



ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CONFERENCE & RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Environmental law research at UCC continues to go from strength to strength, with researchers recognised internationally for their high-impact publications and policy engagement in such fields as environmental justice, marine law, water law, climate law, ecosystems law and environmental regulation. The newly established Centre for Law and the Environment heralds renewed commitment to quality research in this important field.

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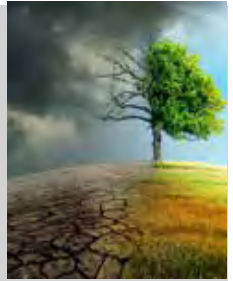
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Welcome to the School of Law at University College Cork, one of the top 150 Law schools in the world (QS rankings 2018)

*Professor Ursula Kilkelly,
Dean, School of Law*

Welcome to the new Newsletter of the School of Law at University College Cork. As Dean, it is my particular pleasure to see our newsletter revitalised, as an essential part of our strategy to stay connected to you, our graduates and stakeholders. At UCC, we are immensely proud of what we do – in our scholarship, in our academic programmes and our external engagement activity – and we hope that this newsletter will help us to spread the word to a wider audience.

In this new format, we are pleased to present you with a regular snapshot of developments in the School that we hope will be of interest. We hope too that it will help you to stay up-to-date with the fast-paced and diverse activities of the School and the wonderful work done

by the staff, students and alumni of the School. Our newsletter has several features. Each edition will focus on an area of our research expertise – in this edition, the focus is on Environment and Sustainability to coincide with the 16th annual Law and the Environment Conference and the launch of our new research Centre for Law and the Environment. We also intend to have regular alumni features, to shine a light on specific areas of importance. In each edition, the Newsletter will bring some of the School's diverse expertise to your desktop and we will be celebrating the achievements of students, staff and alumni in each edition.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this first edition and look forward to your feedback on this important initiative.

[Sign up to School communications](#)



EVENTS

On 26th April 2018, the School of Law hosted the 16th annual Law and the Environment Conference, which this year focused on the theme of *Environmental Responsibility, Accountability and Liability*, and included specialist sessions on Brexit and Environmental Law, Climate Litigation, Marine Environmental Law and New Technologies and Environmental Liability

[Check out our new Centre for Law and Environment website](#)

This conference is firmly established as a unique event in the Irish and European environmental law calendar. In addition to the most important Irish experts, UCC welcomed presentations from leading scholars and practitioners from the US, the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands.

The Conference provides an important forum for the exchange of views among policy-makers and regulators, regulated operators, the environmental NGO community, the legal professions and the academic community.

In conjunction with the *Law and the Environment Conference*, the School of Law also hosted the 10th annual *Postgraduate Research Symposium in Environmental Law*, which attracted PhD scholars from around the world researching on environmental law to present their research findings, share ideas and network with their peers.

Mental Health Law Conference 2018

The Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, School of Law, University College Cork and the Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association held their 2018 conference on Mental Health Law and Capacity Law in UCC on 12th May 2018. The conveners of the conference were Dr Darius Whelan, School of Law, UCC and Ms Joan Doran, Solicitor, Chairperson of the Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association.

Topics discussed included Recent Developments in Mental Health Law, Dealing with Capacity Issues in Practice, and Children and the Mental Health Act 2001.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Each year, around 12 postgraduate researchers are selected to present at the Symposium, and are also invited to attend the Conference as guests of the Law School, where they network with the speakers and other participants. This year participants came from a number of countries and from as far away as South Africa.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



EXPERTISE @ the School of Law

Environment and Sustainability

As an expert in the field of international environmental law, Prof Owen McIntyre is particularly interested in the complex and dynamic processes by which international rules are formed for the protection of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources. A recent book chapter on 'Changing Patterns of International Environmental Law-Making' was published as part of an edited collection entitled "The Effectiveness of Environmental Law"(Intersentia, Cambridge/Antwerp/ Portland, 2017) 187-220"

 [Download the full article](#)

Dr Aine Ryall is Vice-Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee at the UN

Dr Áine Ryall's research concentrates on the intersections between international, European Union and national environmental law, with a particular focus on implementation of the Aarhus Convention. The Convention is a multi-lateral environmental agreement which links environmental rights and human rights and Dr Ryall serves as Vice-Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee which is based at the United Nations Office in Geneva

Drawing on Ireland as an example, in a recent book chapter Áine explores how domestic legal systems engage with obligations arising under EU law and international human rights law and the role of the national judiciary in implementing the Aarhus Convention: "The Aarhus Convention: A Force for Change in Irish Environmental Law and Policy?" in Caranta R, Gerbrandy, A and Müller, B (eds), The Making of a New European Legal Culture: the Aarhus Convention (Europa Law Publishing, 2017)

 [Purchase the book here](#)

The School of Law contributed three chapters to the Handbook on Marine Environment Protection - Science, Impacts & Sustainable Management (Springer, 2018).

Dr Bjørn-Oliver Magsig, Ciarán McCarthy and Dr Bénédicte Sage-Fuller covered the topics Management of Invasive Alien Species; Sustainable Shipping; and Greening of Ports for the handbook, which is the first of its kind to provide a clear, accessible and comprehensive introduction to the most important challenges facing the marine environment. The book guides readers through the vast array of concepts, policies and laws, as well as the various actors that influence our ability to manage our oceans and contribute to sustainable 'blue growth'. It is essential reading for scientists, policy-makers, lawyers and practitioners in the field of marine environment.

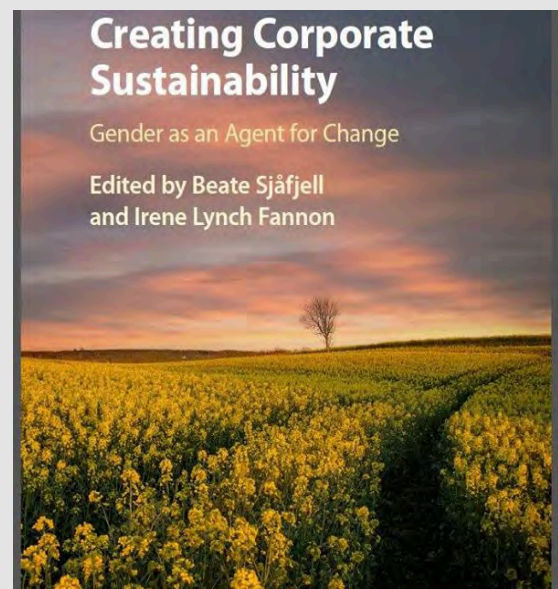
 [Purchase the book here](#)

Professor Irene Lynch Fannon has co-edited a collection "Creating Corporate Sustainability: Gender as an Agent for Change" (Cambridge University Press, 2018) with Prof. Beate Sjøfjell which includes contributions from Prof. Lynch Fannon and Dr Catherine O'Sullivan, School of Law UCC.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)

This contribution by Dr Bjørn-Oliver Magsig, Director of the LLM programme in Marine and Maritime Law, and other lecturers on this programme, is testimony to the leading expertise that students will be able to benefit from in the areas of marine environmental protection, maritime, law enforcement at sea, as well as port and shipping activities.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



ALUMNI NEWS

Annual Dublin Winter Reunion

A large gathering of the School of Law's Dublin-based graduates assembled at the Spencer Hotel on 6th December 2017 to celebrate our third winter alumni event!

This year we invited Dr Catherine Day former Secretary General to the EU Commission, currently Chair of the Governing Body of University College Cork, as a guest speaker. Catherine delivered a thoughtful and insightful speech on the European Union post-Brexit and challenged us to think about what the European Union will look like into the future. Brexit presents an opportunity for us in Ireland and so Dr Day concluded with a call for various parts of Irish society including media, politicians, influencers such as Universities and academics and our alumni community to debate the European Union in more depth, asking ourselves what we think the European Union is for?

In our section on New Research Clusters, you can read about the European Business Law Network at the School of Law at University College Cork.

On 23rd March 2018, the School of Law held an event on *Brexit: The likely Outcome and the New Realities for Ireland* featuring two of our adjunct Professors, Judge Anthony Collins of the General Court of the European Union and Dr Vincent Power of A&L Goodbody Solicitors, in addition to Dr Mary Murphy of the UCC Department of Government and Politics. This event was Chaired by Deirdre Clune MEP and extremely well attended by an audience of students, practitioners and interested members of the public.

We hope to organise an autumn alumni event in Cork featuring our adjunct Professoriate speaking on the broad theme of Law Schools, Legal Practice and the Future of the Legal Profession.

The event is part of our new alumni and development strategy, and we would like to hear from all our graduates wherever they are.

Prof. Irene Lynch Fannon, Director of External Engagement and Alumni Relations, School of Law, University College Cork.



GRADUATE FEATURES: Michael Prendergast

Working with the United Nations Refugee Agency

Building on the success of UCC School of Law’s LLM International Human Rights Law and Public Policy, our Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights enjoys an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research in the fields of human rights and refugee law.

Michael Prendergast is the Associate External Relations Officer with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Jordan.

How many of us will ever forget the images of Alan Kurdi’s lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach in September 2015?

The image of the two-year-old refugee lying face down on that beach sparked a wave of outrage across Europe and encouraged thousands of people to offer their support to those fleeing the violence in Syria. However, coverage of the conflict and the humanitarian crisis associated with it has subsided as the media turn their attention elsewhere.

For Michael Prendergast, a UCC School of Law graduate and Associate External Relations Officer with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Jordan, a different situation exists.

“The level of destruction of infrastructure and the unavailability of basic services like running water and education makes it impossible [for Syrians] to resume normal life”. For Michael, this presents a challenge as there is now “increased pressure from some countries for refugees to return home”.

Michael’s role demands that he and his colleagues at UNHCR constantly *“convey the importance of maintaining asylum space in host countries... especially given the anti-refugee rhetoric which is increasingly present in the media and in politics”.*

The scale of the humanitarian crisis and the burden placed on countries in the Middle East dwarfs anything seen in Europe. Therefore, UNHCR continues to highlight the pressing needs of the displaced population and the extraordinary generosity of those countries which continue to host the large majority of refugees.

 [LISTEN TO OUR FULL INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL PRENDERGAST ON THE LAW AND JUSTICE PODCAST](#)



NEW RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Centre for Children's Rights and Family Law

The School of Law is proud to announce the establishment of the Centre for Children's Rights and Family Law, which was launched with an international symposium on frontier research in April 2018.

As part of the launch of the new Centre for Children's Rights and Family Law, the School of Law at UCC recently played host to a group of distinguished international scholars in these fields, including visiting Fulbright scholar and international children's rights expert Professor Jonathan Todres.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)

The Child Law Clinic at University College Cork is a pro-bono legal research service provided by students for lawyers that aims to enhance the quality of litigation in children's cases with a view to achieving progressive reform of child law in Ireland and internationally. Since its foundation in 2010, the Clinic has assisted lawyers in litigation at all levels in the Irish courts, as well as in the European Court of Human Rights in the O'Keeffe v Ireland case. It has also appeared as an amicus before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and hosted a number of conferences, seminars and public information events around constitutional and legal reform.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



The Family Law Clinic is an innovation of Dr Louise Crowley of the School of Law that allows students to contribute to the process of Irish family law reform, whilst enhancing the levels of public knowledge and understanding. The Clinic has established and maintains a dedicated online information hub relating to all aspects of family law, updated by the students of the Clinic under the supervision of the Clinic director. Additionally, the students of the Clinic publish blogs on the website addressing key contemporary family law issues. Students also participate in the legal research service provided by the Clinic for practitioners, providing guidance in the ever-evolving regulation of modern family formations.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)

The European Business Law Network at the School of Law, University College Cork



The European Business Law Network at the School of Law at University College Cork is designed to provide a platform for the sharing of knowledge and research amongst scholars in the School of Law with shared interests in many aspects of the European Union.

With the imminence of Brexit our identification as a common law system within Europe and the Eurozone is all the more compelling. The functions of the European Business Law Network will be as follows:

- To provide a platform for current research strengths in this intellectual space.
- To provide a network for collaboration amongst researchers at UCC across a range of disciplines relevant to calls for applications for funded research under Horizon 2020 and its successor Horizon Europe.

- To maximise our engagement with scholars internationally.
- To maximise our engagement with policy makers both nationally and internationally.

The European Business Law Network will be led by a Board of academics taken from the network of scholars based at the School of Law at University College Cork. At present members are:

Professor Irene Lynch Fannon

<http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/B012/ilynchfannon>

Professor Mary Donnelly

<http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/B012/mdonnelly>

Dr Fidelma White

<http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/B012/fwhite>

Mr Declan Walsh

<http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/B012/declanwalsh>

The Network will interact proactively and inclusively with other initiatives at the School of Law, such as the Research Colloquium Initiative and the Centre for Law and the Environment.

OUR LLM & DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

The news items featured in this Newsletter reflect research strengths and teaching activities at the School of Law which also feed into our LLM programmes.

University College Cork has begun a new recruitment initiative *Masters that Matter* supported by Quercus Postgraduate Scholarships which will support students who apply and study for a taught Masters programme in any part of UCC.

The School of Law is participating in this initiative with our **6 LLM Programmes:**

- *LLM Business Law - Programme Director: Dr Fidelma White;*
- *LLM Children's Rights and Family Law - Programme Director: Dr Louise Crowley*
- *LLM Intellectual Property and e-Law - Programme Director: Dr Darius Whelan*
- *LLM International Human Rights Law & Public Policy - Programme Director: Dr Dug Cubie*
- *LLM Environmental & Natural Resources Law - Programme Director: Dr Owen McIntyre*
- *LLM Marine & Maritime Law - Programme Director: Dr Bjørn-Oliver Magsig*

***Huge congratulations to our most recent PhD graduates:
Dr Louise Forde, Dr Sean Whittaker, Dr Anthony O'Dwyer, and Dr Jonathan McCarthy***



UCC School of Law invites applications for full Graduate Research Scholarships

The Graduate Research Scholarships are aimed at outstanding candidates who exceed the criteria for admission to the programme.

The School of Law at University College Cork invites applications for full scholarships for PhD candidates (EU fees plus €16,000 stipend, tenable for up to four years) or LLM by Research candidates (EU fees plus €16,000 stipend, tenable for one year) applying to commence their studies in either October 2018 or January 2019.



Applications are invited on a rolling basis until such time as all scholarships have been awarded. Preference will be given to applications received before the end of July 2018.

For further information, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies:

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