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COURTS Service News

NUACHT NA SEIRBHÍSE CÚIRTEANNA



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

www.courts.ie



COMBINED OFFICES building towards the future

ANNUAL REPORT
2010 HIGHLIGHTS

TOP AWARD FOR
COURTS SERVICE AND
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

NEW FAMILY LAW
MEDIATION SERVICE



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Welcome

Welcome to the July issue of *Courts Service News*. Summer has arrived.... kind of, and here at *Courts Service News* we are eagerly awaiting an increase in the mercury but in the meantime we've been kept busy with so much going on in the courts.

Our centre pages (17-20) feature highlights from the Annual Report 2010 recently presented to the Minister for Justice and Equality. The year 2010 was another very busy year for the courts as you will see in the 'highlights' section.

As our cover suggests we are building towards a more streamlined future with the first combined offices now operating in Naas, Monaghan and Ennis (pages 7 & 8) and with measures to improve processing cases in the High Court (page 6) it is expected that waiting times will be reduced and there will be more efficient use of staff and resources.

We bring more news on the family law front. The Family Mediation Service was launched in Dolphin House, together with new statistics on family law and domestic violence and a free family law information resource on the Courts Service website (www.courts.ie) (pages 9 & 10).

The Courts Service continues to support schools and after a very busy academic year with thousands of students visiting the Criminal Courts of Justice and courthouses all over the country, we hosted the National Mock Trial Competition and the Ireland West Mock Trial Competition (pages 15 & 16).

We say goodbye to a number of highly regarded staff members with retirements on pages 22 – 26 and a hello and welcome back to retired staff and judges who attended the annual 'Summer evening in Smithfield' on page 29.

If your plan is to relax in the garden or brush up on your Media Law knowledge this vacation we provide two book reviews on pages 33 and 34 and as always a holiday review on pages 31 & 32. And don't forget to enter the competition on page 35.

Wishing you all a relaxing and warm summer.

Mairéad Fitzsimons



**An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service**

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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 an 'Out of Office' article, please contact the editorial team at courtsservicenews@courts.ie

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

CIRCUIT COURT RULES

S.I. No. 121 of 2011

CIRCUIT COURT RULES (HAGUE CONVENTION 1996) 2011

These rules insert a new rule 7 into order 59 to prescribe the procedure in respect of proceedings under the Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Act 2000 and the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-Operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, 1996.

S.I. No. 122 of 2011

CIRCUIT COURT RULES (DISCOVERY) 2011

These rules substitute rules 5 and 7 of Order 32 of the Circuit Court Rules to clarify the County Registrar's jurisdiction to determine an issue of privilege on an application for inspection of documents and to determine liability for costs in proceedings for discovery.

S.I. No. 153 of 2011

CIRCUIT COURT RULES (MULTI-UNIT DEVELOPMENTS ACT 2011) 2011

These rules insert a new Order 46B into the Circuit Court Rules to provide for the procedure in respect of proceedings under the Multi-Unit Developments Act 2011.

DISTRICT COURT RULES

S.I. No. 154 of 2011

DISTRICT COURT (CRIMINAL LAW (INSANITY) ACT 2010) RULES 2011

These rules amend Order 23A of the District Court Rules to facilitate the operation of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2010.

S.I. No. 301 of 2011

DISTRICT COURT (HAGUE CONVENTION 1996) RULES 2011

These rules amend Order 62 to prescribe the procedure in respect of proceedings under the Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Act 2000 and the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-Operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, 1996.

CHANGES TO ENNISCORTHY DISTRICT COURT SITTINGS

S.I. 181 of 2011

authorised the amalgamation of the District Court Area of Enniscorthy with the District Court Area of Gorey, save for the District Electoral Divisions of Clonegal and Cranemore which will be amalgamated with the District Court Area of Carlow.

With effect from 3rd May 2011, sittings of Enniscorthy District Court will be heard in Gorey Courthouse, Civic Centre, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford - except for business from the aforementioned District Electoral Divisions of Clonegal and Cranemore which will be heard in Carlow Courthouse, Co. Carlow.

For further information contact Wexford District Court Office, Ardavan Business Park, Ardavan, Wexford, Co. Wexford.
Phone: +353 53 9122097
Fax: +353 53 9124798
e-mail: wexforddc@courts.ie

Circuit Court appeals

Changes to the sittings of the High Court outside Dublin to hear appeals from the Circuit Court will be introduced from January 2012. "The experience has been that, with few exceptions, a very significant proportion of appeals scheduled for trial at the sittings of the High Court on Circuit do not proceed at those sittings", says High Court Principal Registrar **Kevin O'Neill**. "This may be because cases settle in advance, the appeal is not prosecuted or the parties are not ready to proceed. This has resulted in High Court judges travelling to venues to deal with little, or sometimes no business".

From January 2012 the traditional two week sittings twice per year in each county town will be discontinued. Appeals will no longer be heard in all counties, but in more centralised venues within the circuit. All cases will be dealt with by the allocation of one or two days for Circuit Appeals at the end of the existing High Court personal injuries sessions in certain venues. Where it is considered that this is unlikely to be sufficient to dispose of all business in a circuit, one week at a centralised venue within a circuit will be allocated.

The primary objective of this restructuring is to maximise the time High Court judges are available to hear cases, with the added benefit of cost savings to the State.

The following are the significant changes:

| Circuit | Arrangements |
|----------|--|
| Eastern | All appeals will be heard in Kilkenny |
| Southern | All appeals will be heard in Cork, Limerick and Ennis |
| Western | All appeals will be heard in Galway, Sligo or Castlebar* |
| Northern | All appeals will be heard in Dundalk |

Full details of the dates and venues are available on the Courts Service website, www.courts.ie, see High Court/Terms & Sittings. While dates have been approved for 2012, the matter will be reviewed for future years.

* County Donegal has been reassigned to this Circuit from the Northern Circuit by decision of the Courts Service Board.

MEASURES TO IMPROVE PROCESSING OF CASES IN THE HIGH COURT

Lists during the Long Vacation 2011

The President of the High Court has arranged for additional sittings during September to deal with Common Law matters. It is intended that Motions will proceed on the return date. Therefore they should be served in sufficient time so as to facilitate the filing of any replying affidavit. Initially only Motions for Judgment will be listed but, depending on the number of matters received, other applications may be included.

Practitioners should refer to the Notices Section in the Legal Diary for further information.

Motions for discovery

Notices of Motion seeking an order for discovery are now listed before the High Court rather than before the Master.

It is expected that this measure together with the additional sittings in September

and other re-organisation measures will result in the waiting times in Common Law Lists and the Master's List being reduced.

Allocation of trial dates

During the current legal year the system for the allocation of trial dates, in place for some time in the Dublin Personal Injuries List, has commenced in other lists. Before the court commences, High Court Registrars now deal with certain matters in the Chancery, Non Jury and Judicial Review Lists with the consent of parties. This includes the allocation of trial dates and the removal of matters where cases have been disposed of (any applications not on consent are dealt with immediately afterwards before the List Judge). The effect of this has been an end to lengthy lists to fix dates which accounted for a considerable amount of judicial time each Legal Term.

Applications can be made before the registrar, during term, as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Personal Injuries List | Court 2 | 9.30 a.m. each Wednesday |
| Chancery List | Court 3 | 10.00 a.m. each Tuesday |
| Non Jury List | Court 4 | 10.30 a.m. each Wednesday |
| Judicial Review List | Court 4 | 10.30 a.m. each Wednesday |

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROPEAN ENFORCEMENT ORDER) REGULATIONS 2005

These regulations have been amended with effect from 18th June 2011 to provide that where a decision relates to a claim for payment of maintenance that decision may be enforced as if it were a judgment of the District Court and the decision shall be deemed to be an antecedent order within the meaning of the Family Law (Maintenance of Spouses and Children) Act 1976. This is notwithstanding Regulation 7 which provides that a judgment certified as a European Enforcement Order may be enforced as if it were a judgment of the High Court.

The amendment is contained in Regulation 23 of the European Communities (Maintenance Regulations) 2011.

European Communities (Maintenance) Regulation 2011

The new European Communities (Maintenance) Regulation 2011 gives full effect to Council Regulation (EC) 4/2009 of 18th December 2008 (known as the Maintenance Regulation) on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations.

A decision given in Member States bound by the 2007 Hague Protocol will now have the same force and effect as a judgment or decree of the District Court and may be enforced as if it were a judgment or decree of that Court.

A decision will be deemed to be an antecedent order within the meaning of the Family Law (Maintenance of Spouses and Children) Act 1976. All Member States except the United Kingdom and Denmark are bound by the Protocol on the law applicable to maintenance applications. Applications for recognition and enforcement of a decision in a Member State not bound by the Protocol shall be made to the Master of the High Court.

The Minister for Justice and Equality is designated as the Central Authority for the State for the purposes of the

Maintenance Regulation. Article 56 sets out the range of applications which may be made through the Central Authority which include recognition or recognition and enforcement of a decision, and enforcement of a decision given or recognised in the requested Member State. The Regulation repeals the Maintenance Orders Act 1974.

To view the Regulation visit:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:007:0001:0079:EN:PDF>



First day of operations for Monaghan Courts Service office

PROTECTING FRONTLINE SERVICES - THE FUTURE REVEALED as first combined offices 'go live'

We've reported before on the work of the TASC review group which recommended changes in the administration of the courts to cope with the significant challenges facing the Courts Service. The main recommendation was that offices of the Circuit and District Courts be amalgamated to provide a one stop shop in the delivery of court services. **Michael O'Beirne** is Project Manager of the team overseeing the introduction of the new structure. He spoke to us as the first combined offices started operating in Naas, Monaghan and Ennis recently:

The public sector faces a number of challenges, most particularly ensuring continuity of service with reduced budgets and resources. Specifically the Courts Service must deliver efficiencies in accordance with the Croke Park Agreement and reduce staff numbers under the Government's Employment Control Framework. Over twenty change items have been identified as central to the Courts Service response to the Croke Park Agreement. All these changes are aimed at transforming the public sector and adding value to public service. The Courts Service Action Plan is designed to equip the Service to deliver services and support frontline court operations, at a time of reduced funding and staff numbers, through a programme of structural, operational and organisational reform and the optimisation of resources.

All these changes are aimed at transforming the public sector and adding value to public service



Brendan Ryan signs the documents to establish the Combined Offices



First day of operations for Naas Courts Service office

The TASC review recommended the amalgamation of the current Circuit and District Court offices into a single administrative unit in each county town. Offices in Naas, Monaghan and Ennis were selected as the initial implementation sites and they commenced operating as combined offices in May. The timescale for the implementation in remaining counties will be decided following a review of these initial sites. Customers may notice

a number of changes in the three pilot sites such as a single point of contact for business regardless of jurisdiction and different staff members acting as registrar but otherwise it will be business as usual.

The initiative also provides opportunities for the improvement and enhancement of the operation of offices and in this regard a business process improvement exercise has already identified procedural enhancements

to ensure better use of staff time and resources.

Courts Service Chief Executive, Brendan Ryan, described the launch of the first pilot sites as “truly momentous in the history of the Courts Service”. He paid tribute to the efforts of all those involved in the project and said he took particular pride in seeing such a substantial development being delivered in a period of shrinking resources and budgets. ■



First day of operations for Ennis Courts Service office



New Dolphin House service to help family law litigants

©Stockphoto.com/Theresa Tibbets

We brought news of a proposed Family Mediation Service for District Court family law litigants in our last issue. The new service was launched in Dolphin House Dublin by the Chief Justice Mr Justice John L. Murray recently together with new statistics on family law and domestic violence and a free family law information resource on the Courts Service website (www.courts.ie). The Minister for Justice and Equality Mr Alan Shatter TD attended the launch as **Gerry Curran** reports:

The welfare of children, in cases of custody, access and guardianship matters or with a maintenance element, is paramount in our family law courts. In continuing to ensure this, District Court staff in Dolphin House can now advise parties in suitable cases of the availability of a new in house mediation service.

New Family Mediation Service

The Family Mediation Service (FMS), which is not means tested, advises parties in general terms of the purpose of mediation and its advantages in the family law setting. If a party is interested, a briefing session is scheduled to explain the mediation process, following which the party can be fast-tracked to an application



Pictured from left: Judge Gerard Furlong, Chief Justice Mr. Justice John L. Murray, Minister for Justice & Equality, Alan Shatter T.D. and Chairperson of the Legal Aid Board Anne Colley at the launch

through the Courts Service and access to on-site Legal Aid Board services - both general information and legal advice (subject to the

normal financial eligibility criteria). This brings these three vital services under the same roof for the first time.

The Chief Justice said that “it is a key objective of the initiative to seek to engage parties in a mediation process prior to issuing court proceedings. In the majority of cases, issues arising from family breakdown are most likely to be best resolved through mutual agreement. Mediation, particularly in advance of the ‘locking of horns’ in legal proceedings, is of primary importance in this regard”.

He emphasised however that “there is no bar on persons getting information about mediation or persons attending mediation where court proceedings are already instituted. Equally important is that arrangements are in place to refer mediated settlements to a judge for approval; for example, in cases concerning the appointment of a guardian”.

Minister Shatter welcomed the initiative and said the new pilot was timely as we had an economy in dire recession

and “it is an unfortunate social effect of our economic situation that it brings intense pressure and friction to families”.

Improved access to statistics

Statistics on the work of the family courts throughout the country are available on the Courts Service website (www.courts.ie) – in Annual Reports published on the site, in publications (e.g Family Law Matters) and in a dedicated section on statistics. The statistics include trends over several years in various categories including judicial separation, divorce and domestic violence.

Improved access to court forms and other information

To make it easier to find information about family law (including statistics) a new section on the site (‘Family Law’) provides easy access to a range of information. This includes explanatory guides to areas such



as judicial separation, divorce, maintenance, guardianship, custody, and access. Relevant legislation is highlighted and there are links to the most frequently requested court forms which can be filled in on screen and downloaded for lodging in court offices. (see further page 10) ■



“It is a key objective of the initiative to seek to engage parties in a mediation process prior to issuing court proceedings. In the majority of cases, issues arising from family breakdown are most likely to be best resolved through mutual agreement”

Statistics: Dublin District Family Law Court (Dolphin House)

| Applications | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|
| Protection Orders | 1244 | 1068 | 1042 |
| Barring Orders | 1139 | 993 | 938 |
| Safety Orders | 1624 | 1505 | 1561 |
| Maintenance Orders | 2991 | 2412 | 1644 |
| Custody and access | - | 103 | 308 |
| Custody only | - | 472 | 715 |
| Access only | - | 1357 | 1735 |

Dolphin House - which recently had a major upgrade - is Ireland's busiest family law office, accounting for one third of all barring orders and 41% of all safety orders issued nationally and increasing numbers of custody and access applications.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO COURT FORMS ON THE WEB

Completing court forms just got easier thanks to an initiative by the Courts Service Website Development Team. A range of forms can now be filled in on screen and downloaded for lodgment in court offices.

"We have identified the most commonly used forms in the High Court, Circuit Court and District Court", explains **Site O'Neill** of the Website Team. "If you wish to lodge any of these forms in court offices you should go to the 'Court Forms' section of the website and click on the relevant jurisdiction. The downloadable forms are identified and instructions for completion given.

The new look section includes over 200 downloadable forms (including family law) so should cover most requirements. However if the form you are looking for is not there remember that all forms are available in the main 'Rules and Fees' section of the website.

Visit **www.courts.ie** for all court forms and other forms including refunds of court fees, Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public.



Time for a new Courts Service Strategic Plan

It doesn't seem like three years since the Courts Service last produced a Strategic Plan. But it is and so it's time to start working on the next one. Courts Service Head of Resource Management **Sean Quigley** is coordinating the new plan. He tells what to expect in the coming weeks:

Back in 2008 we took a long term view of where we expected the Courts Service to be in 2020. The title of the current plan is 'Putting the Needs of Courts Users First' and despite the dramatic deterioration in the public finances, much of what we set out in the plan remains valid with significant achievements made. These include the opening of the state of the art Criminal Courts of Justice building in Dublin and the establishment of the first unified court offices in Naas, Monaghan and Ennis.

The next strategic plan will see the completion of a number of significant re-structuring initiatives, some of which are

already underway, and a number of other significant changes. However its development comes at a time when the country is facing unprecedented challenges which will have a direct impact on the operation of the Courts Service through reduced staffing and funding levels. The new plan will set out what the Courts Service will be doing over the next three years to address these challenges. It will see the continued implementation of recommendations in the Transforming the Administration and Structure of the Courts ('TASC') report, and take full account of the challenges and opportunities that arise from the

Public Service Agreement and the Programme for Government.

An extensive consultation process is underway to get the views of Courts Service staff and of a range of court users and stakeholders with a draft of the new plan to be presented to the Board in October 2011. We encourage staff, court users and stakeholders to engage with the Strategic Plan Team to help produce the most effective document for all involved with the court system.

Anyone who wishes to submit a comment, suggestions, etc in respect of matters that should be addressed in the next strategic plan, can do so by sending an email to: strategicplan@courts.ie

Court offices on the move

Tralee District Court office, which has already been amalgamated with Listowel District Court office and will be amalgamating with Killarney District Court office, will move to the Centrepont building in Tralee in August. They will be joined by Tralee Circuit Court office in September.

The Courts Service is the first official tenant of Lee Strand Co-op's landmark building and will lease a 10,000 sq ft space which can accommodate 25 staff. Chief Executive Brendan Ryan, visited the building in May and said of the move "We can avail of excellent accommodation and facilities here. This will enable us provide better accommodation for our staff and improve the service we give to the public and other court users."



Pictured from left: Paul Burns, Head of Infrastructure Services; Brendan Walsh, Chairman; Lee Strand; Brendan Ryan, CEO and John O'Sullivan, General Manager, Lee Strand

| Date | Office | Activity |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| 8th August | Tralee District Court | Move to Centrepont, Tralee |
| 8th August | Listowel District Court | Complete closure and move to Centrepont |
| 12th August | Killarney District Court | Office to close and amalgamate with Tralee |
| 5th September | Tralee Circuit Court | Move to Centrepont, Tralee |

Macroom courthouse gets a facelift



Pictured at the re-opening are from left: Edmund Byrnes, Court Registrar; Judge James McNulty and David Colbert, District Court Chief Clerk Clonakilty. Pic by John O'Sullivan, O'Sullivan Photo

Macroom courthouse has recently re-opened after a major refurbishment. The building had fallen into severe disrepair over the years but with a €140,000 injection is now a "truly magnificent courthouse for the entire community" according to local District Court Judge James McNulty. The judge joined Courts Service Chief Executive Brendan Ryan, Deputy Mayor of Macroom town Connie Foley, court staff, gardaí and local solicitors at the re-opening.

The building dates from 1829 and was designed by English architect George Richard Pain. The dark and shabby interior has been brightened with new carpeting, freshly painted walls and benches and bright natural lighting through an extra window area. Facilities for practitioners have also been greatly improved.

The judge was "absolutely delighted" with the finished product and said "It is great for the town of Macroom to have retained their court." Brendan Ryan was equally pleased with the results saying that "It is now a great and amazing building for the entire community."

How managing our energy usage CAN SAVE US ALL MONEY

We talk a lot about saving on energy consumption but how good are we at putting our talk into action? **Fiona Farrell** sees if the lights are going out around the Courts Service and if we are saving any money in the process:

It was a good start when the Courts Service adopted an Energy Policy Statement and established an Energy Team to consider a variety of energy saving initiatives and how to implement them. The first team in 2009 was comprised of staff members from the various divisions in Phoenix House. The team worked with specialists engaged by the Office of Public Works under their 'Optimising Power @ Work' programme. During 2009 a 13.7% reduction in energy consumption was achieved in Phoenix House. The overall goal of the OPW programme is to achieve a 20% reduction in CO2 usage in public buildings by the end of 2012.

Throughout 2010 a range of initiatives were put in place to help reduce energy

consumption across the organisation. They included the installation of energy efficient lighting and advanced lighting controls at offices in the Four Courts and the renewal of the pipe work for the heating system in the basement of the Gandon Building of the Four Courts. Energy assessments were carried out in courthouses in Bray, Castlebar, Cavan, Cork (Anglesea Street and Washington Street), Dundalk, Tullamore, Sligo and Trim and in all of the buildings within the Four Courts Complex including the Gandon Building, the Public Records Office, Chancery Place and Chancery Street.

The Courts Service is aiming to achieve a further energy saving of 3% during 2011. Other plans include the

relocation of the central information technology servers to the data centre of the Revenue Commissioners, the establishment of 'energy teams' at offices with 20 or more staff and the extension of the OPW 'Optimising Power @ Work' scheme to six additional locations.

Saving energy is good for the environment and saves money.

Play your part by:

- switching off equipment when not in use (PC's, monitors, printers, photocopiers etc)
- unplugging phone charges when not in use
- turning off lights in corridors (health and safety considerations permitting) when not required
- following the 'last man out' initiative in respect of lights etc.

And as a final suggestion – have a 'Walk Down Day' – walk down the stairs once a week (for a start) instead of using the lift. You'll save energy, save the Courts Service money and help your heart – a win/win/win situation.

CARI – providing support for child witnesses

The CARI Foundation is one of many organisations providing a court accompaniment service for people attending court as witnesses. The CARI service, supported by the Commission for Support of the Victims of Crime, is for child witnesses as **Eve Farrelly**, Acting CASS Officer, explains:

In a legal world created for adults the court process can be a frightening and traumatic experience but even more so when you are a child. CARI provides support to children and their parents/guardians who have to go to court. This involves preparing the child, on a practical level, before a scheduled appearance at court. We explain court procedures with the help of age appropriate literature and clarify legal terminology for the family. We accompany the child and their family to the court in advance to familiarise them with the court environment, interview suite and

video link, if necessary. We also attend court with the child and their family and provide practical and emotional support before, during and after the court proceedings. Our overall objective is to provide direct assistance and support to child victims/witnesses who may be called to testify in the criminal courts. This is all done to improve the experience of the criminal court process for them.

The CARI Foundation is a registered charity founded in 1989. Our primary aim is to provide a professional, child centered therapy and counselling service



Eve Farrelly

to children, families, and groups who have been affected by child sexual abuse. However, our Court Accompaniment and Support Service (CASS) is available to all children requested to attend court as a witness, regardless of the crime in question.

For further information contact Eve at CARI, 110 Lr Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Tel: 0879937392 or visit www.cari.ie

BIG IMPROVEMENTS IN RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

The Courts Service Courtroom Technology Group has been developing proposals for the greater use of technology in the courtroom. One success story to date has been the introduction of digital audio recording as the Group's Chairman, **Kevin O'Neill** reports:

Judges, staff and practitioners in various courts will know that digital audio recording (DAR) of proceedings has been taking place for some time in our courts. Cases in the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeal, Special Criminal Court, Central Criminal Court, Circuit Criminal Court and in family law and asylum in the High Court have benefited from the new technology. The system has also been operating in several courtrooms outside Dublin at the request of local judges.

The practice has now been extended to all areas of the High Court following a direction of the President of the High Court. The Presidents of the Circuit Court and the District Court have issued similar directions. As a result digital audio

recording is now available in all High Court courtrooms and all civil and family law courtrooms in Dublin Circuit Court. Arrangements are at an advanced stage to commence DAR in Dublin District Court before extending it to civil courts countrywide.

Audio recording commences when a judge arrives in court and ends when the court rises. Signs outside and inside courtrooms informs those attending court that a recording is taking place. In addition, a clock similar to that illustrated is activated.

DAR will eventually result in every matter coming before the courts being recorded digitally - a pre-requisite to the commencement of

a Judicial Council. In addition it is an efficiency being fulfilled by the Courts Service as part of its Action Plan under the Public Service 'Croke Park' Agreement. While the audio recording will be for the court only and will not be made available publicly it has been the experience that, with the willing support of Courts Service staff, significant cost savings in the Courts Service stenography expenses have resulted. Further information on DAR is available on www.courts.ie.



European Competition Law Judges come to Dublin

The topic of 'vertical restraints' such as those between manufacturers and distributors was the central theme of the tenth annual conference of the Association of European Competition Law Judges held in Dublin recently under the presidency of Mr Justice Liam McKechnie of the Supreme Court. The judge was delighted to welcome over 60 visiting judges and President Mary McAleese who addressed the delegates.

The Association of European Competition Law Judges is a group of judges from the Member States of the European Union who hear cases in their national courts involving both national and European competition law. The main aim of the Association is to promote knowledge and understanding of competition policy and law issues throughout the respective judiciaries of the Member States.



Mr. Justice Liam McKechnie, President of the Association of European Competition Law Judges; Mrs. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland and Mr. Justice Nicholas Kearns, President of the High Court at the conference in Dublin Castle.

Top award for Courts Service and An Garda Síochána



From left to right: Darach Green, ICT Office, John Leamy, Chief Administrative Officer, An Garda Síochána, Catherine Glackin, ICT Office, Paul Burns, Head of Infrastructure Services, Aeneas Leane, An Garda Síochána, Kieran Downey, An Garda Síochána and Siobhán Manning, ICT Office

The savings and efficiencies to be gained from a cross agency approach to public service delivery were acknowledged recently when the Courts Service and An Garda Síochána won the top award at the eGovernment awards 2011.

The Criminal Justice Interoperability Project (CJIP) was first declared the winner in the 'Cross Agency' category. It was then selected as the 'Overall Winner' from the twelve individual category winners. The judges said the project was "a clear example of two divisions of government working together to deliver major productivity gains and better results in the area of justice for the public".

"I'm delighted to accept this award on behalf of the Courts Service with our colleagues from An Garda Síochána" said Courts Service Head of Infrastructure Services, Paul Burns. "Since November 2008 CJIP has been quietly operating in the background, unknown to most people who deal with the justice system. It has led to a significant

improvement in the administration of justice in Ireland and has freed up over 100 Gardaí for operational duties and five Courts Service staff. CJIP delivers considerable savings and provides a creative and innovative solution to a previously labour intensive administrative process".

"a clear example of two divisions of government working together to deliver major productivity gains and better results in the area of justice for the public".

At the end of 2010 CJIP was supporting all business between An Garda Síochána and the District Court nationally. This includes summons applications made

by An Garda Síochána to the District Court and all subsequent court documentation including schedules, outcomes, bails and warrants. In 2010, over two million messages were exchanged. CJIP has eliminated 75% of the administrative steps and replaced a paper based system with an integrated electronic one.

Paul Burns thanked the Courts Service team of Catherine Glackin, Siobhán Manning and Jenny O'Loughlin and the Garda team under John Leamy and Liam Kidd. He also thanked colleagues in Deloitte, led by Harry Goddard, and Fujitsu led by Tony O'Malley who assisted in the development of the system.

He concluded by thanking the judges for selecting a project which is not a typical one. "It does not visibly deliver eGovernment directly to customers – but it significantly helps to improve the way justice is delivered in Ireland".

We send our congratulations to all involved. ■

OUTREACH

how the community can learn how the courts work



Students from Eureka College receiving the news that they were the winners of the National Mock Trial Competition

adults. Students relish the opportunity to role play and display impressive talent when allowed act out parts in a real courtroom setting. They present and defend real life type cases before barristers and real judges and are judged on a range of competencies and skills.

National Mock Trial Competition

Running for over ten years the National Mock Trial Competition is organised by Public Access to Law and hosted by the Courts Service in the Criminal Courts of Justice each year. The semi finalists and finalists appear before real judges of the various court jurisdictions. This year, Mr. Justice Peter Kelly, Judge Terence O'Sullivan and Judge Mary Collins judged Eureka Secondary School, Kells to be the winners. Their 'Prosecuting Barrister' Aoife Cosgrove and 'Witness for the Prosecution' Ruth O'Reilly were named joint winners of the Harry Hill Memorial Trophy for 'Best Individual Performance' in the final. Runners up were Alexandra College, Milltown, Dublin with fine performances also from semi-

The Courts Service continues to operate its outreach programme to many sectors of the community. One of its most popular initiatives, the School Visit Programme, is booked for months in advance and sees thousands of teenage students visiting the courts every year. On the visit they can act out a mock trial, sit in on a court case and have a question and answer session with a barrister or Courts Service staff member. Outreach also extends to community groups and colleges with speakers from the Courts Service facilitating visits to or from various centres to talk about the work of the courts.

Another major element of this work involves supporting and hosting mock trial competitions designed to give second level students an insight into the workings

of the legal system. These competitions also satisfy a need in the second level curriculum and fulfil a basic necessity for all young



Students from Eureka College with Judge Mary Collins, Mr. Justice Peter Kelly and Judge Terence O'Sullivan

All of the categories of the national and Ireland West competition were included - roles of solicitor, barrister, witness and court registrar – together with individual competitions including court reporter

finalists, Our Lady's Greenhills, Drogheda and Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge.

Over two hundred students took part in the competition with the four semi finalists invited to participate in an international Mock Trial competition in the United States.

Ireland West Mock Trial Competition

The Courts Service hosted the third Ireland West Mock Trial Competition in Loughrea Courthouse as part of the Transition Year Secondary School Law Programme. Some 34 schools comprising over 500 students from counties including Galway, Clare, Limerick and Sligo took part with the semi finals and the final held over three days. Sligo Grammar School were judged the winners with Laurel Hill from Limerick runners up. Francis Whelan of Gort Community School was voted 'Best Speaker', Martin Norton from Portlaoise CBS won 'Best Costume' and Laurel Hill's Vicky Ryan was 'Best Actor'.

Organiser and coordinator, barrister James T. Fahy thanked the Courts Service and in particular the staff in the District Court office in Loughrea together with sponsors for the event, Mr. Gerard Moylan of

A.G. Moylan Solicitors in Loughrea who presented the prizes with his daughter Olivia.

Ballymun Mock Trial

Not all successful mock trials are organised on a competition basis. An interesting recent example was a joint venture between Ballymun Community Law Centre and Ballymun Comprehensive School. Here a mock trial was played out in the classroom with the support of the Law Centre and the Courts Service. All of the categories of the national and Ireland West competition were included - roles of solicitor, barrister, witness and

court registrar – together with individual competitions including court reporter. The final was presided over by retired High Court President Mr. Justice Richard Johnson who was very impressed with the enthusiasm and ability of the students and thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

The participants in the 'Court Reporter' section were given an overview on court reporting by Gerry Curran of the Courts Service Media Relations Office. The preliminary work paid off as winners Nathan Ryan and Jack Traynor were rewarded with the publication of their entry in the local Ballymun newspaper. ■



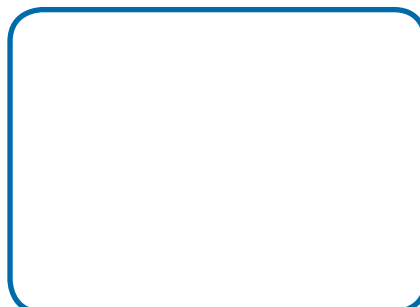
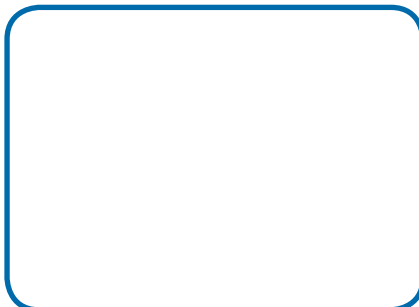
Students preparing for the Ireland West Mock Trial Competition



Janice Harrington from the Law Centre and Gerry Curran from the Courts Service Media Office with students from Ballymun Comprehensive as they prepare for the 'reporting a court case' element of the Mock Trial event



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service



Courts Service
ANNUAL REPORT
2010

WWW.COURTS.IE

Courts Service continues to deliver *in remarkably challenging year*

2010 was a remarkably challenging year for any public service. In his introduction to the Annual Report Courts Service CEO Brendan Ryan says that “the Courts Service continued to deliver a commendable service notwithstanding ongoing reductions in staff numbers, further significant reductions in the budget allocation and an increased workload”. He says the Report shows that the Service was uniquely prepared for these changes as it had undertaken a root and branch examination under its own initiative a year before the Public Service (‘Croke Park’) Agreement.

Chief Justice John L. Murray in his foreword to the Report says that “the management and personnel of the Courts Service responded to all of the challenges of 2010 with the same versatility and acumen they have demonstrated since its establishment”. He says the Service managed to provide “more for less” throughout 2010. He said “the Courts Service has limited discretionary expenditure and it is inevitable that further reductions of resources, financial or human, will have adverse implications, potentially of serious dimensions, on the functioning of the courts and on ensuring access by citizens to them, even at current levels”.

Modernisation measures - *highlights of 2010*

- Criminal Courts of Justice opens - the most significant investment in a court building since the Four Courts in 1796
- Two other significant courthouse projects completed - in Kilkenny and Monaghan
- Single unified offices in each county town identified as the future service delivery model for the administration of the courts following modernisation review (‘TASC’) - test offices identified to pioneer unified office project for Circuit and District Courts - to commence operations in mid 2011
- Customer survey shows 71% satisfaction rate with service provided
- Visits to Courts Service website exceed 2.5 million - online services improve as work commences on project to facilitate processing of summary judgments
- Interagency co-operation delivers major efficiencies as partnership between Service and An Garda Síochána facilitates exchange of over 2 million messages in processing of District Court criminal business - project (‘CJIP’) short listed for eGovernment award at end of 2010
- Courts Service exceeds Employment Control Framework obligation by reducing staff to 990 (ECF authorised level: 1,002)
- Digital audio recording available in 159 courtrooms throughout the country at end of 2010
- Video conferencing facilities available in 25 courtrooms throughout the country at end of 2010



Statistics highlights of 2010

CRIMINAL LAW COURTS

- 36 murder cases in Central Criminal Court – a 32% decrease on 2009
- 63 rape cases in Central Criminal Court – a 29% increase on 2009
- 457 European Arrest Warrant applications in High Court – a 43% increase on 2009
- 16 trials in Special Criminal Court – a 60% increase on 2009
- 1,186 drug offences dealt with in Circuit Criminal Court – a 24% increase on 2009
- 34 sentences of 10 years or more imposed in Circuit Criminal Court - mostly for drugs offences
- 236 sentences of between five and ten years imposed in Circuit Criminal Court – almost half for drugs offences
- Over 1,000 sentences of between two and five years imposed in Circuit Criminal Court - 26% for theft and robbery offences, 23% for drug offences
- 73% of summary cases disposed of in District Court related to road traffic offences
- 13% decrease in drink driving offences in District Court



CIVIL LAW COURTS

- 116 orders made in High Court to wind up companies – a 9% decrease on 2009
- Applications made in High Court to restrict the directors of 69 companies – a 6% decrease on 2009
- 29 new bankruptcies in High Court – a 71% increase on 2009
- 293 new cases admitted to Commercial List in High Court – a 21% decrease on 2009
- 326 orders for possession made in High Court – an 11% increase on 2009
- 306 orders for possession made in Circuit Court – virtually unchanged from 2009
- 6,103 claims for recovery of debt in High Court – an 8% increase on 2009
- 27,629 cases for breach of contract and recovery of debt in Circuit Court – a 3% decrease on 2009
- 2,792 judgments for recovery of debt in High Court – a 25% increase on 2009
- Over 2,800 committal orders for non payment of debt in District Court
- 1,581 applications for judicial review in High Court – a 20% increase on 2009 - 59% of applications relate to asylum
- 32 hotel licences granted – increase of 52% on 2009

FAMILY LAW COURTS

- Applications by HSE for supervision orders increased by 16% to 731 from 627 in 2009
- Applications for care orders increased by 11% to 1,046 from 941 in 2009
- Applications for custody increased by 44% to 1,380 from 957 in 2009
- Applications for access increased by 10% to 4,784 from 4,348
- Applications for both custody and access increased by 8% to 1,057 from 976 in 2009
- Applications for guardianship by unmarried fathers increased by 13% to 2,783 from 2,463 in 2009
- 1,420 applications for judicial separation – a 13% decrease on 2009 – majority by wives (89% in High Court; 74% in Circuit Court)
- 3,381 applications for divorce – a 9% decrease on 2009 – majority by husbands in High Court (54%) and by wives in Circuit Court (54%)
- 41 applications for nullity – a 25% increase on 2009 – all by husbands (2) in High Court; majority (61%) by wives in Circuit Court
- Applications to the District Court under domestic violence legislation increased to 9,945 from 9,856 in 2009 but with decreases in applications for barring and protection orders
- Over half of all applications for domestic violence protections are made by spouses.





The Courts Service Annual Report is available on the website

WWW.COURTS.IE



Annual Report launch

Minister Alan Shatter T.D. receiving the Courts Service Annual Report 2010 from the Chief Justice Mr. Justice John L. Murray at Phoenix House.

Judicial Appointments



Re-assignment

Judge Patrick McMahon has transferred from the Dublin Metropolitan District to District No.10 with effect from 11th May 2011.



Ms. Rosemary Horgan has been appointed a judge of the District Court. Prior to her appointment Judge Horgan was a solicitor and partner with the firm Ronan Daly Jermyn in Cork. She has many years of experience in all areas of law with particular expertise in family law.



Judge Thomas E. O'Donnell has been appointed a judge of the Circuit Court. Judge O'Donnell sat in Limerick District Court for the past 12 years. In a recent interview the judge described Limerick District Court as "one of the best training grounds for solicitors and for members of the Garda Síochána – for everybody, including the judge". He is looking forward to the challenges in the Circuit Court. "I'll have to get used to being on the circuit, but I'm delighted to have been given the opportunity. It's a learning curve, and I hope I'll be up to the challenge."

Retirements

Mr. Justice Bryan McMahon retires

“**C**onventional matters mean conventional compliments – but I’ll take them”, noted Judge Bryan McMahon at the start of his address to those gathered for his last court sitting in the High Court recently. He was speaking after hearing warm tributes and well wishes from Attorney General Máire Whelan, Bar Council Chairman Paul O’Higgins, Law Society Junior Vice-President Kevin O’Higgins and High Court Principal Registrar Kevin O’Neill.

Judge McMahon received his BCL and LLB degrees from UCD. Following further postgraduate study at Harvard Law School he returned to Ireland in 1967 at the age of 26 to take up a post as lecturer in the Law Faculty in UCC. He went on to become Professor of Law and Head of the Department of Law in that university.

He joined the firm of Houlihan and McMahon solicitors as a Senior Partner in

1987 and simultaneously held a part-time Chair of Law at NUI Galway. Appointed a judge of the Circuit Court in 1999 he was promoted to the High Court in 2007. He was appointed Adjunct Professor of Law at UCC in 2004. He is Chair of the Irish Universities Quality Board and the National Archives Advisory Council. A lifelong theatre fan he was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Abbey Theatre in 2005.

His love of literature greatly influenced his approach to writing judgments. Comparing judgments to novels, he said that you cannot be a good lawyer if you cannot tell a good story. “I’ve been greatly impressed by the high standard of advocacy in the High Court. There were times when the performance was so good I would have paid to hear it.” A judge on the other hand must not be swayed by a golden tongue. He



Mr. Justice Bryan McMahon

must have a knowledge of the human condition in all its manifestations. “He won’t get that in a law school – his own personal experience is invaluable but there will always be a deficit he has to fill so he has to rely on Counsel and maybe literature where everything has been played out”.

Thanking the staff of the Courts Service (in particular Chief Executive Brendan Ryan, Principal Registrar Kevin O’Neill, his tipstiffs and County and High Court Registrars), the judge commented that the Courts Service has made a significant difference to the administration of the courts on many levels in a very short time.

But it was his time to leave. “There is more to life than law and more to law than Blackstone”, he said informing everyone present that he was off to find out. We wish him and his family well with his explorations in the years ahead.

Mr. Justice Lavan retires



*Mr Justice Lavan (centre) with High Court President Mr. Justice Kearns and Chief Justice Mr. Justice Murray.
Pic by Paddy Cummins (Collins)*

“**I** am undone with your kindness. Who is this person?” was the reaction of Mr. Justice Vivian Lavan following tributes on his last day in the High Court recently. He was joined by the Chief Justice and the President of the High Court as he traced his interest in law back 52 years to when a neighbour brought him to the Four Courts. It was then he realised that in a democracy you argue your case not fight about it.

He referred to his “halcyon and yet stunning career” despite the fact that he had no contacts at the start or knew how it was done. His family kept him grounded – when he was appointed to the Bench his then ten year old told him

Judge Frank O'Donnell

Judge Frank O'Donnell recently retired as a judge of the Circuit Court having served from May 1995 to March 2011.

Judge O'Donnell, together with Judge John Buckley and Judge Michael White were the first three solicitors to be appointed to the Circuit Court in 1995 following the introduction of legislation enabling solicitors to be appointed to the Circuit Court. Subsequent legislation in 2002 enabled solicitors to be appointed directly to the High and Supreme Court.

Originally from Burtonport Co. Donegal, he qualified as a solicitor in 1964, and then attended Harvard Law School, where he graduated with a Master of Laws (LL.M) in 1966. He practised with the law firm of Lord Bissell and Brook, in Chicago, for a number of years, before returning to Ireland. He and his partners set up the firm of Bell Branigan, O'Donnell and O'Brien, solicitors, and practised in Baggot St., for twenty five years. Judge O'Donnell specialised in litigation and marine law.

He was elected to the Council of the Law Society of Ireland, in 1971 and became President of the Law Society in 1984. During his Presidency, he was active in promoting the appointment of solicitors to the Higher Court benches.

On appointment to the Bench, he was initially assigned to the South Eastern Circuit and then to the Dublin Circuit, where he acted as a criminal trial judge for the last ten years.

We wish Judge O'Donnell well in his retirement.

Mary McManus retires



A large crowd gathered in the Maudlins Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare recently to pay tribute to Mary McManus on her happy retirement. Mary was commencing a well earned break from public service having spent the previous 48 years in the employment and service of the State, quite a remarkable achievement.

Her years of service covered many areas, not least of which were the Dept. of Agriculture and more recently, the Courts Service. In the latter she worked in Naas District Court Office, in various offices in Dublin and in the final years was a valued member of the Eastern Regional Office.

Mary's popularity was evidenced by the large and varied turnout from across the country. Tributes were paid to her by District Judge John Coughlan, State Solicitor Geraldine Gillece, Solicitor Conal Boyce and by Courts Service Regional Manager Gerry Nugent. Mary herself spoke emotionally and fondly of her years in the organisation and of the many colleagues she had worked with. The warmth of feeling felt by all present towards Mary was palpable throughout the evening.

May she enjoy a long and peaceful retirement!

Gerry Nugent

"you may be a judge in the Four Courts but never in this house!"

President Kearns said that Judge Lavan's 42 year career was notable for its sense of service - he would be remembered as co-founder of the Free Legal Aid Centres and for the enduring value of his contacts with US jurists. He remarked on the judge's great humanity, sense of humour, and empathy with the frailties of others. He is seen as a friend by all who know him. He noted that Judge Lavan sat in court recently despite severe pain, and said he wished to note publicly the deep affection and high esteem in which he was held.

Chief Justice Murray told a full to

capacity Court 4 that Judge Lavan's time on the Bench had been "twenty one years of remarkable and important public service. Everyone who leaves the private sector and joins the Superior Courts is aware of the great duty to uphold the Constitution. Judge Lavan has been consciously passionate regarding this grave and important duty. His dedication to the task was second to none".

Attorney General Máire Whelan SC, on behalf of the Government, thanked the judge for his service and congratulated him on his retirement. She recalled that he had studied in "the fevered atmosphere of the UCD of the 1960's" and quoted a book by Gerry

Whyte which described his younger days as being "decidedly mainstream and pragmatic in an era of radical student politics". This pragmatism had brought about "change in helping those with an inability to vindicate rights and had led to the establishment of civil legal aid. You are a pivotal figure in the development of Irish law".

Representatives of the Bar Council and Law Society spoke of Judge Lavan's friendly approach to work with High Court Principal Registrar Kevin O'Neill thanking the judge on behalf of the Courts Service and especially for his encouragement of new registrars. The judge left to thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

Judge William Harnett retires

Tributes came from many quarters as Judge William Harnett retired after almost four decades in the legal profession. A Dublin man, he had a long association with Kilkenny District Court and more recently with Carlow.

In Carlow, Court Service staff joined solicitors, barristers and the local Gardaí to wish the judge well. "I'm sorry to see you go but I'm delighted you have made the momentous decision to enjoy your retirement. We wish you all the best", said District Court Clerk Raymond Keyes. Tributes were paid by several local solicitors, (including Justin Coady, President of the Carlow Bar Association), and Superintendent Gerry Redmond and Inspector Martin Walker of An Garda Síochána. Praising all involved with Carlow District Court including court staff, legal practitioners, Gardaí and probation services, Judge Harnett said "I've always viewed this as a team effort and I found a terrific group of people here. I thank you from the bottom of my heart".

In Kilkenny, President of the Kilkenny Bar Association, Eoin O'Mahony said that Kilkenny courthouse was 'a fitting venue' for the judge's final sitting as he first sat there in January 1993. Chief Superintendent Michael McGarry complimented the judge's sincerity and the loyalty he had shown to the citizens of the State. Probation Officer Billy Kavanagh said the judge "always gave people a chance and custody was an option of last resort". County Registrar Mary Enright spoke of her admiration for Judge Harnett while District Court Clerk, Liam Nolan remarked how he had worked alongside him for over twenty years. "On behalf of the court staff I thank you for your help and guidance and friendliness," he said.

The judge praised the Courts Service staff in Kilkenny particularly



Judge William Harnett

Liam Nolan "whom I've known since I was appointed". As in Carlow, he complimented the legal practitioners, Gardaí, and probation services for their support and co-operation commenting again on the value of teamwork to the administration of justice.

"It has been a terrific privilege for me to represent the people of Ireland in the courts and administer laws passed by houses of parliament on behalf of the people of Ireland", he said.

We wish Judge Harnett well in his retirement.

Gerry Flanagan springs into retirement



Gerry Flanagan

Tributes paid to Gerry Flanagan on his recent retirement included many references to his love of sport and his plans for the future. Gerry, who served as usher for the last 10 years to Mrs. Justice Denham of the Supreme Court, was joined by colleagues and friends, including Judge Denham and Judge Abbott of the High Court.

Having joined An Garda Síochána in 1965, Gerry's work included driver/escort duties for Presidents, Taoisigh, and various Ministers. On his retirement in 1999 he joined the Courts Service as usher to Mr. Justice Lavan and in 2000 was appointed to Mrs. Justice Denham.

His sporting achievements included county medals in four different decades in four different counties - Roscommon, Kildare, Dublin and Meath. He won two All Ireland Junior Hurling and nine County Senior Championship medals with Roscommon. He played for Garda teams in football, hurling, handball and rugby and submitted the first motion to abolish Rule 42 regarding opening Croke Park to other sports.

Judge Denham referred to the easy grace with which Gerry worked in the Supreme Court. "You have greatly helped me and other members of the Court. It was a great pleasure working with you Gerry. I am very grateful for all your assistance" she said.

Gerry spoke of the lifelong friends he has made in the Courts Service. "I owe many people a deep debt of gratitude for making my time in the Courts Service such a pleasant experience".

We wish Gerry the very best for a long, active, healthy and happy retirement.

Tralee Circuit Court says goodbye to Michael O'Shea and Teresa Cotter

Earlier this year family and friends joined Michael O'Shea and Teresa Cotter to celebrate a combined service of over 80 years and mark their retirements from Tralee Circuit Court. They were also joined by Courts Service staff, judges, members of the Law Society, the Prison Service and An Garda Síochána.

Michael began his career in the Department of Education in Dublin but after two years returned to his native Kerry in 1970 to work in Tralee Circuit Court. He was very involved in Siamsa -The National Folk Theatre and travelled to many parts of the world performing with them. Teresa arrived as Chief Clerk in Tralee Circuit Court in 1978 having spent some years in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin and in Cork and Wexford Circuit Courts. A fluent Irish speaker Teresa is a proud Cork woman from Inchageela who remains true to her roots and never fails to fly the Cork colours.

They worked side by side and their duties covered the Circuit Court sittings of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel and sittings of the High Court on circuit in Tralee. They worked with many judges and barristers including Circuit Court judges Tim Desmond, John Gleeson, Kevin O'Higgins, Sean O'Leary, Harvey Kenny, Carroll Moran, Terence O'Sullivan, James O'Donohoe, Ray Fullam and Anthony Kennedy. Among



Teresa Cotter and Michael O'Shea

the barristers were William Binchy (father of Maeve), William Roche, Jerry Lee, Gerry Tynan, Tralee man Richard Johnson, who went on to become President of the High Court, and the late Dermot Kinlen, who became a High Court judge. They worked with three County Registrars the late Tommy Clarke, the late Louise McDonough (for over 30 years) and the present Registrar Padraig Burke.

Michael and Teresa noted the many changes in practice and procedures over the years. In the early 1970's the court was a male dominated establishment. Judges were men; women could not sit on juries and were obliged to cover their heads when in court. There was no family law and the abuse of illegal drugs was unheard of.

During their careers both received 'exceptional performance awards' for

their work performance, and the staff of the Circuit Court Office got a 'team exceptional performance' award with Teresa as Chief Clerk.

They were excellent officials with huge experience who with great dedication and skill very competently discharged their duties. They set a high standard leading by good example; they were mentors with a generous spirit and wonderful colleagues.

We wish them a long, healthy, happy retirement to enjoy time with their families and friends and to pursue their many interests which include music, travel, charity work and voluntary community work. We say slán agus beannacht and to quote a line from a Tom Paxton song – "Thank you for the honour of your company".

Staff of Tralee Circuit Court

Paul Comiskey retires from Cavan Circuit Court

Paul Comiskey commenced work as Court Messenger in Cavan Circuit Court in 1985. He went about his role in a very efficient and compassionate way and had a very courteous manner with everyone.

Morning coffee in Cavan Circuit Court office often involved complicated history lessons as Paul is very well read and has a broad understanding of all matters historical. The breadth and diversity of discussion expanded from local to worldwide with Mr. Putin, Russian President cropping up on many occasions.

In the course of an eviction in 1997 Paul was the victim of a shooting. He was badly injured; a lesser man might have given up but not Paul. He recovered slowly, returned to full duties and continued to participate in evictions and seizures as before.

Extensive travel to exotic places brought stories of interest and intrigue relayed with the greatest of ease. Fishing was his passion in times of quiet tranquil retreat. At Christmas time if your taste buds dictated a goose a word with Paul and your goose was assured along with the proviso "goose fat

tops for flavour".

Always willing and dependable he will be sorely missed in the workplace. His friends and colleagues in Cavan wish him and his wife Carmel a long and happy retirement as we say farewell to "A Very Popular Man".

Fiona O'Reilly



Paul Comiskey



Colin Gaffney

Colin Gaffney retires from Special Criminal Court

Colin Gaffney retired from the Courts Service after a long and fruitful career. He began his working life as an executive with General Electric in the early 1960's. He answered an ad for a Provincial District Court Clerk and after stints as a roaming Court Clerk was appointed to Dundalk. It is a testament to his character and public service that to this day he is still highly respected and much thought of there.

In his last ten years Colin was Registrar of the Special Criminal Court. He could do the job blindfolded and was a deep font of knowledge concerning that Court. Sergeant Albert Bell describes Colin as "a very obliging, helpful person. Gardaí would always accept his judgment and advice on any matter."

Mr. Justice Butler was fascinated with Colin's computer-like mind and marveled at his ability to recall any fact pertaining to a case and how easily he could locate a court record or case details without resort to an electronic search. "He was most helpful, particularly to young barristers, and to new judges

particularly those not familiar with the Special Criminal Court".

Michael O'Donovan, Prosecution Solicitor, described Colin as "part of the fabric of the place...he could remember a case from thirty years ago as if it was yesterday. He brought all this accumulated knowledge to the Special Criminal Court and I for one was a grateful beneficiary of his wisdom".

Felix McEnroy, Senior Counsel, says that Colin "was easy to approach and trusted by everyone. Criminal trials are often very tense and Colin's moral authority and calm often defused tense situations. His success was that each person who dealt with him came away with a feeling that he was a civil servant of the First Class".

Usher Philip Gillick worked closely with Colin over many years. "He was a very honest and sincere man and on behalf of all the ushers I wish him every health and happiness in his retirement".

Bernard Neary

Paddy Clarke retires from Naas Circuit Court

Patrick Clarke retired recently from Naas Circuit Court office after 10 years with the Courts Service. He had previously worked in the Revenue Commissioners.

Chief Clerk Imelda Grogan recalls a "truly amazing person" who was "helpful, loyal, kind and generous in every way". Paddy will be especially remembered for the major role he played in the development of a computerised jury system in the office. "We wanted to modernise the jury selection system from a totally manual operation. Paddy carried out the testing and provided the feedback for the system which has since progressed and is now being used nationwide. Full marks to Paddy for giving me the assistance and encouragement for this undertaking. The Courts Service is reaping the rewards of the good work in which he played a significant part".

Paddy intends to spend his time helping his 'friends in need'. He enjoys helping others, visiting people in

hospital and doing various types of charity work. He is looking forward to driving for the "Meals on Wheels" service in Newbridge and serenading all at Mass

with the "In Caelo" choir.

His colleagues in Naas wish him a long and happy future. And so say all of us.



Back row (left to right): Bernie Talty, Patricia Breslin, Marian Hall, Imelda Grogan, Mary Doyle, Nuala Kane
Front row (left to right): Paddy Clarke and Deirdre McAuley

Obituaries

Mr. Justice Declan Costello - an appreciation

The many tributes paid to the late Mr. Justice Declan Costello have tended to dwell on his political career and understandably so. Few have matched the qualities of idealism, imagination and energy he brought to that career and it is all the more remarkable that he was never given the opportunity of making use of those talents for the public benefit in ministerial office. But recognition of the outstanding contribution he made in that sphere has tended to overshadow his many achievements in the law, as junior and senior counsel, attorney general, judge of the High Court and, ultimately, President of that court.

His wide ranging knowledge of the law, industry and shrewdness of judgment ensured his success at the Bar, but were also conspicuous in his later career. The expression 'not one to suffer fools gladly' has sometimes been used by way of a compliment, but also as a euphemism for rudeness and even arrogance. Those were qualities totally foreign to Declan Costello who throughout his time on the Bench was the epitome of fairness and courtesy. But he also expected others to match his high standards of probity when they were in court, whether as witnesses, solicitors or counsel. He not only expected counsel and solicitors not to mislead the judge – and, in fairness, they rarely did – but he also did not mask his disapproval for ill-prepared work.

The range of cases he dealt with as a judge was vast and is amply reflected in the number of his judgments which appeared in the law reports and which will continue to form part of our legal heritage for many years to come. At the Bar he had specialised in intellectual property cases in addition to other areas of the law and he was, of course, assigned to hear such cases as a High Court judge. The mastery of the law and rigorous reasoning evident in such judgments led to their frequent citation in the United Kingdom and as far afield as Australia. Perhaps the most notable was his decision on the parameters of commercial confidentiality in the *House of Spring Gardens* case. That judgment was unanimously upheld in the Supreme Court, and those in search of authoritative guidance would be well advised not to confine



Mr. Justice Declan Costello

themselves to the judgments on appeal. In an entirely different area, his judgment in the notoriously difficult field of proprietary estoppel in *Re JR* is an admirable example of a just result arrived at without any sacrifice of legal principle.

His tenure of office as Attorney-General was notable for the achievement by him of two major reforms in the law. It was perfectly understandable that successive taoisigh in nominating the attorney-general were concerned to have as the legal adviser to the government someone in general sympathy with their own political outlook. That does not in any way preclude the attorney from exercising his or her functions in a manner independent of political pressure. But it had given rise to the perception that criminal prosecutions might be subject to such pressures and the establishment by him of the office of Director of Public Prosecutions was a long overdue reform. So too was the setting up of the Law Reform Commission, a recognition that the bringing of the law into harmony with changing social conditions should not be dependent on what might seem popular at any particular time or on sporadic reform at the judicial level.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, Joan, and their children three of whom followed him into the law. His achievements in the law, along with his uniquely distinctive contribution to political life, will be long remembered.

Ronan Keane

Mr. Justice Ronan Keane is a former Chief Justice of Ireland

Remembering Judge John Garavan

The death took place recently of the much loved, retired District Court judge for Galway, John Garavan.

Judge Garavan was born in Castlebar on 30th September 1933. Educated originally at St. Patrick's Castlebar, he attended secondary school in St. Gerald's Castlebar and Blackrock College Dublin. He went on to UCD where he studied law and politics - graduating with a BA in 1955, and qualifying as a solicitor in 1956. Not one to take his time, he established his own practice in Castlebar in 1957.

Outside of the law Judge Garavan had a very full life, typified by a great sense of duty, fun and at times mischief. He served as the Hon Secretary, Chairman and President of Castlebar Lawn Tennis Club from 1958, and was also the Hon Secretary and President of the Connaught Branch of the Irish Lawn

Tennis Association. He served as the (national) President of the Irish Lawn Tennis Association in 1969.

Entering politics for a while he was elected to the Castlebar District Council in 1967 and was its chairman in 1970. He was the President of the St. Vincent de Paul in the Archdiocese of Tuam from 1970-76 and represented the Archdiocese on the National Council of the Laity. He was Chairman of St. Gerald's College Board of Management from 1998, and Chairman of the Mayo Historical Society from 1986-92.

During his years on the Bench he served as the District Judge in Galway and the Gaeltacht and Aran Islands. He also sat on the Special Criminal Court.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, sons Mark, Eoin and Hugh, daughter Jeananne, and grandchildren.



Judge John Garavan

Outside of the law Judge Garavan had a very full life, typified by a great sense of duty, fun and at times mischief

Remembering Brian Lenihan



Brian Lenihan

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Brian Lenihan T.D. recently.

Mr. Lenihan's involvement with the legal system began in Trinity College where he obtained an LL.B (First Class). He went on to Sidney Sussex College,

Cambridge where he gained an LL.M (First Class). He returned to Ireland to lecture in law in Trinity College in 1984, the same year he was called to the Bar. He was a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal and the Garda Síochána Complaints Appeal Board between 1992 and 1995 and was called to the Inner Bar in 1997.

He was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1996 as a TD for Dublin West. He served as Minister of State for Children between 2002 and 2007 and as Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform between June 2007 and May 2008 before being appointed Minister for Finance. Mr. Lenihan was married to Circuit Court Judge Patricia Ryan.

Though his time as Justice Minister was short, he supported many Courts Service initiatives including the Capital

Building Programme and the investment in information and communications technology (ICT).

Chief Executive Officer Brendan Ryan recalls a man who was personable, approachable and very supportive. "He was always on top of his brief and willing to entertain proposals for the improvement of the administration of the courts. It was a great help that he had an extensive knowledge of the workings of the legal system – he could hit the ground running. He was pleasant and easy to deal with and at official functions would have a word for everybody. It is such a pity to lose a person of his ability and skill and with such potential at the age of 52."

"I extend my sympathies and those of the staff of the Courts Service to our judicial colleague Patricia Ryan and assure her of our support at this difficult time. We are also thinking of their children, Tom and Claire."



The guests enjoying the sounds from The Electric Maynooth Gospel Choir

A Summer Evening in Smithfield

The recent Summer Evening provided a great opportunity for retired members of the judiciary and Courts Service staff to catch up with old friends and colleagues. Chief Executive Brendan Ryan praised the retired staff for their contribution to the Courts Service and told all present that the organisation owes them a debt of gratitude – “your efforts will stand the test of time” he said. The guests were entertained by The Electric Maynooth Gospel Choir who nearly lifted the roof off Phoenix House.

Employee Assistance Officer Deirdre Maye and her team of helpers are to be congratulated for organising the event. Thanks to everyone who came along.



Dolores Kelly, (left) with Dermot and Susan Farrelly



Jimmy Murphy (left) with Maura and Paddy Cope

Admiralty Mace on display

Registrar of the High Court Central Office and current Admiralty Marshall Paula Healy joined Mr. Justice Brian McGovern of the High Court and others in Trinity College recently to view the Mace of the former High Court of Admiralty in Ireland. The Mace, which is kept in the silver collection, was left to the college by graduate Desmond G I Horan, the son of the late Gerald Horan KC, Master of the High Court.



Pictured are Paula Healy, George Williams (curator) and Mr. Justice Brian McGovern.



John (back row centre) with the volunteers in Dublin Airport

Out of the office with..... John O'Dea

In April John O'Dea from the Office of Wards of Court travelled to Zambia with ZAMDA (Irish Zambian Aid Project) to help construct a two-classroom school for the children of Kangomba.

ZAMDA is a charitable organisation set up through St. Joseph's C.B.S. in Fairview to provide developmental aid to Kabwe a town in Zambia with a population of approximately 200,000. A close bond has developed between ZAMDA and the local community in Kangomba a rural settlement about 20 kilometres from Kabwe. When the construction of a two-classroom school was identified as a key priority, ZAMDA agreed to build and fund the project during 2011.

The closure of the major lead and zinc mines of Kabwe has led to

high unemployment. Kabwe suffers from terrible poverty and is greatly affected by the AIDS epidemic. It is also reckoned to be one of the ten most polluted places in the world due to heavy metal waste products (mostly lead and zinc) making their way into the local water supply. Since 2005, ZAMDA has funded a number of important projects in Kangomba, including the installation of a well. The well provides a clean water supply and has transformed the lives of locals through the elimination of deadly illnesses such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea.

Twelve ZAMDA volunteers including teachers, civil servants, a bar worker, third level students, and one builder – the key individual – travelled to Kangomba. The work began by clearing a site and mixing

sand, stone and cement for the foundations. Over the next two weeks blocks were laid and a roof added. Since our arrival back home the school has been fitted out with tables, chairs etc. and classes for the local children have started. The budget for the school construction and fit-out was €6,000 and the project was completed on time and within budget.

The numerous problems facing countries such as Zambia are complex and progress will take considerable time and require major investment. In the overall context of things, the new school in Kangomba will probably make little difference. However, for a minimal outlay, it will make a measurable difference to the lives of the children and offer additional hope for the future.

To find out more about ZAMDA, contact John directly in the Office of Wards of Court 01 888 6274. There is also a website - www.zamda.ie and Facebook page ZAMDA IRELAND.





Start spreading the news

NYC is cheerful, not cheap but lively value to be had

We've covered it before but you can never get enough of New York city. Having pulled an all nighter of work and study without a wink, and having not managed to shut his eyes on the plane, **Gerry Curran** found himself in Times Square in the city that never sleeps:

The new improved Times Square is a joy to behold. It has a theme park type feel - city does theatre dreamland type thing. But the 'life' of Times Square is well pushed out of town. Gone is the sense of excess, bawdiness and availability which - pre Giuliani - were typical of this part of town. Hello public order and tourist ambassadors saying 'hi'. Different? Yes. Better? Maybe.

Hotels

New York does not do cheap accommodation. Factor in a €140 allowance per night for any sort of

decent central hotel double room. Check out the Paramount and Stay hotels both on the edge of the Square. An apartment in Midtown on the East Side will cost about €65 per night if you book for two weeks. But it's a bit far to the more interesting West Side which has the Soho, West Village, Meatpacking and Chelsea districts.

Things a changing

What's happened to Hell's Kitchen? Dive bars strut their stuff beside diners to die for, amidst pretty community gardens and schools,

off thoroughfares out of Hill Street Blues. At Rudy's (627 9th Ave between 44th & 45th) firemen and postmen mingle with matrons who should know better. Sticking out like sore thumbs the visitors marvel at the pint for €2. Don't forget to leave a dollar a drink on the bar... service people work for minimum or no wages and depend on the tips. Night time and there are clubs, theatres, diners and pre theatre specials all around this area - as it leads towards Broadway's delights. Heavily discounted tickets for the shows are on sale after 11 a.m. each morning at



Don't forget to leave a dollar a drink on the bar... service people work for minimum or no wages and depend on the tips

the 'red steps' booth at the Central Park end of the Square. Industry, (355 W 52nd Street between 8th & 9th), is a new, happening spot from early evening with live shows some nights.

Cheapo things

The free ferry to Staten Island goes every half hour and takes you by the Statue of Liberty. The High Line Park on the West Side is a gem of reclaimed infrastructure built on the former raised train line. Recently extended, it's a wonderful stroll from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to West 30th Street. Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, and explore the delights of DUMBO (Down Under Manhattan and Brooklyn Overpasses), get a pizza in Grimaldi's on Old Fulton Street, eat it in the waterfront Brooklyn Bridge Park (with free wi-fi) and wander round the quirky shops in converted storehouses. You can get the train back or walk over the Manhattan Bridge or stay for a view of Manhattan

at night from the Promenade, along Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights.

Another day take a subway one stop east from Grand Central terminal under the East river to Long Island City - a newly gentrified part of the city. Stunning views of the city skyline, with the UN headquarters straight in front of you, chi chi cafes and galleries abound, and down towards the exit from the Queensboro Bridge, is where the old Times Square moved to - if you like a bit of gambling, dancing, edginess and the like.



Midtown Girls & Boyz

The view of the Empire State building from the 20th floor bar of 230 Fifth Avenue is amazing. Drinks are Dublin prices but the terrace is a joy to behold - very SITC. As it's only a couple of blocks from Macys, pick it as a rendezvous to view what the pals have bought. Go from there to dinner in Tao (42 East 58th Street) and see how New York princesses dine - expect more Dublin prices but gorgeous food and an amazing venue. It's busy and big so book well in advance.

St Patrick's Cathedral is well worth a visit as is Central Park for an early morning pre breakfast stroll - eerily quiet in such a noisy city. Exit on the south west side and pop into the Warner Center at Columbus Circle to see the nice things other people buy, even if you have to pass the hideous Trump Towers to get there. Call to the nearby Daffys (1775 Broadway and 57th) for great bargains and hilarious throw backs of fashion.

€10 gets you a breakfast, which will last until teatime, in one of the many diners on 9th Ave between 47th & 57th. Take a train and stroll afterwards around the Village and West Village before hitting the bars in the historic Stonewall equality rights area.

The New York Times is \$5 on a Sunday - but worth it - a pleasure to ponder over in somewhere like Washington Square Park where students mix with frisbee-throwing families. Oh and Anderson Cooper from CNN lives nearby - you can catch him cycling around some weekends. Expect a frugal New

Yorker to ask for sections of the paper you're not 'using'!

Cheapest time to fly is in the first half of the year as the busiest times in NYC are the autumn and winter for the 'Holidays'. City that never sleeps - that's for sure. ■

Media Law - Ireland

In the age of the super injunction, Andrea Martin's new guide 'Media Law - Ireland' provides many answers and poses one big question. It answers the top 100 media law questions for practitioners, media owners, writers, broadcasters and court reporters. It leaves one big question unanswered - namely is there any situation in the day to day life of publishing or broadcasting that the book does not cover?

Martin - a well known defamation lawyer and broadcast commentator who worked in-house as a lawyer in RTE and now with Eugene F Collins - provides information on the basics of the legal system in the opening chapters and goes quickly into the updated defamation laws, taking account of the Defamation Act 2009. She gives the new and the experienced an insight into

defamation court procedure, a look at media regulation and examines the areas of copyright, privacy and data protection.

Not a great big legal tome - nor 'Martin on Defamation Law' in its style - it is an accessible book which even the most experienced practitioner and the most war weary hack should have to hand. No student of law or journalism should be without it - as it provides almost ready made answers to questions of law and practice.

The plain English writing style allows for ease of access to those unfamiliar with the law, who may have queries in relation



to areas such as PR, advertising or general publishing. The book makes great use of case law, cross referencing of questions and work areas, and is example and scenario driven. And no, there is no situation left uncovered.

It might well be a lifesaver near exam time!

Gerry Curran of Curran Communications Limited is Media Relations Service provider to the Courts Service

'COME FLY WITH ME' sky's the limit for plucky Courts Service staff

Four members of staff of Dublin District Court Summons Office and the Criminal Courts of Justice did a Skydive in aid of the Make-A-Wish Foundation recently. The hardy four, Emma Smith, Vicky Kenny, Helen Thornton and Maeve Foley, raised funds in advance by hosting a table quiz supported by colleagues many of whom couldn't believe that anyone would voluntarily jump out of a plane. But the fun was only starting:

Arriving in Birr the hardy four found themselves signing their lives away, and getting suited and booted. Helen was first to go and spent 20 minutes doing breathing exercises before her jump! She had a smooth landing and was handing out free advice to everyone. This advice proved useless to Emma as her parachute failed in the sky so a recovery parachute was required. Luckily, she knew nothing of the drama unfolding throughout her fall! The Emma saga caused much distress for Vicky and Maeve who watched the parachute drift into mid air. "Relax it's only a parachute malfunction" they were told! So off they went and shortly after, a parachute landed at top speed (people ran to safety) and Maeve skidded along the ground on her knees, rock star-esquel. To top it off,

Vicky's instructor did an Evil Knievel and jumped out backwards, tumbling three times before her parachute opened. But she arrived safe to the ground with a professional landing!

The brave jumpers thank all those who supported them in their adventure - they raised almost €4,000 for this worthy charity.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children between the ages of 3 and 18 with life threatening medical conditions. A wish granted helps provides respite from their normal routines of hospitals, doctors and treatment. Visit the charity's website at www.makeawish.ie to read some of the wishes granted and for details of how to donate and/or become involved with the charity.



The hardy four: Front row - Maeve Foley and Vicky Kenny. Back row - Emma Smith and Helen Thornton

Tales from the District Court

This all lies your Worship', is the amusing title of the recently launched book by retired District Court Judge Mary Kotsonouris. The words in the title are from a story in the book from a District Court in Nenagh, before legal aid and from the mouth of a man who the author told those at the launch, "played the fool, but was crazy like the fox". The judge said that the book was funny, sad, and boring. It was people telling stories and even if some were made up it didn't matter because it was their court.

She said the book explored the extraordinary phenomenon that is the District Court. It was created by 27 brave appointees in 1922 who served as new judges in the middle of the Civil War, appointed by a State which had not been founded as it had no Constitution.

"They were confident and courageous and willing to do their best for a people who had lost two sets of local courts - both the Petty Sessions and the Dail Courts. They put legal remedies within easy reach of people". She noted that in attendance were the children of two

of those original District Justices – Ms. Rosemary Gleeson and retired High Court President Mr. Justice Richard Johnson.

The Press Ombudsman, Professor John Horgan, who was launching the book, "with a mix of admiration and fear", said that "it was an excellent reflection of its author: kaleidoscopic, learned, good-natured, and wise". While he noted that the book contained many anecdotes, he said that they were all purposeful and related closely to the book's implicit theme – the strength of the District Court system as a "people's court" in which the interaction between the legal system and the community was intimate, immediate, and generally highly effective. "One could get law in any court", he said, "but it is perhaps easier to get justice in the District Court than anywhere else".

Professor Horgan said that it was also



Pictured from left: Former Chief Justice Mr. Justice Ronan Keane; Judge Mary Kotsonouris and Press Ombudsman Prof. John Horgan

a book of deep seriousness, with a strong contemporary relevance. The author's research into the historical background of issues like children's rights, the remuneration of judges, and the problems of dealing with judges who had for one reason or another departed from the high standards of their profession is especially noteworthy. Readers of the book, he concluded, would be not only amused, but instructed, enriched – and even challenged – by its theme and its contents.

Judge Kotsonouris finished by saying there is a real need for a proper history of the District Court to be written - and all the papers are there if anyone is up to the challenge! ■



Pictured from left: Charles Moran (Captain), Matt Cahill (Winner) and Declan Power at the last outing in Malahide

Courts Service Golf Society update

The first outing of 2011 was in Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort on 21st April during the Easter vacation. The second was in Malahide Golf Club on 16th June. The next outing will be in Newbridge Golf Club on 8th September. The cost (€25) includes the green fee and competitions entry. The outing for the Captain's Prize will be in Moyvalley on 22nd September - details will be circulated in September.

The Society has both serving and retired members of the Courts Service and all standards from the beginner to the single figure golfer. The emphasis is on meeting old friends, making new friends and enjoying good golf courses at reasonable prices. All outings are during court vacation periods. The captain for 2011 is Charles Moran (recently retired Taxing Master).

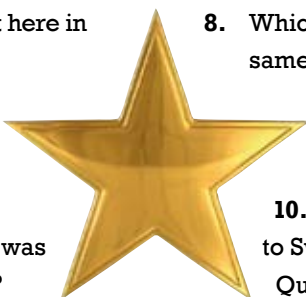
If you wish to join or just want more information contact: Declan Power, Secretary, Tel: 01 8886301, DeclanPPower@courts.ie

Quiz★Time



Now that our prestigious overseas visitors have gone home and we focus on electing a new President, time to test our knowledge of things Presidential:

1. Based on their age at the date of their election to their first term in office who was the youngest President of Ireland elected?
2. What year was Áras an Uachtaráin built?
3. What was the name of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who paid a State visit here in 2002?
4. Which Irish President attended the Vatican Enthronement of Pope John Paul II?
5. Based on their age at the date of their election to their first term in office who was the oldest President of Ireland elected?
6. Which American President or Presidents were in power during Sean T. O'Ceallaigh's term as President of Ireland?
7. Who was President of Ireland when King Juan Carlos I came to the throne in Spain?
8. Which French President was elected to office the same year that Eamon De Valera was elected as President of Ireland?
9. Which President of Ireland served the shortest term in office?
10. Which Irish President made a State visit to Sweden to meet King Carl XVI Gustav and Queen Silvia of Sweden?



Answers should be emailed to courtsservicenews@courts.ie or hard copies can be sent to **Fiona Farrell**, Courts Service Information Office, 15/24 Phoenix Street North, Smithfield, Dublin 7. **Closing date for receipt of entries is Friday 26th August 2011**

Answers to the March Quiz

(1) Substitute – The Who (2) Brilliant Disguise – Bruce Springsteen (3) Should I stay or should I go – The Clash (4) Reeling in the Years – Steely Dan (5) Dancing in the Moonlight – Thin Lizzy (6) Percussion section (7) 4 (8) Guitar and castanets (9) Foreigner and Journey (Def Leppard/Thin Lizzy/Alice Cooper were accepted as this gig was announced after the quiz was compiled) (10) Lipstick

Congratulations to...

Eoin Manning, District Court Family Law Office being presented with his prize on our behalf by his colleague Maria Keaveney

