family Law.

Maebh is experienced in reviewing, drafting and negotiating Construction Contracts to include Bespoke form Construction Contracts (build only and design and build Contracts) PWC, RIAI, FIDIC, NEC and IEI.

Maebh also has experience in drafting and negotiating Consultant Appointments, Collateral Warranties and Facility Agreements in respect of major construction projects.

Maebh is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is a course tutor for the Higher Diploma in Construction Law and Contract Administration in Trinity College Dublin.

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Martin cooney



Martin is a Partner and Head of the Infrastructure, Construction and Energy Group at Byrne Wallace Shields LLP. He advises on all aspects of construction law including both contentious and non-contentious matters. He holds a Masters in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution from Kings College London and is a lecturer on the Law Society of Ireland's Diploma in
Construction Law course.

Martin regularly acts for clients in many forms of alternative dispute resolution including mediation, conciliation, adjudication, expertdetermination and arbitration. He is also experienced in traditional litigation having represented clients at all court levels.

He has been involved a number of the main High Court decisions dealing with statutory adjudication in Ireland, including the first enforcement decision in Gravity Construction Limited v Total Highway Maintenance Limited. Other cases include Construgomes & Carlos Gomes SA v Dragados Ireland Ltd & Ors, Principal Construction Ltd v Beneavin Contractors and McGurran Civils v K & J Townmore.

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Siobhan Kenny



Siobhan Kenny is senior member of the Construction & Engineering team at Addleshaw Goddard Ireland. She acts on behalf of a broad spectrum of clients involved in building projects, providing advice on a full range of issues both contentious and non-contentious. Siobhan's non-contentious practice involves the drafting, review and analysis of complex contracts and all associated and ancillary documents, and the provision of advice to clients involved in intricate contractual arrangements on projects of every scale.

On the contentious side,
Siobhan is an experienced seasoned litigator in the construction field and is practiced in all of the commonly used dispute resolution processes. She advises clients on negotiation strategy and dispute avoidance measures at all stages of the construction process and acts as advisor and sometimes as advocate in all dispute resolution fora both informal and formal.

With over 20 years of experience dealing with the legal issues arising in construction projects, Siobhan brings a wealth of experience to her advice to clients on strategy, on procedure and on engagement with all counterparties.

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Jarlath Kearney



BSc(Hons), PGDipArb, PGDipAdj, MRICS, MSCSI, FPD, FCIArb,
Accredited Adjudicator, Certified Mediator

Jarlath has built his professional career on the delivery of effective dispute resolution, particularly adjudication and mediation. Jarlath is a member of the Minster's Panel of Adjudicators and is also a Certified Mediator and can be appointed by party agreement.

A dual qualified Quantity Surveying and Construction law professional, Jarlath has extensive experience in the management and settlement of major construction adjudications, arbitrations, and mediations/ conciliations ranging from large building and civil engineering companies,
employers, public bodies and sub-contractors both in the Republic of Ireland and throughout the Unite Kingdom. Jarlath has been instructed as Expert Witness in significant court cases, delivering his report and evidence on the liability and quantum of contractual claims.

Jarlath has been involved in over 100 adjudications, arbitrations, mediations and conciliations, ranging from civil engineering, building and building sevices disputes under main contracts and sub-contracts where he has represented clients, main contractors and sub-contractors/suppliers.

Jarlath has extensive experience in delivering many public training seminars and courses on contract law and construction specific topics. Jarlath regularly lectures at Queens University Belfast and Ulster University. He has also provided numerous in-house training seminars tailored to suit individual compny's needs.

As an active member in the Adjudication Society, Jarlath holds the position of Northern Ireland Chairman. He is also involved in the Northern Ireland Chapter of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, formerly holding the position of Chairman.

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Kate Ahern
BL



B.Comm, Solicitor (M2011), Advanced Diploma in Medical Law

Kate practises in Commercial/Chancery and General Common Law.

Kate also specialises in Medical Law.

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Arran Dowling-Hussey
BL



Arran Dowling-Hussey is a barrister, adjudicator, arbitrator and mediator. He is called to the bar in Dublin, Belfast, London and the British Virgin Islands. Arran also has rights of audience in other jurisdictions such as the UAE's DIFC and ADGM and Kazakhstan's Astana International Finance Centre Court. Arran is the co-author of 'Arbitration Law' (2008,2014 & 2018) which has been cited and approved by the Irish Superior Courts. He is also the co-editor of the Construction, Engineering & Energy Law Journal of Ireland.

As counsel Arran has significant experience in successfully moving (and opposing) applications to set arbitral awards aside. He is also well versed with having both domestic and international awards recognised and enforced. He is particularly comfortable bringing applications for clients to obtain interim relief. As arbitrator Arran is a member of a number of UK, Irish & international panels such as the Law Society of Ireland and the Law Society of England and Wales. He is listed, as arbitrator, by Global Arbitration Review in their Arbitration Research Tool.

Arran recently concluded 8 years' service on the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Board of Trustees at the end of 2024. Arran is an adjunct professor of law at University College Cork and the Gujarat Maritime University. He is also an associate lecturer in law at Robert Gordon University teaching on their LLM/MSc Construction Law and Arbitration.

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James O'Donoghue



James O'Donoghue is a graduate of DIT and Trinity College Dublin. He holds a Diploma in Project Management from TCD, a Diploma in Arbitration from the School of Law, UCD and a Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (CI Arb – Keble College, Oxford).

James' special interest is Project Management / Legal Affairs relating to built Environment Plans & Projects.

James served two terms as Vice President of the R.I.A.I. and one term as Honorary Treasurer. He is a former Hon. Secretary of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Irish Branch. He has served as Chairman of the Liaison Committee – RIAI / CIF / SES / EI / ACEI and is a current RIAI Delegate on that Committee. He is an Executive Committee Member of Arbitration Ireland, a Committee Member of C.I.Arb. – Irish Branch and active in RIAI Practice and Legal Affairs activities.

He is active as Arbitrator and Mediator in International Commercial Dispute Resolution on Built Environment matters.

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Joan O'Conor



Joan O'Connor is a Chartered Architect, Chartered Arbitrator and one of Ireland's leading project managers. She is a gold medal graduate from The School of Architecture, University College Dublin [1975], a diploma holder from the Faculty of Law at the same University and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators [1998]. She is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland [RIAI] and of the Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA]: she was elected as the first woman - and youngest to date - President of the RIAI in 1994. She is a past Chairman of the RIAI Board of Examiners in Professional Competence and served on the RIAI Technical Assessment Board. She was an extern examiner for the Glasgow School of Art [Macintosh School of Architcture] final year Diploma and is an occasional lecturer to post-graduates and the profession.

Until end-2010, she was the proprietary director of Interactive Project Managers Ltd., a specialist firm, providing professional advice and service covering all aspects of infrastructure and building procurement. Since 2011, she is an independent consultant in matters relating to development and construction and to the professional practice of architecture : she also acts as a mediator, conciliator and arbitrator on construction and property disputes and she provides expert witness services in these areas.

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The Hon. Ms. Justice Sara Phelan
(Judge of High Court)



A Kilkenny native, Sara was called to the Bar in 1996, having previously qualified (TCD, 1988) and practised as a pharmacist for a number of years. As a junior counsel, Sara practised mainly on the South Eastern Circuit and upon taking silk in 2013, her practice moved primarily to Dublin and the superior courts. Prior to her appointment as a judge of the High Court in December 2024, Sara had a broad civil practice, including child/family law, tort/professional negligence, judicial review/ non-jury and mental health law.

Sara was an elected member of the General Council of the Bar of Ireland prior to her appointment to the High Court and was Chair of the Bar of Ireland from September 2022 to September 2024, having previously chaired the Bar of Ireland Professional Practices Committee, the Arbitration & ADR Committee and the Law & Women Mentoring Committee. Sara was also a faculty member of the Bar of Ireland Advanced Advocacy Programme and a former Mental Health Tribunal chairperson. Sara is a Bencher of The Honorable Society King's Inns, was admitted to the Bar of England & Wales in 2019 and is a member of Middle Temple, and was called to the Bar in Northern Ireland in 2023. Sara is also a qualified Mediator (CEDR) and Arbitrator (FCIArb).

Hamish Lal



Dr Hamish Lal is ranked Band 1 in both construction and international construction arbitration in Chambers & Partners UK, and in the top tier in the UK Legal 500. He is adjunct professor at University College Dublin Sutherland School of Law, fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Fulbright Scholar and author of the Manual of Construction Agreements published by LexisNexis. Dr Lal is a specialist in international construction arbitration and deals with prospective and retrospective delay analysis, disruption, cumulative impact claims, FEED errors, nonconformance reports, design codes (such as DNV-OS-J101), pipeline weld defects, bad-weather windows, vessel-standby, unforeseen ground conditions, professional negligence, taking over/ completion, liquidated damages, incentive payments, variations, bond calls (based on URDG758) and termination under various forms of contract under the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), CRINE/LOGIC and NEC3/4

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Mariana Verdes



Mariana is a barrister with wide experience in civil litigation. She has acted as counsel in arbitration matters including enforcement of awards and applications to stay court proceedings. She currently sits as tribunal secretary for an ICSID arbitration.

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Cathy Smith
SC



Senior Counsel and Member of the Inner Bar of Ireland.

Specialism: Employment and Commercial Law.

Elected Member and former Vice Chair of the Council of the Bar of Ireland

Chair of the ADR and Arbitration Committee of the Bar of Ireland

CEDR Accredited Mediator

Member of the Company Law Review Group

Member of the Employment Law Review Group

Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Member of the Executive Committee of Arbitration Ireland

Member of the ICC National Committee for Ireland

Member of the Steering Committee for Dublin International Disputes Week 2024 and 2025

Director - Dublin Disputes Resolution Centre

Chairperson and Independent Arbitrator – Central Bank Appeals Panel

Member of the Determination Panel pursuant to the European Union (Common Fisheries Policy) (Points System) Regulations 2020.

Former Vice Chairperson Irish Women Lawyers Association

Member of the EU Bar Association and the Employment Lawyers Association of Ireland

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Jarleth Heneghan



Jarleth Heneghan is a Partner in William Fry's Projects & Construction Department with over 20 years of contentious experience acting for both state authorities and private entities on complex and high value construction and procurement disputes. Jarleth is a dual qualified solicitor and has represented clients in several leading cases in the Commercial Division of the High Court in Ireland and in the TCC in England & Wales and in numerous statutory adjudications ,mediations, conciliations, expert determinations, and arbitrations. Jarleth is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Fellow of the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland, a Chartered Builder, a CEDR accredited arbitrator and mediator and a lecturer in construction law and alternative dispute resolution at the Law Society.

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Ian Talbot



Ian Talbot is Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland and Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Ireland. Prior to those appointments Ian held positions as a Director of Citigroup and JP Morgan Chase in Ireland for 18 years. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse, working in their Dublin and Luxembourg offices, and also holds MA and BBS degrees from Trinity College, Dublin. He is a member of the National Economic and Social Council and a Director of ESB Networks DAC, Eurochambres – the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Skillnet Ireland.

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Bernard Gogarty



Bernard Gogarty, chair of the Ministerial Panel of Adjudicators under the Constructions Contracts Act 2013, qualified as a solicitor in 1979. He has been appointed by the International Court of Arbitration in Paris to several arbitrations and has been a member of the Engineers Ireland Conciliators panel. Bernard has extensive experience in dispute resolution, he has acted as consultant to several Local Authorities and has advised many of the major Civil Engineering and Building Companies operating in Ireland and abroad. He has extensive experience of all forms of alternative dispute resolution including mediation, conciliation, adjudication, and expert determination.

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The Hon. Mr. Justice David Barniville
(Judge of The High Court)



Mr. Justice David Barniville is the President of the High Court of Ireland.

He was appointed a judge of the High Court in December 2017 after almost 27 years in practice as a barrister and Senior Counsel in the Courts of Ireland and in the European Courts. He was the judge in charge of the Commercial Division of the High Court (2019-2021). He was, and is again, also designated as the Arbitration Judge to hear all arbitration related matters in the High Court. He was previously the judge in charge of the Strategic Infrastructure List in the High Court (2018-2019). David was appointed to the Court of Appeal in August 2021. He was appointed President of the High Court in July 2022. In that role he is ex officio a member of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the Council of State.

In July 2018, David was appointed as a member of Ireland's National Group on the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and continues to hold that position. He was recently (October 2024) appointed to the ICC's Governing Body for Dispute Resolution.

David is a member of the Board of the Courts Service and of the Judicial Council and is Chair of the Finance Committee of the Courts Service and of its Investment Committee. He is also a member of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board and of the (recently established) Judicial Appointments Commission.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of BAILII (the British and Irish Legal Information Institute) and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of European Law (ERA) (2020-2023).

David was the President of the Association of Judges of Ireland (2019-2021) and is the current Chair of the Judges Forum of the International Bar Association (IBA). He is a judicial fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers, two leading US trial lawyer associations.

Prior to his appointment to the High Court in 2017, David was Chair of the Council of the Bar of Ireland (2014-2016) and Chair of Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) (2015-2019).

He was a member of the Bars of Ireland and of England and Wales (Middle Temple) (and 20 Essex Chambers in London). He is a Bencher of the King's Inns in Dublin and of Middle Temple in London.

David is also an adjunct professor of law in University of Limerick and University of Galway.

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