

# COURTS Service News

NUACHT NA SEIRBHÍSE CÚIRTEANNA



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service

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FOUR PAGE  
PULL OUT OF  
HIGHLIGHTS &  
STATISTICS FROM  
THE ANNUAL  
REPORT 2009



MAKING BETTER USE OF  
VIDEOCONFERENCING  
FACILITIES

TAKE PART IN OUR  
CUSTOMER SURVEY

STAFF ON THE MOVE



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# Welcome



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High Court Registrar

And colleagues and friends of all the retired staff featured.

If you would like to contribute a report, book or film review or to feature in the 'Out of Office' article, please contact the editorial team at [courtsservicenews@courts.ie](mailto:courtsservicenews@courts.ie)

Welcome to the summer issue of *Courts Service News*. Our centre pages (17 - 20) feature highlights from the Annual Report 2009 recently presented to the Minister for Justice and Law Reform. A reduction in waiting times for litigants is just one of the highlights of the year. On *page 21* you can read about the extent of the reduction in one particular High Court List.

On foot of a raft of legislative changes we bring you a number of articles explaining the impact for practitioners and court users. Changes to orders for possession are explained on *page 6* while changes to judgement mortgage affidavits and enforcement of court orders are outlined on *page 5*. Kevin O'Neill, High Court Chief Registrar, highlights the benefits of videoconferencing facilities and urges the legal profession to use them (*page 7*).

In seeking to maintain our high customer service standards a customer satisfaction survey is underway (*page 8*). We encourage you to take part and we will bring you the results in the next issue of *Courts Service News*. On *page 16* you can read about some high profile awards made to the Courts Service recently.

A working group has recently been established to examine payments in High Court personal injury cases (*page 9*) and as the Irish judiciary consider proposals to establish a judicial council **Gerry Curran** speaks to Marilyn King, Registrar of the Judicial Council of Ontario, who outlines the investigative process used in Ontario when dealing with complaints against judges (*page 13*). **Gerry Curran** also reports on the arguments for and against facilities which remove the opportunity to view and photograph those being transported to and from court and/or places of detention (*pages 10 & 11*).

Staff movements feature once more with retirements on *pages 27 - 30* and changes in personnel in some key posts in the Service on *page 23*.

Whether your preference is for short hops or long haul flights we provide two holiday reviews in this summer issue *pages 32 & 33* and as always a book review (*page 31*) which might inform your choice of what to take with you on your travels.

With the World Cup and Wimbledon all done and dusted we wish you a relaxing and warm summer.

**Fiona Farrell**



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service

**Courts Service News** is the magazine of the Courts Service. Contributions are drawn from a wide area and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Courts Service. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions, including letters.

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## NEW COURT RULES

### SUPERIOR COURTS

#### **S.I. No. 54 of 2010**

##### **Rules of the Superior Courts (Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008), 2010.**

These rules substitute rule 10 of Order 136, prescribing forms and procedure in relation to the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008.

#### **S.I. NO. 149 OF 2010**

##### **Rules of the Superior Courts (Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009), 2010.**

These rules effect various amendments to the Rules of the Superior Courts, including the insertion of a new Order 72A, to facilitate the operation of the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009.

#### **S.I. NO.208 OF 2010**

##### **Rules of the Superior Courts (Order 75), 2010.**

These rules amend Order 75 of the Rules of the Superior Courts by the insertion therein of new Parts XI, XII, and XIII regulating, respectively, the procedure in respect of proceedings under the European Communities (Cross-Border Mergers) Regulations, 2008 (S.I. No 157 of 2008), the European Communities (Mergers and Divisions of Companies) Regulations, 1987 (S.I. No 137 of 1987) and the European Communities (European Public Limited-Liability Company) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No 21 of 2007).

#### **S.I. NO.209 OF 2010**

##### **Rules of the Superior Courts (Trial), 2010.**

These rules, which amend Order 36 of the Rules of the Superior Courts, prescribe the arrangements for allocation of a trial venue for proceedings and revise the requirements for lodgment of documentation required when setting proceedings down for trial in the High Court (*see page 8*).

### CIRCUIT COURT

#### **S.I. No. 82 of 2010**

##### **Circuit Court Rules (Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2008), 2010.**

These rules substitute rule 1 of Order 68A, prescribing forms and procedure in relation to the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008.been served.

#### **S.I. No. 155 of 2010**

##### **Circuit Court Rules (Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009), 2010.**

These rules effect various amendments to the Circuit Court Rules, including the insertion of a new Order 46A, to facilitate the operation of the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009.

### DISTRICT COURT

#### **S.I. NO. 94 OF 2010**

##### **District Court (Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008), 2010.**

These rules amend Orders 21, 31A and 34 of the Rules to prescribe the procedure and forms in respect of the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act, 2008 viz. application to issue a letter of request under sections 62(1), 73(1) or 77(1); a certificate in accordance with section 58(1)(b); application for leave to issue and serve a document under section 80; application and order for restitution under section 87; an information and search warrant under section 74(7); an information, order and application to discharge or vary an order under section 75 and an information, order and application to discharge or vary an order under section 63 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1994 as amended by section 105 of the Act.

#### **S.I. NO. 129 OF 2010**

##### **District Court (Enforcement of Court Orders) Rules, 2010.**

These rules amend Order 53 prescribing forms and procedure in respect of section 6 of the Enforcement of Court Orders Act 1940 as amended by the Enforcement of Court Orders Act (Amendment) 2009 (*see page 5*).

#### **S.I. NO. 136 OF 2010**

##### **Criminal Justice (Legal Aid) (Amendment) Regulations, 2010.**

These Regulations provide for a decrease in the fees payable under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme to solicitors for attendance in the District Court and for appeals to the Circuit Court, and for a decrease in the fees paid to solicitors and counsel in respect of essential visits to prisons and other custodial centres (other than Garda Stations) and for certain bail applications, as follows: 8% with effect from 1st April, 2010.

#### **S.I. NO. 137 OF 2010**

##### **Enforcement of Court Orders (Legal Aid) (Amendment) Regulations, 2010.**

These Regulations provide for a decrease in the fees payable in proceedings on a summons under Section 6 (inserted by Section 2 of the Act of 2009) of the Enforcement of Court Orders Act, 1940 (including that section as applied by section 8 (as amended by the said section 2) of the Act of 1940 as follows: 8% with effect from 1 April, 2010.

#### **S.I. NO. 162 OF 2010**

##### **District Court (Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009) Rules, 2010.**

These rules amend the District Court Rules by the insertion of a new Order 93A to facilitate the operation of the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009.

Rules of court for all jurisdictions together with amendments and forms are available on the Courts Service website: [www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)

## Increase in District Court Judges

**I**n accordance with section 39 of the (Courts Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961 (No. 39 of 1961), as amended by section 38 of the Court and Court Officers Act, 1995 the Minister signed an Order on 21 May 2010 to increase the number of judges of the District Court to be assigned permanently to the Dublin Metropolitan District from twenty one to twenty two.

## Enforcement of Court Orders

**T**he District Court (Enforcement of Court Orders) Rules, 2010, which substituted Order 53 and associated Forms, came into operation on the 8th April last. The Rules facilitate the operation of the Enforcement of Court Orders (Amendment) Act, 2009 which amended sections 6 and 8 of the Enforcement of Court Orders Act, 1940.

Rule 8 of Order 53 sets out the procedure for a creditor seeking relief where a debtor has failed to comply with an instalment order. The creditor must prepare a summons in duplicate and lodge it, together with a statutory declaration, with the district court clerk. The clerk will give the matter a hearing date and return the summons to be served personally on the debtor. The summons must be served not less than fourteen days before the hearing date.

An ex parte application can be made to the Court for a direction for the service of the summons otherwise than by personal service. Where a debtor fails to

appear and the court fixes a new hearing date, a notification to the debtor of the new date shall be by personal service unless the court directs otherwise.

Where the judge requests that mediation be used to resolve matters, the proceedings will be adjourned generally with liberty to re-enter. If mediation fails to resolve the matter, the creditor can re-enter the proceedings by application in writing to the clerk.

Proceedings can also be re-entered where the judge has made an order for imprisonment of the debtor but has postponed the sentence and the debtor has failed to comply with a condition of the postponement.

The possible consequences for a debtor of failure to comply with the terms of an instalment order are set out in the relevant forms prescribed in Order 53.

The District Court Rules are available on [www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie).

## Judgment Mortgage Affidavits **made easier**

**U**p to 30th November 2009, a creditor who wished to register a judgment for a liquidated sum as a mortgage on the registered or unregistered property of a debtor was required to file a judgment mortgage affidavit in the court office in which the judgment had been obtained and lodge an attested copy in the Property Registration Authority. Court offices were under an obligation to check that all the details in the judgment mortgage affidavit were complete and correct.

A revised and simplified form of judgment mortgage affidavit was introduced by the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009, which came into force on 1st December 2009. The judgment creditor's solicitor presents the affidavit in the court office, but the affidavit is no longer filed in the court. Court offices are now only required to check certain key details before certifying, on the original judgment mortgage affidavit, that the judgment it refers to was obtained in the action referred to in the particular court office. The original affidavit is returned to the judgment creditor's solicitor for filing in the Property Registration Authority.



# Making a claim for possession

The procedures for applying to court for orders for possession or to have a mortgage well charged have been changed by section 101(5) of the **Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009**.

**B**efore this Act the High Court and Circuit Court effectively had concurrent jurisdiction in these cases. However, where a property is subject to a housing loan mortgage, section 101(5) of the 2009 Act now gives the Circuit Court exclusive jurisdiction to hear applications for an order for possession of the property or to allow the lender to exercise a power of sale of the property. The section also provides that such applications shall not be made to the High Court.

## Circuit Court

Under new Circuit Court Rules which came into force in July 2009 (Circuit Court Rules (Actions for Possession and Wellcharging Relief), 2009: SI 264/2009) the civil bill is first listed before the county registrar. The President of the Circuit Court has also made a practice direction (CC 11) dealing with these actions. The new rules and the practice direction are available on the Courts Service website ([www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)).

The new rules provide that the civil bill for possession will have a return date on which the matter will come before the County Registrar. A defendant who wishes to contest the application must file an appearance and a replying affidavit. Neither party has the right to give oral evidence except in specific circumstances. However, a party has the right to cross examine a deponent (person who swore an affidavit) on giving notice that the deponent is required to attend the county registrar's hearing.

The county registrar can make a number of orders including giving adjournments, directing notices to be served on third parties and extending the time for filing affidavits. If a defendant has not entered an appearance, or has entered an appearance and filed a replying affidavit which does not disclose a prima facie defence, the county registrar may make an order for possession. Where a defendant succeeds in showing a prima facie defence, the case will be sent for hearing by a judge.

## High Court

Summonses for possession issued in the High Court are first listed before the Master of the High Court. The plaintiff must prove that the summons has been served on the correct defendant(s) and that various other requirements have been complied with. The Master will adjourn the case if necessary to ensure that the papers are in order. Once the Master is satisfied that the application is in order, he will direct that it be transferred to the judge's list where, depending on the case being made and the defence, if any, being offered, the judge can adjourn the matter to see if the parties can reach a settlement, or grant an order for possession with or without a stay on execution.

# Making use of VIDEOCONFERENCING FACILITIES

Video conferencing and video display facilities are available in many courtrooms for use during civil and criminal proceedings but it seems that the legal profession has yet to take full advantage of them. High Court Principal Registrar, **Kevin O'Neill** highlights the benefits for the profession, their clients and witnesses

“Solicitors and barristers may have seen large screens in courtrooms in various locations around the country but they are slow to use them”, Kevin says. The procedure to be followed to avail of the facilities is very straightforward.

Practitioners must organise a venue from which their witness can avail of video conferencing facilities and, having done so, obtain permission from the appropriate Court to give evidence via that medium. Before the trial date Courts Service staff will organise, through the practitioners, a test call to the location to ensure that there are no technical issues with the connection. For that reason, and to ensure that the facilities are available when required, application to Court should be several days in advance of the hearing date. The procedure in the High Court is set out in a Practice Direction (*HC45*) dated the 3rd of May 2007 available on [www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie).

A pilot project linking Limerick Courthouse and Limerick Prison has proved to be particularly successful. Instead of being transported from the prison to the court, a person in custody now gives evidence from a facility within the prison. At all times the person can consult, in confidence, with his legal

representative via a secure link. Civil cases can also greatly benefit from the technology. Many hospitals, universities and large corporations worldwide (including some in Ireland) have video conferencing facilities, enabling expert witnesses give evidence from their place of work live into a courtroom. In other cases, private facilities have been hired out. While this may involve some outlay, it can be small relative to the cost of travel to Ireland.

## Video display

Video and audio recordings can be played in the courtroom without the need for practitioners to provide or hire equipment. The equipment in the courtroom can display DVDs or videos. There is an option for display from a practitioner's portable device such as a laptop or 'memory stick'. It is always wise to test CCTV in advance as it comes in different formats. It is however safe to assume that if it works on a home VCR or DVD player or on a laptop it can be displayed in the courtroom.

“Video conferencing and video display facilities really make a difference”, Kevin says. “They won't suit every case but it's worth examining your case to see if they do” ■



## VIDEO DISPLAY VENUES

County	Site	Court
Dublin	Richmond 50	District
	Dolphin House 49	FamilyLaw
Carlow	Carlow	Circuit
Cork	Cork	District
Kerry	Tralee	Circuit
Kildare	Naas	Circuit
Limerick	Limerick	Circuit
Longford	Longford	Circuit
Meath	Trim	Circuit
Tipperary	Clonmel	Circuit
Wicklow	Bray	Circuit

## VIDEO CONFERENCING AND DISPLAY VENUES

County	Site	Court
Dublin	Criminal Courts of Justice	All jurisdictions
	Four Courts	High Courts & Circuit Court
	Cloverhill	District/High Court
Cavan	Cavan Court	Circuit
Cork *	Cork	Circuit
Donegal	Letterkenny	Circuit
Galway	Galway	Circuit
Kilkenny #	Kilkenny	Circuit
Limerick	Limerick	Circuit
Louth	Dundalk	Circuit
Mayo	Castlebar	Circuit
Monaghan #	Monaghan	Circuit
Offaly	Tullamore	Circuit
Tipperary	Nenagh	Circuit

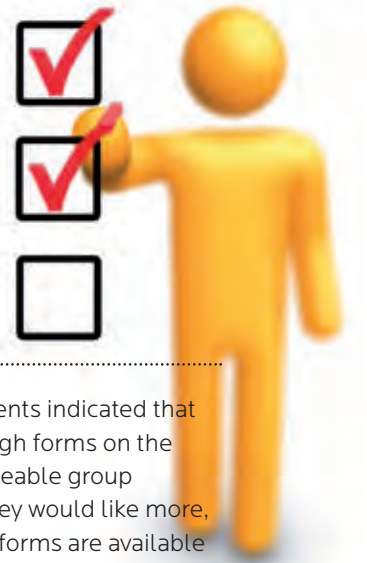
\* Temporarily unavailable owing to flooding  
# To be completed summer 2010

## BENEFITS OF VIDEO CONFERENCING

- Saving of costs to parties
- Reduced costs of transferring prisoners to court venues
- Saving of time for witnesses by not having to attend at courthouses
- Availability of expert witnesses to give evidence sooner than might otherwise have been the case, facilitating earlier trial dates
- Earlier settlement of cases

## Surveying our customers to see how we're doing

During the month of July court users are being invited to complete very short questionnaires. The idea is to help the Courts Service evaluate the extent to which standards set out in the recent Customer Service Action Plan are being complied with and the standards court users should expect as **Nuala McLoughlin** explains:



The questionnaires will be available through a link on our website ([www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)) with printed copies available in Courts Service buildings and in court offices. We are focusing on different groups of court users – visitors to court offices, members of Courts Service user groups, local Bar Associations and jurors. And not forgetting our 'internal customers', we also have a questionnaire for staff.

We want as many people as possible to complete the four to seven questions (the number depends on the nature of your contact with us). Each question asks you to rate an aspect of our service from 5 (the highest level of satisfaction) to 1 (the lowest). The more responses we receive, the more useful the information is to us. If you received good service, we would like to know so that we can

spread good practice throughout the Courts Service. If you were unhappy with the service, we need you to tell us so that we can make every effort to improve matters.

When we did this survey in 2008, the majority of the visitors to our offices scored our staff at 4 or 5, telling us that court offices are

- easily accessible
- opening hours meet users' needs
- staff are knowledgeable and courteous
- information / service is provided in a timely manner
- there is sufficient information for court users on the website and in leaflet form and
- court facilities meet users' needs.

Most respondents indicated that there were enough forms on the website but a sizeable group indicated that they would like more, so now all court forms are available on the site.

We hope that people who do business with us, whether on a daily basis or just once in a while, will help us to help all court users by taking part in this survey. The questionnaires will include space for your own comments, which are particularly welcome. Indeed, we welcome comment and feedback at all times, so if you would like to say something to us, please contact any of our offices - contact details are on the website. In the next issue of *Courts Service News* we will bring you the results of our survey. In the meantime we look forward to hearing from as many court users as possible. ■

## Setting cases down for trial in the High Court

When setting a case down for trial prior to 10th June 2010 parties were required to lodge a book of pleadings in the Central Office together with the notice of trial (stamped with €22) with service indorsed, and the setting down docket (stamped with €120).

From 10th June 2010, as a result of an amendment to Order 36 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. 209 of 2010) which came into force on that date, instead of lodging a book of pleadings at the counter when setting the case down for trial, the only documents to be presented in the Central Office will be the notice of trial (stamped with €22) with service indorsed, and the setting down docket (stamped with €120).

A practice direction of the President of the High Court requires practitioners to hand in a book of pleadings to the court registrar on the assigned hearing date.

The book of pleadings must

- a) include a copy of the notice of trial and setting down docket
- b) include copies of all pleadings exchanged between the parties, any relevant orders, and notices for particulars and replies thereto
- c) be paginated
- d) be indexed
- e) not include a copy of a notice of lodgement or notice of tender or any reference thereto

The practice direction of the President of the High Court (HC 53) is available on the Courts Service website in the 'Practice Direction' section.



## Payments in High Court personal injury cases to be examined

The type of payments made and the ongoing operation of compensation schemes in personal injuries cases will be examined by a new Working Group recently established by The President of the High Court, Mr. Justice Nicholas Kearns. The Group will examine, among other matters, the issue of damages in personal injury cases being awarded on a one-off or lump sum basis. **Gerry Curran** reports:

In the majority of cases, personal injury awards reflect an attempt by the courts to ensure that a person is adequately compensated for the damage done and the injuries suffered. The compensation is intended to place the person in the position he/she would have been in if the injury had not been suffered, insofar as that objective can be achieved by an award of money.

The award, in a lump sum, will adequately compensate the person in most cases. However, in cases

amount of speculation and informed guesswork by medical practitioners and actuaries who take a 'snapshot' of the plaintiff's current care costs and project these into the future. The 'lump sum' approach means that there is no recourse for plaintiffs who exhaust their fund by exceeding projected life expectancy.

From the defendant's perspective, the reluctance of the courts to impose any continuing obligation to make reparation brings a welcome finality to litigation.

However, a defendant cannot look for a refund if a large lump sum is paid to a plaintiff who dies earlier than expected. The next of kin of some deceased plaintiffs have received unintended multi-million Euro windfalls. Ironically, some have been the very people whose negligence caused the injury.

The new Working Group will consider afresh whether our compensation

introduced which will simplify such litigation and effect significant savings in legal costs".■

### Working Group on Medical Negligence and Periodic Payments

- Mr. Justice John Quirke, High Court, Chairman
- Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan, High Court
- Ms. Justice Mary Irvine, High Court
- Mr. Michael Boylan, Augustus Cullen Law, solicitors
- Mr. Ciaran O'Rourke, Hayes & Company, solicitors
- Mr. Denis McCullough, S.C.
- Mr. Patrick Hanratty, S.C.
- Mr. Ciaran Breen, Director, State Claims Agency
- Mr. John Casey, CEO, Motor Insurance Bureau Ireland
- Mr. John Kenny, Department of Justice and Law Reform
- Mr. Mike Kemp, CEO, Insurance Federation Ireland
- Mr. Noel Rubotham, Courts Service
- Ms. Grainne O'Loughlin, Courts Service
- Mr James Reilly, Patient Focus
- Ms. Maire Reidy, judicial fellow
- Mr. Brendan Savage, barrister, Special Assistant to Group
- Ms. Marie Coady, secretary

"There have been many catastrophically injured persons who have spent their final years - sometimes decades - without the means to pay for their care because the damages awarded have proved inadequate. Some are presently in that position. All have been injured by the unlawful acts or omissions of others" President of the High Court

involving catastrophic injuries the court usually has to calculate the cost of the plaintiff's future care based on evidence of estimated life expectancy. This involves an

system offers the most equitable way of ensuring that justice is done and seen to be done in this area. The President of the High Court believes that "efficiencies can be

## New Chief Prosecution Solicitor appointed

Eileen Creedon has been appointed as the new Chief Prosecution Solicitor. Ms. Creedon graduated from University College Cork with a BCL degree in 1984 and received her professional training at the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland. She was enrolled as a solicitor in 1987.

After qualification she spent eight years in private practice before joining the Chief State Solicitor's office as a prosecutor in 1995. She has held a number of positions within that office and has a wide range of experience in prosecution work. She was appointed the first Deputy Chief Prosecution Solicitor in 2007.





## Images of prisoners in custody transported to history

Photographing prisoners in custody has exercised the minds of some in the media and elsewhere following the opening of the Courts of Criminal Justice. This new facility removes the opportunity to view and photograph those being transported to and from court and/or places of detention. **Gerry Curran** looks at arguments for and against the new arrangements and considers Ireland's international obligations in this area:

**O**n a philosophical level there are many arguments about exposing the face of the perpetrator of a crime after their guilt has been established, of society needing to see those who have committed serious crime, and about protecting society by everyone knowing what they look like.

On the other side are those who say that the only punishment the convict should have to endure is the denial of liberty or incarceration, and he/she should not have to run the gauntlet of photographers camped outside a courthouse, whilst handcuffed and chained. The extreme of this behaviour it could be said were the old fashioned stocks where people were secured for

public displays of shame and opprobrium. If our criminal justice / penal regime is based on securing a person for the safety of the public, as a punishment for wrong doing and rehabilitating and restoring them to society, it is argued that such exposure dilutes any chance of redemption, by making the person an object of public ridicule.

The reality is very much in the middle. The vast majority of those who appear before the courts are not held in custody and therefore can be filmed and photographed. This is so even after guilt has been established as, of the 500,000 plus criminal matters which come before the courts each year, only 23,000

prison sentences are handed down. Even for the most serious of crimes – murder – bail is regularly granted to the accused, with the presumption of innocence remaining.

There is nothing new about prisoners being shielded from public view in this country (see countless shots of jackets over heads or blankets being provided by the escort), or of rules which require that this be the case. As far back as Oscar Wilde's *Ballad of Reading Gaol*, complaints about the effects of undue public display and the public scorn and tormenting of a prisoner have been made by prisoners and human rights activists. The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the 1994

European Prison Rules both state that persons in custody should be protected from undue public gaze, and from any publicity whatsoever, when being transported to and from places of custody. Planning to meet our obligations in this regard was contained in the Department of Justice and Law Reform five year strategy for the management of prisoners published in 1995. These rules had a domestic airing before that in the 1947 Prison Rules which refer to shielding prisoners from public display.

These matters were well aired in the Court of Criminal Appeal in *DPP v Davis*, (unrep 23/10/2000) where all the



issues were expanded on and their application to prisoners after arrest, during a trial and after conviction discussed.

Since 1999 the Courts Service has been renovating and extending courthouses across the country. In nearly all the major courthouses in county towns there is now a secure, discreet and private entrance for prisoners in custody with no opportunity for pictures. In the UK and Northern Ireland, it has long been the custom and practice that the media get no pictures of people being led in handcuffs and chains into or out of courts.■

## Minister launches national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

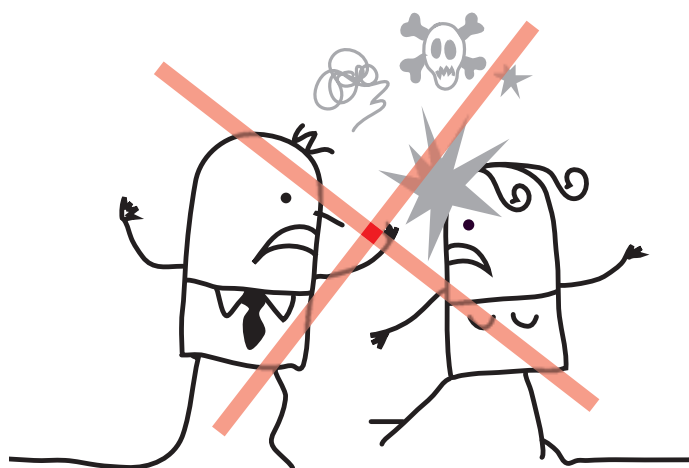
### “No” to domestic violence, “no” to sexual violence, “no” to gender-based violence.

That was the simple message delivered by the Minister for Justice and Law Reform, Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D., when he recently presented the first ever strategy in this area. The five year strategy was produced by Cosc – the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

The strategy aims to deliver a well coordinated ‘whole of Government’ response to this specific type of violence as it affects the lives of adults, both women and men, in Irish society. It was developed following an extensive consultation process across the governmental and the non-governmental sectors.

Minister Ahern said: “This government is tackling the violence and abuse suffered by women and men of a sexual and non sexual nature both within and outside the domestic scene. These types of crimes often happen behind closed doors where there are no witnesses or, worse still, where the only witness is a child”. He emphasised the need for ongoing collaborative action across government departments involved in eradicating these crimes along with co-operation between State and non-State bodies involved in the area.

He said it was much more than a document, it was a vision of a society that says it will not tolerate, nor remain silent on, domestic, sexual or gender-based abuse and violence against another person in our neighbourhood and community.



**Cosc**, an Irish word, means to stop or to prevent. Full details on the national strategy are available on [www.cosc.ie](http://www.cosc.ie)





# Tánaiste Supports Diversity in the Workplace

“Openness to diversity including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people will be a critical part of our success as an advanced, competitive and ‘smart’ global economy,” according to the Tánaiste **Mary Coughlan** T.D. in the foreword to the 'Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Workplace Diversity Guide', which she launched recently.



The new guide - supported by the employer's representative body IBEC, multinational IBM, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Business in the Community, and the Equality Authority - is published by GLEN (Gay and Lesbian Equality Network). It is a practical toolkit for employers and trades unions in implementing cultural and diversity policies in the workplace for their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) employees.

The Tánaiste highlighted the role of diversity in Ireland's economy and said that “employers and trades unions in effect need to “come out” as being positive and inclusive places for LGBT employees to work. “Diversity brings with it an openness to new ideas, more creative workforces and innovation, which is at the heart of where Ireland wants to be as a participant in the wider global economy”, she said.

Davin Roche, GLEN Director of Workplace Diversity, said that “there are over 130,000 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in the workforce. Irish research has found that almost 60% of LGBT workers surveyed were not ‘out’ generally in the workplace. Many feel being open about their sexual orientation with their colleagues could damage their career, promotion prospects or professional relationships. This is something we

need to address and change as a society if we are to be truly competitive on a global scale.”■

**For further information visit:**

[www.glen.ie/pdfs/WorkplaceLGBTDiversityGuide.pdf](http://www.glen.ie/pdfs/WorkplaceLGBTDiversityGuide.pdf)



“Diversity brings with it an openness to new ideas, more creative workforces and innovation, [...]”

## European Supreme Court Presidents come to Dublin

The Chief Justice Mr. Justice John L. Murray before he addressed the opening session of the 2010 Colloquium of the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union in March. The Network is a means of exchanging data and information on all matters relating to the role and functions of Supreme Courts and also promotes judicial exchanges between different Supreme Courts. The Chief Justice is a vice-president of the Network.





# The work of a judicial council



The Irish judiciary recently considered proposals to establish a judicial council. They issued a statement broadly welcoming the draft legislation with the proviso that digital recording be installed in all courtrooms before a complaints mechanism is put in place.

Following the meeting **Gerry Curran** spoke to Marilyn King, Registrar of the Judicial Council of Ontario, who outlined the investigative process used in Ontario when dealing with complaints against judges.

The main function of the Ontario Judicial Council is to deal with complaints against members of the judiciary. The proposals for the Irish system might include this function and the ongoing education and training of judges. The Ontario framework is designed to manage the expectations of the public and respect the independence of the judiciary. The Council consists of a panel of 12: four lay or "community" members appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Attorney General; two nominated by the Law Society and six judges (including the Chief Justice of Ontario).

"We do not have a definition of misconduct". Marilyn says that it broadly covers issues such as allegations of bias, discourtesy and abusive words or actions. The process is confidential, and

no confirmation or denial of the existence of a complaint is indicated, until the rarely reached public hearing stage. Complaints must be in writing and the complainant must identify themselves.

Complaints are often made by people who are unhappy with the outcome of their case and target the judge by way of complaint. The process is not a form of appeal so the Council avoids such matters. Ongoing cases cannot be the subject of review and "many matters are filtered out at this stage". Complainants always receive a written outcome to their complaint.

Initially a sub-committee consisting of a judge and a lay member reviews a complaint and a transcript of the case and the interaction which may have caused it. This sub-committee either dismisses the complaint, or forwards it to a review panel consisting of two judges, a lay person and a lawyer. The panel is not told the identity of the complainant or the

judge. The judge has the right to reply to

any accusation before the panel decides to dismiss the complaint or make a finding of misconduct.

In the event of a finding of misconduct the matter can be: (i) referred to the Chief Justice with or without a recommendation as to sanction, (ii) referred to a mediator, or (iii) be the subject of a public hearing in the case of very serious matters. Sanctions can range from a warning to a recommendation to the Attorney General that the judge be removed from office. The option of suspension from work - with or without pay - is also available.■

"Complaints are often made by people who are unhappy with the outcome of their case and target the judge by way of complaint."

## ECDL - Presentation to members of the Judiciary

Members of the judiciary receiving their ECDL certificates from Chief Executive, Brendan Ryan. Pictured (from left) are Judge Raymond Fullam, Judge William Hamill, Judge Victor Blake, Judge Heather Perrin, Sarah Arkinson (Tutor) and Mr. Justice Daniel O'Keeffe.



## Young students - *shine at mock trial competition*

There were cheers and shouts of joy when Circuit Court Judge Terence O'Sullivan announced that St. Macartan's College, Monaghan had won the eleventh National Mock Trial Competition recently.

It was only the second time that a boys school had won the competition and a first for St. Macartans. Their prize includes the opportunity to compete in an international mock trial competition in New York – last year's Irish winners won that competition so the lads have a lot to live up to.

Organised by Public Access to Law and supported by the Courts Service and Independent Colleges, the competition sees second level students participate in a mock criminal trial. The new Criminal Courts of Justice provided a wonderful forum for the event held over two Saturdays with the finals supported by Judge O'Sullivan and Judges Victor Blake, James Paul McDonnell and Catherine Murphy of the District Court. Manager Geraldine Hurley was

delighted to open the doors of the new complex to almost 400 students and their teachers.

Awards to competitors from a number of schools were made for television reporting, newspaper reporting, sketch artist and court photographer. The Harry Hill Perpetual Trophy for 'Best Performance in the Final' went to Michéal Ó Mórdha for his Oscar-worthy portrayal of the accused, Ruby Cheval.



The final in action



Judge Catherine Murphy presenting the Harry Hill trophy to Michéal Ó Mórdha



The winning school St. Macartans outside the Criminal Courts of Justice

## School visits to the courts – as popular as ever

A visit to the courts has become a regular feature on the day trip programme for second level students across the country. Students discuss the courts system with a practising barrister and sit in on a court hearing. Up until April of this year, visits to Dublin were to the Four Courts. They are now to the new Criminal Courts of Justice in Parkgate Street. The first school to visit the new facility was St. Mary's College, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

In addition, court staff around the country facilitate visits with new and refurbished courthouses providing excellent venues for students to observe justice in action. Third year

students from Boyne Community School were recent visitors to Trim Courthouse where Court Clerk, Noeleen Halpin and her staff were on hand to show them around. The students found the experience very rewarding.

"This visit was organized as part of our CSPE course. We had been studying law in class and thought it would be very interesting to see an actual courtroom. We first got to see what the Circuit Court looks like and some solicitors and barristers at work in the courtroom. We then visited the old Heritage Court and saw what courtrooms used to look like in the past. It was

much smaller in comparison and quite cramped but it did look like courtrooms in films. We then saw the District Court and found out that this is a very busy place during scheduled sittings. Finally we got to see what the cells look like. The whole visit was



Boyne Community School visit Trim District Court



St. Marys College, Arklow were the first school group to visit the CCJ

very interesting and very worthwhile and has helped us hugely in our Junior Cert project. We would like to thank everyone who arranged the visit for us and gave us the guided tour of the courthouse."

For more information about guided visits to the Criminal Courts of Justice visit the schools section of the Courts Service website [www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie). But don't delay. There are only a few dates left for visits during the Michaelmas Term (4th October to 21st December).

## CUB SCOUT LEADER “TAKEN TO COURT”

C loughjordan Cub Scouts recently visited Nenagh Courthouse where caretaker Tony Canning gave a tour of the courthouse, with an introduction to the justice system. Using the 'Scout Method' (learning by doing), a 'Mock Court' was held. The scouts, assisted by Garda Tom Casey of Nenagh Garda Station, escorted the accused (Donal Maher, scout leader) to court for trial by

scout jury. He was tried for stealing 1lb of sausages at a scouts camp in April and fleeing the scene in a stolen kayak. 'Judge' Tony Canning (caretaker) gave the closing statement before sending the jury to deliberate. Great fun was had by all. The accused was found guilty and escorted to the cells by Garda Tom Casey, assisted by scout gardaí. Appeal pending!!



Garda Tom Casey, Nenagh Garda Station & “Prisoner” (Cub Scout Leader Donal Maher) with Cub Scout Gardai (Kieran O'Connor & Christopher Moyles)

## Law Reform Commission publications on hearsay, jury service and personal debt

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. James Hamilton, recently launched two consultation papers by The Law Reform Commission.

The *Consultation Paper on Hearsay in Civil and Criminal Cases* examines the extent to which hearsay should be admitted in evidence in civil and criminal cases. The main provisional recommendations are:

- *in civil cases*, hearsay should in general be admissible in evidence, subject to certain conditions, notably the need to give advance notice, and a discretion by a court to exclude hearsay if it would be prejudicial or misleading
- *in criminal cases*, hearsay should continue in general to be inadmissible in evidence, subject to existing exceptions allowing hearsay to be admissible;
- the rules on hearsay in civil and criminal cases should be set out in legislation.

The *Consultation Paper on Jury Service* involves an examination of jury service, in particular qualification, eligibility and selection processes, and related matters. This is the first wide-ranging analysis of jury service since the passing of the *Juries Act 1976*, which was largely based on recommendations for reform made in 1965. The Consultation Paper takes account of submissions received by the Commission and other concerns expressed publicly (including by the Director of Public Prosecutions), that the existing processes for jury selection do not result in the selection of juries that are representative of the community.

The Minister for Justice and Law Reform, Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D. launched the *Interim Report on Personal Debt*. The Working Group comprised representatives of the Law Reform Commission; Department of Finance;

Department of Justice and Law Reform; Financial Regulator; Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS); Courts Service, and Irish Banking Federation (IBF). The Report contains a 14 point action plan of initiatives to deal with current personal debt issues.■

All three publications are available on [www.lawreform.ie](http://www.lawreform.ie).





## Ability award for Courts Service



It was celebrations all round at the recent O2 Ability Awards where the Courts Service was awarded the status of 'Ability Company' and was short listed for an award in the 'environmental accessibility' category. The awards are for best practice in the inclusion of people with disabilities both as customers and as employees. The building submitted for examination was the new Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ) in Dublin.

The award of the status of 'Ability Company' was a significant achievement for the Service and a positive recognition of the work undertaken over the last ten years to improve the accessibility of buildings, facilities and services.

Photographed are Chief Executive Officer, Brendan Ryan, and CCJ Project Manager, John Mahon, accepting the "Ability Company" award with Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Batt O'Keefe T.D., Danuta Gray, O2 and Caroline Casey, Kanchi.



## Criminal Courts of Justice voted Ireland's favourite new building

The Criminal Courts of Justice was voted the 'Best Accessible building' and won the 'People's Choice Award' for Ireland's favourite new building at the recent Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Irish Architects Awards 2010.

Over 9,000 votes were cast for the 'People's Choice Award', designed to raise awareness of architecture in Ireland, with 20% going to the Criminal Courts of Justice.

At the awards ceremony in Farmleigh, RIAI Director John Graby said, "At a time of immense challenge for the architectural profession, it is heartening to see such excellence in architectural design. It is also gratifying that as the quality of the buildings produced every year continues to increase, so does public interest in good design, as we can see from the strong response to the 'Public Choice Award'.

Pictured below are OPW Chairperson Clare McGrath, Courts Service CCJ Project Manager John Mahon, Project Architect Peter McGovern of Henry J. Lyons, Architects, Minister for State with special responsibility for Planning and Heritage, Ciarán Cuffe T.D., and President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Paul Keogh.



### Kilmallock voted 'Best Public Building'

The 'Best Public Building' award at the RIAI event went to the Civic Precinct in Kilmallock which houses a courtroom, branch library and the local area office for Limerick County Council. The courtroom, located in a recently refurbished building, will be officially opened by the Minister for Justice and Law Reform, Dermot Aherne T.D. in the coming weeks.



*Kilmallock Civic Precinct which won the award for Best Public Building*





An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service

## *Reporting on 2009 – a year of many challenges*

**T**he Courts Service Annual Report for 2009 contains much evidence of an organisation that is willing to reinvent itself to deal with an ever changing working landscape. The report highlights the efforts that continue to be made in offices all around the country to provide consistent levels of service. It also highlights the modernisation initiatives commenced or continued during the year. And all of this undertaken within the context of less resources and increased workloads. Here we put a spotlight on 2009:

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**2009**

[WWW.COURTS.IE](http://WWW.COURTS.IE)

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## *The Courts Service: A look at change, progression and corporate initiatives*

**T**he major challenge for the Courts Service continued to be the provision of resources so that courts around the country could function on a daily basis. There must be staff in court offices to deal with the work of the courts – work carried out not only in courtrooms but in a myriad of functions carried out behind the scenes.

The Annual Report provides details of the work of the courts – statistics on the huge amount of cases dealt with in 2009 across all jurisdictions.

This information is provided side by side with details of the ongoing developments which the Courts Service continued to make in areas such as support for the judiciary, provision of information for the public, reform and development of court procedures, finance, information and communications technology, and buildings.

### *The highlights of the modernisation measures in 2009 were:*

- A major initiative 'Transforming Administration and Structures in the Courts' (TASC) aims to find potential solutions to the challenges facing the Service and enable it become a more effective and efficient organisation. A Report of the TASC group was presented to the Board of the Courts Service at the end of the year.
- The handing over the new iconic Criminal Courts of Justice complex in Dublin. The first sitting of the Central Criminal Court was held in the new building in November and was followed by sittings of the District Court at the end of the year. The building has been fully operational since January 2010 and is already transforming the conduct of criminal business in the capital.
- Work on a standardisation project for all civil and family law processes, within and across court jurisdictions, continued in 2009 and will be completed before the end of 2010. This initiative is an important precursor to the development of a civil case management system for all courts.
- Family law case progression became fully operational in all Circuit Courts with county registrars monitoring the progress of cases pre-trial and making final arrangements for the trials.
- Video conferencing between Limerick District Court and Limerick Prison was used for the first time in May 2009.
- Over two million visits were made to our website ([www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)) the highest annual total to date. The site was named as one of the 'Top10 Court-Related Websites' in the world by US company 'Justice Served'.
- Court funds managed by the Service for the benefit of wards of court and minors continued to exhibit strong performances. This has been the pattern since investment strategies were established for the funds in December 2003. This has cushioned them from the worst impacts of the global financial crisis.



## *The Courts: a look at another year of huge activity*

**I**n the civil courts, the work continued to reflect the change in the economic climate. There was an increase in cases of a commercial nature particularly those involving claims for the recovery of debt and those affecting companies. There were 152,872 civil cases issued. In the criminal courts, cases involving murder, drugs, theft and robbery, and road traffic offences continued to increase. The courts dealt with over 500,000 criminal matters.

### *The highlights across all court jurisdictions in 2009*

- 53 new murder cases in the Central Criminal Court - the highest number since 2002
- 49 new rape cases in the Central Criminal Court - the lowest number since 2005
- 320 High Court European Arrest Warrant applications - a 40% increase on 2008
- 324 appeals lodged in the Court of Criminal Appeal
- 31 accused persons before the Special Criminal Court - the highest number since 2004
- 1,586 theft and robbery offences dealt with in the Circuit Criminal Court - an increase of 28% on 2008
- 954 drugs offences dealt with in the Circuit Criminal Court – an increase of 23% on 2008
- 17,620 drug offences dealt with in the District Court – an increase of 12% on 2008
- 333,161(64%) of summary cases disposed of in the District Court related to road traffic offences
- Orders made in the High Court to wind up 128 companies - a 66% increase on 2008
- 17 new bankruptcies in the High Court – a 110% increase on 2008
- 373 new cases admitted to the Commercial List in the High Court - an increase of 53% on 2008
- 293 orders for possession made in the High Court - a 23% increase on 2008
- 304 orders for possession made in the Circuit Court – a 35% increase on 2008
- 5,653 claims for recovery of liquidated debt in the High Court – a 48% increase on 2008
- 1,884 undefended judgments for liquidated debt in the High Court – an increase of 59% on 2008
- 347 judgments in defended cases for the recovery of liquidated debt (Master's orders) – a 43% increase on 2008
- 13,613 judgments for liquidated debt in the Circuit Court - a 33% increase on 2008
- 29,285 judgments for liquidated debt in the District Court – an 18% increase on 2008
- 57% of all judicial review applications in the High Court relate to asylum
- 1,627 applications for judicial separation – a 19% decrease on 2008 – majority of applications by wives (83% in the High Court; 73% in the Circuit Court)
- 3,716 applications for divorce – a 13% decrease on 2008 – majority of applications by husbands in the High Court (64%) and by wives in the Circuit Court (54%)
- 55 applications for nullity – a 10% decrease on 2008 – majority (60%) made by husbands
- 152 appeals to the High Court from the Circuit Court in family law cases – a 27% increase on 2008
- 957 applications for custody in the District Court – a 27% increase on 2008
- 9,856 applications under domestic violence legislation - a 5% decrease on 2008
- 4,348 applications for access in the District Court – a 25% increase on 2008
- 192 pub licences granted in the Circuit Court – a 26% decrease on 2008
- 34 restaurant licences granted – a 51% decrease on 2008
- 21 hotel licences granted – a 43% decrease on 2008





An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service



The Courts Service Annual Report 2009  
is available on our website [www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)

[WWW.COURTS.IE](http://WWW.COURTS.IE)



# Reducing time for award of compensation to An Garda Síochána

The Courts Service continues to work with the judiciary to reduce waiting times for litigants. Of the many initiatives underway we asked High Court Principal Registrar **Kevin O'Neill** and Garda Compensation List Registrar **Emer Griffin** to explain how matters have improved in one area:

**A** Garda injured in the course of duty is, with the approval of the Minister for Justice, entitled to apply to the High Court for compensation under the Garda Compensation Act 1941. Proceedings are commenced by way of special summons naming the Minister for Finance as the defendant.

Cases are initially returned before the Master of the High Court who transfers them to the judge's list for hearing. The judge's list in this case is the Garda Compensation List dealt with every Monday before a judge of the High Court. The plaintiff can apply to the judge for a date for hearing once the case has been transferred to the list by the Master and the State is ready to proceed.

The Garda Compensation List is one of the High Court lists that has witnessed a major reduction in the time it takes to get a date for hearing in recent years. This can be attributed to a number of measures including the speedier transfer of cases from the Master's Court, consent by the State to proceed and more streamlined management of the cases by the judge and registrar. Many cases were not actually ready for hearing on the assigned hearing date. Hearing dates are now reserved for those cases where there are no outstanding pre-trial issues. Of particular importance has been the organisation by the presiding judge of additional sittings on a number of occasions in the past two years.

At the beginning of the Easter sittings in 2008 the waiting time for a hearing date was 28 weeks. By

April 2009 this had been reduced to six weeks, and at the end of 2009 it was four weeks. In 2009, there were 235 orders for compensation made - of these 40 were initiated in 2007, 136 in 2008 and 52 in 2009.

In 2009 there were 325 summonses seeking compensation issued with 52 of these disposed of by end of that year. Of the 43 orders made from January to May 2010, 30 relate to cases commenced in the latter part of 2009.■

## Other initiatives to reduce waiting times

The Annual Report 2009 (see pages 17 - 20) refers to other initiatives which reduced waiting times for litigants. They included positive call overs in the High Court, additional judges assigned to hear criminal cases in the Circuit Court, and special sittings around the country in the District Court.



# The experience of Dublin

**Mette Lausen** is 22 and works in a District Court in Aalborg, Denmark. She recently spent a month in the Courts Service. She sent us this article about her experience:

When I realized that it was possible to work a month abroad during my education, I immediately started looking for opportunities. I asked people I hardly knew for suggestions. Where should I go? A colleague from Copenhagen told me she once visited the courts in Dublin and it had been a wonderful experience.

The Courts Service offered me a work placement in the Directorate of Reform and Development. They asked me to do two different projects – by myself. I was nervous that I wouldn't live up to their expectations. I knew nothing about the Irish court system and I didn't know any English legal terminology. Lucky for me they were prepared for my lack of skills. The first day I was introduced to the court system and the projects. I had to update a register of all new legislation

affecting the courts and make a manual about mediation in different parts of the world to use for implementing mediation in the Irish courts. With Google Translate as my new best friend I finished both projects. The people around me were very helpful and made a big effort to make my experience as good as possible.

Apart from working on the projects I got to see the court system in action. I visited almost all types of courts. It was very interesting and quite different from the system in Denmark. Never before have I seen a judge giving lectures to the accused. I don't get how you keep track of what is going on in the court rooms with all those people in there at the same time. In Denmark it is always one case at a time no matter what stage the case is at or what kind of case it is. You



*Mette with Noel Rubotham & Noel Doherty of Reform & Development Directorate*

have a lot of old traditions in the Irish courts. I have to admit that I had to bite my lip not to laugh at the wigs in the beginning. Luckily I got used to it. Now I think the way they are a symbol of status is kind of cool.

Naturally I didn't spend all my time at work. I chose to live in a hostel during my stay to make sure that I didn't get lonely, and I sure didn't. I made a lot of new friends and in their company I became a great fan of Guinness and the Irish pub culture. I fell in love with Dublin city and its amazingly easygoing, helpful and friendly people. I want to go back as soon as possible and I am so grateful the Irish made it possible for me to have the time of my life. ■

**Thank you!!**

## Changes for Northern Ireland Court Service

**T**he Northern Ireland Court Service has become the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and is now an agency of the new Department of Justice. This follows the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 12th April. The new name takes account of the organisation's expanded responsibilities in respect of tribunals.



The Courts and Tribunal Service is one of five agencies within the new department. The others are: the Northern Ireland Prison Service, the Compensation Agency, the Forensic Science Agency, and the Youth Justice Agency.

You can read more about the new department at **[www.dojni.gov.uk](http://www.dojni.gov.uk)**



# Staff appointments

## GERALDINE MANNERS

has been appointed as Registrar of the Supreme Court. Prior to this appointment Geraldine was Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal. ■



**JIM FINN** has been appointed Registrar of Wards of Court. Jim takes up this position following several years as Examiner of the High Court. ■



**JOHN GLENNON** has been appointed Examiner of the High Court. John was Deputy Probate Officer prior to this appointment. ■



**MARGARET MOLONY** has been appointed General Solicitor for Minors and Wards of Court. Margaret was Deputy General Solicitor prior to her recent appointment. ■



**BERNARD NEARY** has been appointed Registrar of the Court of Criminal Appeal. For some years prior to this appointment Bernard was the Bail List Registrar in the High Court. ■



**SIMON HALL** has been appointed Deputy Probate Officer. He moves from the Information and Communications Technology Unit to take up his new position. ■



**MICHAEL O'BEIRNE** returns to the Courts Service following several years with the Residential Institutions Redress Board to take up a principal officer position in the Organisation and Development Unit. ■



**FEARGAL O'BROLCHAIN** moves from the Organisation and Development Unit to take up a principal officer position in the Information and Communications Technology Unit. ■



# Judicial appointments



**MS. PATRICIA MCNAMARA** has been appointed a judge of the District Court. Judge McNamara attended University College Cork and The Incorporated Law Society, Blackhall Place where she qualified as a solicitor in 1983. She is also a founding member of the Irish Women Lawyers' Association (IWLA). Judge McNamara has been assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan District with effect from 31st May 2010. ■



**MS. CATHERINE STAINES** BL has been appointed a judge of the District Court. Prior to her appointment Judge Staines was a partner in Michael J. Staines & Company, Smithfield, Dublin 7. She studied in University College Dublin and The Incorporated Law Society, Blackhall Place, where she qualified as a solicitor in 1991. She also graduated as a barrister-at-law from the Honourable Society of Kings Inns in 2003. Judge Staines has been assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan District with effect from 31st May 2010. ■



**MR. OLANN KELLEHER** has been appointed a judge of the District Court. Judge Kelleher attended University College Cork and qualified as a solicitor in 1977. In 1982 he became a founding partner in the firm now known as Comyn Kelleher Tobin where he practised until his recent appointment. ■





## REMEMBERING...

**MR. JUSTICE HENRY BARRON**, who died recently at the age of 81, was a long-serving member of the judiciary and a prominent member of the Jewish community.

He graduated from Trinity College in 1950 with a first-class honours degree in legal science having also won the prestigious Trinity scholarship. He was called to the Bar shortly after his graduation, and had a mixed practice, taking silk in 1970. Henry Barron was appointed a High Court judge in 1982, and a Supreme Court judge in 1997, the first member of the Jewish faith to be appointed to that court. He also granted Ireland's first divorce, following the passing of the constitutional amendment permitting it, but prior to the enactment of divorce legislation, ruling that the Constitution itself gave jurisdiction to do so.

His life-long friend, Mervyn Taylor, said at his funeral that his contribution to law would be found, not only in his judgments, but in the law reports recording the cases he had been in as a barrister. Among them



Henry Barron was known for "sensible" judgments, and for championing the rights of the individual against bureaucracies and big organisations.

was a case striking down an adoption order for a six-year-old child, which led to a change in the law. Henry Barron was known for "sensible" judgments, and for championing the rights of the individual against bureaucracies and big organisations.

He will be remembered widely for his role in conducting the inquiry into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings after his retirement in 2000. His commitment to the rights of ordinary people, combined with his sensitivity and courtesy, won him the trust and respect of the relatives of the victims of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, when he was appointed to inquire into those atrocities.

A keen sportsman, he played hockey, cricket, tennis and golf, and, especially in latter years, was an enthusiastic bridge player. He was a committed member of the Jewish community, and was president of the Irish Jewish museum.

Henry Barron is survived by his children Jane, Harrie, Robert and Anne, two daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and 10 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Rosalind 13 years ago.

## REMEMBERING...

**TOMMY OWENS** was born in Dublin in 1933. Educated at Blackrock College and UCD he qualified as a solicitor in 1955. He practised first in the firm of Flynn solicitors where he met his wife, Margot (nee Maguire). In 1958 he moved to Coothehill having purchased the practice of Larry O'Reilly. While practising in Cootehill, Tommy was actively involved in local community affairs. His greatest contribution at local level was his involvement, in the early 1960s, in setting up St. Michael's secondary school, the forerunner of St. Aidan's comprehensive school. His legal knowledge and his understanding of education were invaluable to the committee.

Tommy was an able and diligent solicitor and was appointed Cavan County Registrar in 1973. Over the years he made a huge contribution to the development of the office of county registrar nationally. He was largely responsible for the drafting of the 1998 and 2002 powers which gave county registrars quasi-judicial functions similar to those carried out by Circuit Court judges.

In his role as county registrar Tommy was also sheriff for the county and performed that role in a judicious yet fair manner. While carrying out his sheriff duty he was shot in an incident in 1997. He was seriously wounded but following a long convalescence he returned to his duties undeterred by those traumatic events, serving as county registrar for a further six years.



Even after his retirement, he continued as a consultant with the Courts Service and was involved in the drafting of rules in the

Circuit Court for the progression of cases in family law. His generosity with his time and knowledge has been acknowledged by solicitors and his county registrar colleagues. He knew the law and he knew the rules.

Judge John O'Hagan described Tommy Owens as a man of huge ability whose advice and assistance was sought by his fellow county registrars and also by legal practitioners. Warm tributes were also paid by members of the legal profession and by his successor as Cavan County Registrar, Joe Smith.

Tommy is survived by his wife, Margot; sons Alex, SC and Thomas, law agent; by his sisters, Sr. Teresa and Sr. Alice; brother, Johnny; daughters-in-law, Sheila and Mairead and grandchildren.

His generosity with his time and knowledge has been acknowledged by solicitors and his county registrar colleagues. He knew the law and he knew the rules.

## REMEMBERING...

**STEPHANIE CLEAR** who died recently aged 91 left an outstanding legacy when she retired in April 1980 following 40 years in the public service.

Born in Dublin, she was educated at the Dominican College, Eccles Street. During her career in the courts she was one of a pioneering group of women who paved the way for following generations. Many will remember her years in the High Court where she became the first woman Registrar of the Central Office of the High Court (where she also served as Admiralty Marshall) and the first woman Probate Officer. She had a particular interest in the affairs of her trade union and served for many years as chairperson of the courts' branch of the

Association of Higher Civil Servants.

An intrepid traveller she made many trips to continental Europe in the days when such an activity was rare and unusual for the average person. She was a founding member of the Irish branch of Amnesty International and worked tirelessly with them over the years. Indeed she often used her talents as a water colourist to benefit Amnesty by donating the proceeds of exhibitions in Dublin galleries.

Stephanie is survived by her nieces and nephews, grand and great grand nieces and nephews, and cousins.



# Retirements



## Mr. Justice Geoghegan retires after 40 years of a 'charmed career'

The recent retirement ceremony for Supreme Court judge, Mr. Justice Hugh Geoghegan, heard him make a 'now traditional serious point', when he said that lengthy delays in securing judgments from the Supreme Court could be eliminated by a new civil court of appeal. He noted that there are 37 judges in the High Court dealing with a major increase in work yet only eight judges in the Supreme Court to deal with the consequent increase in appeals. He expressed his support for the work of Mrs. Justice Susan Denham, who recently chaired the Working Group on a Court of Appeal. He complimented her efforts and – to much laughter – said it reflected the good training he gave her as his devil.

Judge Geoghegan was called to the Bar in 1962, became a High Court judge in 1992 and was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2000. The Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Murray, noted that Judge Geoghegan was always motivated by a deep sense of justice rather than a strict adherence to precedent. He said that although he would be greatly missed he left an important legacy through his judgments.

Attorney General Paul Gallagher said Judge Geoghegan was a man of innate modesty whose working life had been informed by a deep sense of dedication to public service – one dominated by a belief in justice and achieving justice within the law. Michael Collins SC, Chairman of the Bar Council, said that the single word "kindness", was all that was needed to describe the personal attributes of Judge Geoghegan, telling the packed courtroom that his judgments were infused with a deep sense of humanity and compassion. And he pointed out "that not only has he always been able to answer any question asked of him by me, but I know of no-one who has ever asked him a question he did not know the answer to!"

The Supreme Court bench was joined by the judge's wife, Ms. Justice Mary Finlay Geoghegan of the High Court. Also in attendance was his father-in-law, former Chief

Justice Mr. Justice Thomas Finlay. Judge Geoghegan's father served as Attorney General and later as a Supreme Court judge.

The judge said that he was "overwhelmed to the point of tears" and "flattered beyond belief" by the "exaggerated" tributes paid. They included contributions by barristers, solicitors, and Supreme Court Registrar Geraldine Manners on behalf of the Courts Service. He noted the support and friendship of Courts Service Chief Executive Brendan Ryan over many years and singled Elisha D'Arcy of the Judicial Support Unit out for thanks. "I imagine if I phoned her on Christmas day she would abandon the turkey to be of assistance", he said.



"Judge Geoghegan was a man of innate modesty whose working life had been informed by a deep sense of dedication to public service – one dominated by a belief in justice and achieving justice within the law."



## Shay Kirk plans for his future

Colleagues from within and outside the Courts Service gathered in Phoenix House recently to bid farewell to Shay Kirk, a stalwart of the Buildings Unit. Having prepared plans for many court buildings it was time for Shay to do some planning for himself as he took advantage of the early retirement scheme.

Director of Infrastructure Services Paul Burns addressed a large gathering that included High Court judges, Iarfhlaith O'Neill and John Quirke of the Courts Service Board Building Committee, and Secretary General of the Department of Justice & Law Reform Seán Aylward. Others present were former Courts Service Director of Estates & Buildings Jim McCormack, regional managers, and members of Shay's family.

Paul mentioned the esteem in which Shay was held by so many colleagues in Dublin and around the country. "I've seen his handiwork, the buildings and the work he has done. I've witnessed the great welcome and respect he gets from

everyone he meets. He has such great energy and enthusiasm for his work - he can draw any courthouse on the back of an envelope! He is a gentleman and it has been a pleasure and an honour to work with him."

Paul's words were echoed by Chief Executive Officer Brendan Ryan, Head of the Courts Service PPP Unit John Mahon and Office of Public Works Director Michael Haugh. All agreed that Shay will be a hard act to follow.

For his part, Shay thanked everyone for their kind words. He was especially complimentary of his colleagues in the office and expressed his gratitude for the



*Shay pictured with his wife Antoinette (who works in the Dublin Circuit Court Office), son David and daughter Aoife at his recent retirement party*

support of his family. "I don't see this as retirement", he said. "It's an opportunity for change".

Knowing how fond he is of the outdoors and especially of excursions on his Harley Davidson we don't expect Shay to let the grass grow under his feet. We wish him well wherever life takes him.

## Margaret McGreevy takes early retirement

Margaret joined the General Solicitor's Office in 1982 and was appointed General Solicitor in June 1988. During her time, and enabled by the Courts Service, the Office grew to a much larger scale operation. Margaret oversaw this transformation which included increased staffing, the computerization of accounts and enhanced technology to include a case tracking system.

Margaret was an inspirational head of office, manager and mentor. Her extraordinary intellect and her courage will be missed by all who worked with her. She has a sharp legal brain with the ability to get to the core issues in a case to achieve practical and compassionate solutions. Margaret has inbuilt 'sat nav' for problems coming down the line and an ingrained business sense.

Her door was always open and she was cheerful, positive and helpful to all irrespective of pressure. Past and present members of the office are grateful to Margaret for her dedication to them and to the office and for her absolute commitment to the Wards of Court who



*Margaret McGreevy with her colleagues from the General Solicitors office at her retirement function in March*

always came first. It was a privilege to be part of her team.

To quote from the final chapter of 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly' by Jean-Dominique Bauby: "Meanwhile I am savouring this last week of August with a heart which is almost light, because for the first time in a long while I don't have that awful sense of a countdown – the feeling

triggered at the beginning of a holiday that inevitably spoils a good part of it".

We are glad for Margaret that she will now savour all her holidays.

**Margaret Maloney and Deirdre Smith**

## Other retirements

In addition to the retirements mentioned on pages 27 and 28 we said farewell to some other colleagues:

**Maeve Kane** retired as Registrar of the Supreme Court following a career in the courts that spanned over 30 years. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court Maeve worked in the High Court Central Office where she was a registrar in the chancery courts for many years.

**Noel Doherty** retired as Registrar of Wards of Court. Noel's career in the courts started in the High Court Central Office in 1977 and over the years included positions as Accountant of the Courts of Justice and Assistant Examiner of the High Court.

## Kieran McDermott retires as Sligo County Registrar

After 22 years as County Registrar for Sligo Kieran McDermott retired to pastures new recently. At his retirement function in the Glasshouse Hotel in Sligo there was also a warm welcome for new Sligo District Court Area judge Kevin Kilrane. Others in attendance included Kieran's family,



Kieran pictured at his retirement function with colleagues Ann Finn, Paraic O'Grady and Loretta Kearins of Sligo Circuit Court Office

his colleagues from the Circuit and District Court offices, several members of the local Solicitors' Association, barristers from the Midland Circuit and serving and retired members of the judiciary. These included High Court judges, Henry Abbott, Mary Irvine and Mary Laffoy and retired District Court judges, Oliver McGuinness and Bernard Brennan.

Tom MacSharry paid a warm tribute to Kieran on behalf of the Sligo Solicitors' Association. A solicitor himself, Kieran started in legal practice in the late 1960's in Sligo town where he had a busy practice until he was appointed County Registrar for Leitrim in 1982. Tom praised Kieran's calmness and professionalism particularly in his role as returning officer for general and European elections.

His colleagues recalled a man who always adopted the common sense approach and never lost the common touch. Kieran thanked his colleagues and all the people he worked with during his time in Sligo.

We wish Kieran a long and happy retirement and send best wishes to his family.

## Maureen McKenna does a final sweep

After 19 years in the Four Courts, Maureen McKenna, Superintendent of cleaners, retired recently. Her family came in numbers to the Judges' Dining Room to hear Chief Executive, Brendan Ryan and Head of the Dublin Buildings Unit, Frank Lyons praise Maureen for her work over the years.

"The month of May was a significant one during Maureen's career with us", Frank said. "She joined in May 1991, was promoted in May 2002 and retired in May 2010". He went on to point out that Maureen is also a champion darts player, party goer of renown, and doting grandmother to her nine grandchildren.

Brendan Ryan recalled his time as Administration Manager in the Four Courts and reminisced about how times have changed over the years since Maureen joined the courts cleaning staff.

Maureen spoke of happy times in the courts and thanked everyone who had helped her over the years. "I've enjoyed my time here", she said.

We hope Maureen hits many bulls eyes in the years ahead!



Maureen (second from right) with her family at her retirement function



## Bob Flynn takes his leave



Kevin O'Neill with Bob at his retirement party

**B**ob Flynn, began his career as an executive officer in the Department of Education. On promotion to higher executive officer in 1976 he moved to the Revenue Commissioners. He came to the Four Courts in 1993 working at first in the Probate Office and later as a registrar in the High Court on promotion to assistant principal officer in 1997. He served as a registrar in the Supreme Court for two years from 2003 and enjoyed a one-year stint in the Central Criminal Court.

One of his most memorable moments was in 2000 when the High Court sat for the first time in Donegal. Bob was registrar

to the court together with Aisling O'Neill with Mr. Justice Lavan and Mr. Justice O'Neill presiding. A big fanfare of the occasion was made locally.

On his last day present and former colleagues joined with his family and friends as presentations were made to Bob by Principal Registrar, Kevin O'Neill on behalf of colleagues in the High Court and by Richard McNally on behalf of the High Court tipstaffs. Bob's colleague in the High Court, Bernard Neary, tells us that Bob is missed by his colleagues. "The craic is somewhat diminished with his leaving".

## Theresa Lowen bids farewell

**A** large group made their way to Áras Uí Dhálaigh to mark Theresa's retirement recently. Her colleagues were joined by some old friends of the Dublin Circuit Court to give her a big send off.

Tom Ward, Chief Clerk of the Dublin Circuit and District Courts, paid tribute to Theresa for the very high standard of her work. He said that her departure was a great loss to the Court Service in terms of knowledge and expertise.



Theresa began her career in the Department of Justice, moving to Dublin Circuit Court via Galway Circuit Court. During her time in Dublin, she was the author of the Circuit Court Civil Manual which became a "must have" for Circuit Court offices around the country. No doubt the follow up manual will be about Theresa's new found interest – gardening!

We wish Theresa all the very best in her retirement and extend every good wish to her husband Brendan and daughter Mairead.

## Mairead O'Neill says goodbye

**M**airead O'Neill, the first woman to be appointed as a District Court Clerk retired from the Courts Service recently.

Mairead graduated with a BCL degree from UCD in 1974. As a volunteer with the Free Legal Advice Centre, she developed a specific interest in family law which she studied at undergraduate level. She joined the Dept. of Justice as the first lady District Court Clerk on 3rd May 1976, making her debut at Urlingford District Court where she was introduced by the late Justice Seosamh Mac Craith, father of Judge Elizabeth McGrath. Having worked in literally all four corners of the country, she came to Youghal District Court in February 1979 on temporary transfer where she remained



**Pictured left to right:** Tom Browne, District Court Office, Clonmel; Grainne Barry, District Court Office, Youghal; Margaret Swayne, District Court Office, Youghal; Mairead O'Neill, Michael Goulding, District Court Office, Cork; Una Power, District Court Office, Youghal; Willie O'Connor, Regional Office, Cork; Ger Lynch, District Court Office, Clonmel; Anne Casey, District Court Office, Mallow.

until her retirement. During the 1990's she was conferred with a Diploma in Social Studies and a Diploma in Women's Studies. She became Chief Clerk of

Youghal District Court Office in 2002 and was promoted to assistant principal officer in 2008.

Glowing tributes were paid to Mairead by members of the judiciary, superintendents of An Garda Síochána, members of the legal profession and colleagues. Several presentations were made to Mairead in recognition of the high esteem in which she was held by all with whom she interacted. Her knowledge and expertise will be a big loss to Courts Service.

We wish herself and her husband John long life and happiness together in retirement.



book review

# ALONE IN BERLIN



**Noel A. Doherty reviews this first translation into English of a novel published in Germany in 1947. The author whose real name was Rudolph Ditzgen died the same year and just prior to its publication.**

The novel, based on a true story, is set in the German capital under Nazi rule during the war years. Otto and Anna Quangel hear that their only child Ottochen has been killed at the front. Otto, a foreman in a factory determines to do something to revenge the waste of his son's life and to draw attention to the folly of Hitler's war. He decides on a secret postcard writing campaign, one postcard each week which he will leave in a place where it will be found and passed around. In her grief Anna supports her husband in his campaign. However, such is their fear of the Gestapo, the people who find the cards immediately hand them over to the authorities. The task of finding the postcard writer falls to Inspector Escherich and the story becomes a tense thriller as the inspector, under pressure from his superiors, hunts his prey.



The novel is, however, much more than a thriller, albeit a very exciting one. The people of Berlin go about their daily lives, some just wanting to survive, some taking advantage to feather their own nests while others attempt to maintain their humanity despite the odds stacked against them. We

encounter the Persicke family, and in particular the young Bulder Persicke, a more than willing member of the Hitler youth and Emil Borkhausen, a petty criminal. There is also Enno, the pathetic husband of Eva Kluge, a postwoman with a good heart, and Trudel Baumann, fiancé of the deceased Ottochen.

The citizens of Berlin are fearful, both of the regime and of one another. Who can be trusted? Anyone might be an informer, anxious to curry favour with the police and Gestapo. People are drawn in to support the regime. But some remain uncorrupted. Otto Quangel, when asked if he regretted what he had done when it accomplished so little, says "At least I stayed decent. I didn't participate".

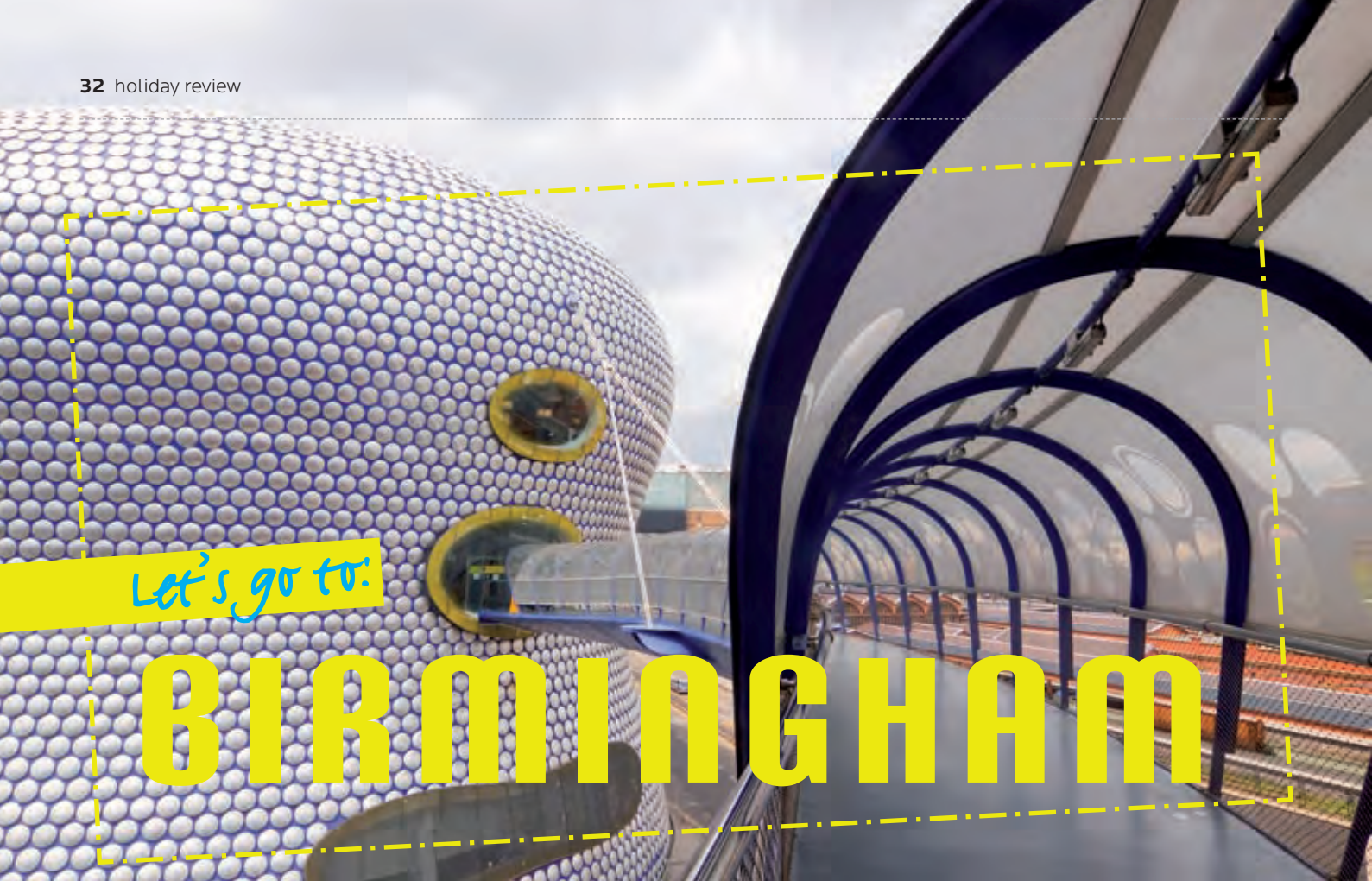
The novel has, justifiably, become a bestseller since its publication in English and it is certainly a rewarding read on a number of levels. ■

**ALONE IN BERLIN**

by Hans Fallada

Penguin Books, 2009





Easily accessible by ferry from Dublin, Dún Laoghaire and Rosslare ports, Birmingham is the UK's second largest city. Its vast size is reflected in the depth and range of activities and sights on offer. The city is steeped in Irish culture having long been the destination of choice for many young Irish forced to leave in hard times.

Compact and almost entirely surrounded by the city's many canals, the city centre is easily navigated by foot or by bus. Big name hotels including The Radisson, Hyatt, Holiday Inn and Malmaison offer competitive nightly rates within walking distance of the shopping district and the night-life hotspots. For something different try the SACO complex offering self-catering apartments in the leafy Edgbaston area.

Food connoisseurs will not be disappointed – with over 200 restaurants dotted around the city centre alone, you'll be spoiled for choice. Of course it is Birmingham, so you have to sample some Asian cuisine. The city's large Indian population means you're never far away from a head-melting vindaloo. For something a little pricier, try Asha's, while the Balti Triangle with its 50 eateries is simply unmissable.

No trip to Birmingham is complete without a visit to Cadbury World to learn about the history of chocolate, its production and advertising (and of course to sample a few delights along the way). The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery has the world's largest display of pre-Raphaelite art on permanent display, while the Ikon Gallery is heaven for multimedia and photography enthusiasts. In fact, the city has more than 500,000 works of art in one square mile.



Theatre buffs can sample the world-famous Birmingham Hippodrome, the busiest theatre in the UK with 47,000 seats available every day, while the LG Arena and the NIA regularly host the biggest music artists in the world. The Electric Cinema on Station Street, at 100, is the UK's oldest working cinema.

The more outdoor type can visit the stunning Botanical Gardens at the University of Birmingham and Dudley Zoo. Head to the West Midland Safari park with its four miles of safari trail to get really close to some of the world's largest creatures.

Birmingham offers plenty for shoppers. Bullring is a shopper's paradise with 160 shops, including two department stores, while the area around New Street, High Street and Corporation Street offers all the big brand names. With the current euro-sterling exchange rate, you can find the same goods as in Ireland - but for a third less. After all that retail therapy, model your new outfit in some of the city's

trendiest bars. Hit the area around Broad Street for the best DJ sets in town or try some champagne in the hip Jewellery Quarter.

Birmingham is a city in transition. It's shaking off the ghosts of its industrial past, while maintaining an unmistakably unique charm. The city has been short listed to be the UK Capital of Culture in 2013 and the regeneration of older areas and the creation of new ones is plain to see everywhere. ■



# PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES ... AND A “GREYHOUND BUS”

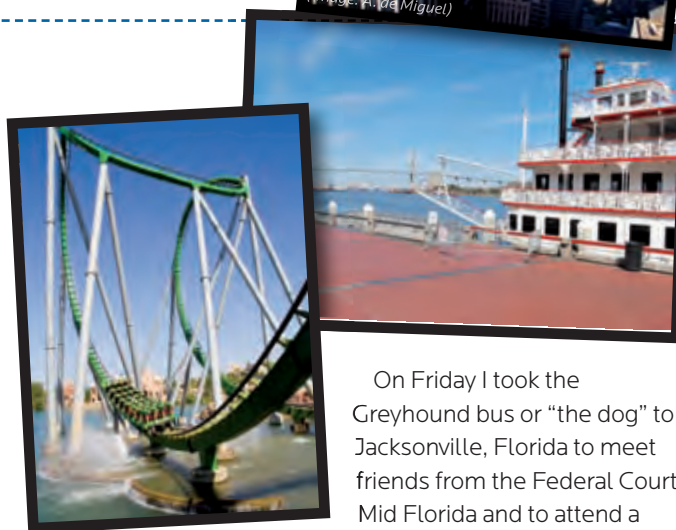


Not the movie but a trip taken by **Noel A. Doherty** to New York, Savannah, and Orlando over twelve days earlier this year.

New York is, it goes without saying, a tourist mecca and, especially so, on an Easter weekend. This meant that the queues for a number of attractions such as MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) and the ferry to Ellis Island were a couple of hours long and will have to await another visit which will be no great hardship. I did get to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral and the aircraft carrier The Intrepid, which proved extremely interesting. I also wandered in Central Park and through a bustling Chinatown on Easter Sunday.

Tuesday morning at 6.15 saw me, rather bleary eyed, catching an Amtrak train to Savannah, Georgia only 900 miles and approximately 14 hours away. As we sped (maybe not quite the right word) along, I caught glimpses of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. (in Cherry Blossom time). At Philadelphia I gained a travelling companion, a retired lady on her way home to South Carolina from a visit to her family in the north. From time to time over the next few hours, we conversed on American and Irish history, and American politics.

Savannah, founded in 1733, is a small city laid out in extremely attractive squares and easily explored on foot although a trolley tour is a fun way to see the main attractions. There are a couple of excellent museums including the Telfair and the Owens-Thomas House, where you can visit the former slave quarters. The events on which the novel *Midnight in the garden of Good and Evil* is based, occurred here and the novel is available pretty much everywhere in the city.



On Friday I took the Greyhound bus or “the dog” to Jacksonville, Florida to meet friends from the Federal Courts of Mid Florida and to attend a ceremony for Judge Adams who was taking senior status. It was a lovely ceremony at which a portrait of His Honour was unveiled. My couple of days in Orlando included riding the rollercoasters at Universal Studios.

At the Federal Courthouse in Orlando, I attended the annual “Spring Fling” where court staff and judiciary get together for an open air lunch with staff and judiciary providing the food, mostly home made. Could this catch on here?

All in all, a great two weeks and a great way to see the States. ■



## Out of the Office with... Kevin Cahill

Cork Circuit Court

### ■ What is your hobby?

Motor-rallying. I am a member of the Munster Motor Car Club.

### ■ How long have you been involved?

I have been a member of the club for around 15 years and am currently the secretary. I got involved through my father who has been a member for the last 40 years.

### Important Events

We run two big events each year. The Moonraker Forest Rally, which is a round of the National Forest Championship. It's a one day Forest Rally held in May. We need about 50 competitors to break even on the event but this is proving more difficult each year because of the recession. This year the stages were run in the Vee, Scart and Coolatoor Forest mountainous terrain.

The Cork "20" International Rally, the last round of the Citroen Irish Tarmac Rally Championship is traditionally held on the first weekend of October. It is a two day event over closed roads through classic stages such as Mullaghanish,

Fuhiry and Lough Allua. We can have between 131 to 151 competitors in the rally depending on how the stages are organised. Amongst the greats who have taken part are Sebastian Loeb (current WRC Champion), Jimmy McCrae and rally legends Austin McHale and Billy Coleman.

### Things to look forward to in the future

In 2007 and 2009 the club provided marshals, time-keepers and scrutineers to facilitate the running of the World Rally Championship. We are hoping to repeat the experience in 2011 or 2012.

### ■ What do you enjoy most?

There is such a buzz getting up at the crack of dawn, setting up the stages, taping the gates, checking all the boreens, gateways and farms yards in preparation for the races. Then it's 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and go. If you are in a valley, you hear the screaming engines of a Scooby



(Subaru Impreza), or Mark II, and you get such an adrenaline rush. Then when the racing is over there's congratulations for all who finished the rally safely, prizes for the winners in each class and the overall winner, and plenty of craic at the bar afterwards.

Rallying in Ireland is a minority sport but those involved are very dedicated. You meet the same faces, either organising the rally or acting as officials and marshals. I would describe it as my second family.

## *A Summer Evening in Smithfield*

There was a large turnout for the annual Summer Evening held in Phoenix House in May. The guests were treated to music by Eoin C. Lynch and David Maguire, and had a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues.



Retired High Court Registrars Terry Hennigan and Ray Daly with Helen Daly enjoying their evening



Beiti Byrne, who recently retired from Cork City District Court with her mother Rose Morgan

# Quiz Time



To give us all a break from sports in general and soccer in particular here's a short quiz to stretch some other parts of the brain.

1. Paris is to France as Vilnius is to \_\_\_\_\_
2. Kitten is to Cat as \_\_\_\_\_ is to Leveret
3. Bizet is to Carmen as \_\_\_\_\_ is to La Traviata
4. Snake is to Slytherin as \_\_\_\_\_ is to Hufflepuff
5. Veal is to Calf as \_\_\_\_\_ is to Deer
6. Poseidon is to Neptune as \_\_\_\_\_ is to Mercury
7. Wine is to Grapes as Sake is to \_\_\_\_\_
8. Roy Rogers is to Trigger as \_\_\_\_\_ is to Black Bess

Answers should be submitted no later than Friday 27th August 2010. Hard copies can be sent to Fiona Farrell, Information Office, 6th Floor Phoenix House, Smithfield, Dublin 7 or by email to: [courtsservicenews@courts.ie](mailto:courtsservicenews@courts.ie)

## Answers to the March Quiz:

The film 'Invictus' starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon inspired the quiz for our March issue. Some of the questions were sports related while others were a combination of sports and the arts.

1. 'Provided you don't kiss me: 20 years with Brian Clough'
2. Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert
3. American football
4. Fast Eddie : Vince : Carmen
5. This Sporting Life – Rugby League
6. 1993
7. Donal Óg Cusack
8. Michael 'Mouse' Morris

*congratulations to...*



**Sharon Kineen**, Criminal Courts of Justice being presented with her prize on our behalf by her colleague, Damien Downey.



# Through the lens



US Law students from Chicago and Ohio being hosted by VCD meet Judge Ann Ryan, of the District Court



Naas District & Circuit Courts staff have a get together



Dublin City Council 'Walk & Talk' Group visit the CCJ



Judges & Attorneys at law from Republic of Slovenia meet Mr. Justice O'Neill at the Four Courts



Judicial Research Assistants from the Federal Supreme Court in Germany with Elisha D'Arcy, Judicial support Unit, Noel Rubotham, Reform & Development Directorate and Carol Coulter, Irish Times on a recent visit to Dublin