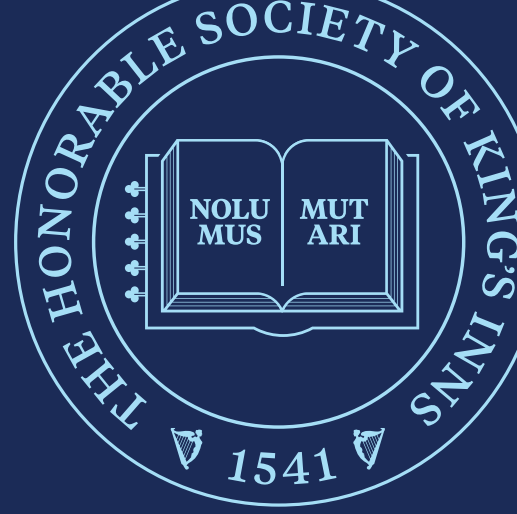
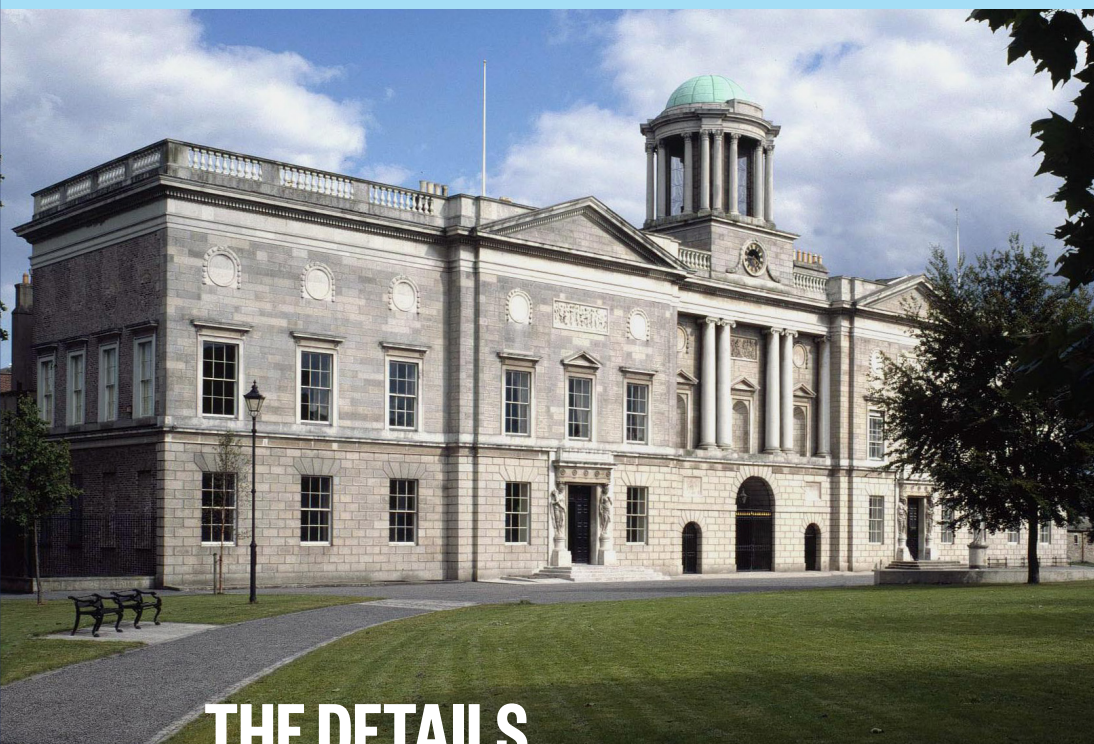




ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Thursday | 6 November | 2025

King's Inns Main Building



THE DETAILS

When

6 November 2025,
9:00am – 5:00 pm

Where

King's Inns
Main Building,
Constitution Hill

Registration Fee

Non-Subscribing
Members: €195.00

Subscribing Members
of King's Inns: €175.00

PROGRAMME

9:00	Registration Tea / Coffee on arrival	13:00	Lunch
9:30	Welcome and Opening Address The Hon Mr Justice Oisín Quinn, Judge of the High Court	14:00	“AI & Legal Practice” Panel Discussion Followed by Q&A, chaired by Dr Barry Scannell, Partner, William Fry LLP & Member of AI Advisory Council, Ireland Speaker - Russell Kane, Consultant in AI and former University Engagement Lead for Microsoft. “AI in Law: Releasing a Future of Opportunities or Navigating a Legal Minefield?”. Panelists - Mr Lee Bristow, Director of Cyber and AI Governance, Saros Consulting - Ms Deirdre Ardagh, Deirdre Ardagh, DPO and Senior Regulatory Counsel with Three
10:00	Mr Jim O’Callaghan TD, Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration	15:20	Tea / Coffee Break
10:30	Keynote Speaker, Mr Ruud van Herpen Global Chief Legal Officer of Xebia Group “From Legal Silo to Strategic Engine: Leading In-House Counsel in a Global Tech Environment” Tea / Coffee Break	15:35	Professional Regulation - Mr Tony Watson, Interim CEO, Legal Services Regulatory Authority; - Ms Sara George, Chair of the Employed Barristers Committee, Bar Council of England and Wales
11:00	“Challenges for In-House Counsel” Panel Discussion Followed by Q&A, chaired by the Hon Mr Justice Oisín Quinn Speaker	16:30	“Beyond the Brief: Wellbeing and Resilience for Legal Professionals” Ms Michelle O’Keeffe, Platform 55
11:30	- Pádraig Ó’Riordáin, Group General Counsel for CRH plc, former Chief Legal Officer for Flutter/PaddyPower and former Managing Partner of Arthur Cox and former graduate of the King’s Inns Panelists - Julie Galbraith, CBO at Arachas Corporate Brokers, Former Partner, Head of Employment & Labour Law, Commercial, Eversheds Sutherland LLP - Etaoin Harbinson, Head of Legal, hyperexponential - Ruud van Herpen Global Chief Legal Officer of Xebia Group - Brian McElligott, Partner and Head of AI, Mason Hayes & Curran	17:00	Networking & Drinks Reception
		18:30	Member Dining (Optional)* *Must be booked separately

9:00 - 15:20 - EXHIBITOR STANDS

A great opportunity to connect with industry and company representatives, learn about their organisations, and explore current and upcoming job opportunities.
STANDS: Office of the AG, DPP, DPC, David Danagher Recruitment Consultant and Brightwater.

BOOKINGS

NON-SUBSCRIBING MEMBER OF KINGS INNS

€195.00

[BOOK HERE](#)

SUBSCRIBING MEMBER OF KINGS INNS

€175.00

[BOOK HERE](#)

OPTIONAL* MEMBER DINING AT 18:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

All bookings must be made through the online booking system.
For enquiries, please contact members@kingsinns.ie

TALKS

FROM LEGAL SILO TO STRATEGIC ENGINE: LEADING IN-HOUSE COUNSEL IN A GLOBAL TECH ENVIRONMENT

An Exploration of the evolving role of In-House Counsel from isolated legal advisors to key strategic partners within global tech companies. It highlights how legal teams can align with business goals, drive innovation, and add value beyond compliance in a fast-paced, technology-driven environment.

CHALLENGES FOR IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

An in-depth discussion on the complex challenges facing In-House Counsel legal teams today, including regulatory pressures, data privacy, cross-border issues, and internal resource constraints. The session concludes with a Q&A, offering practical insights and shared experiences from peers.

AI & LEGAL PRACTICE; AI IN LAW: RELEASING A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITIES OR NAVIGATING A LEGAL MINEFIELD

This session examines the dual nature of AI in the legal field—as a tool that can revolutionize legal services and efficiency, but also one that introduces ethical, regulatory, and liability risks. It invites reflection on how legal professionals can embrace AI responsibly.

LSRA REGULATORY UPDATE

A timely update on recent and upcoming changes from the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA), including regulatory reforms, compliance obligations, and their impact on legal practitioners and firms.

BEYOND THE BRIEF: WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

This session addresses the growing importance of mental health and wellbeing within the legal profession. It offers strategies to manage stress, promote a healthier work culture, and support sustainable legal careers.

MEET THE PANEL



JIM O'CALLAGHAN

TD

Jim is an Irish Fianna Fáil politician who has served as Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration since January 2025. He has been a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Dublin Bay South constituency since the 2016 general election.



OISÍN QUINN

Judge of the High Court

The Hon Mr Justice Oisín Quinn is an Irish judge, lawyer, and former politician who has served as a Judge of the High Court since July 2023. He previously served as Lord Mayor of Dublin from 2013 to 2014, having served as a member of Dublin City Council from 2004 to 2014.



RUUD VAN HERPEN

Global Chief Legal Officer at Xebia Group

Global Chief Legal Officer at Xebia Group, shares his journey of transforming a one-person legal operation into a globally recognized, AI-driven legal department of 14 lawyers spanning four countries. Drawing from over 25 years of dispute management experience and his leadership in scaling legal teams, Ruud will explore the evolving role of In-House Counsel in high-growth environments.

He will address the challenges of providing independent-minded advice while embedded in business strategy, leading through cost pressures, and managing conflict across jurisdictions. The session will also highlight how legal innovation (such as Xebia's AI-Powered Legal Front Door) can elevate legal from a support function to a strategic business enabler. Attendees will gain insights into building resilient legal teams, fostering innovation, and positioning legal as a driver of organizational success.

MEET THE PANEL



PÁDRAIG Ó RÍORDÁIN

Group General Counsel of CRH plc

Pádraig Ó Ríordáin is the Group General Counsel of CRH plc, Ireland's largest indigenous company, having joined the company in 2025.

With over three decades of legal experience, he has advised multinational and domestic corporations across the United States and Europe. Prior to joining CRH, Pádraig served as Chief Legal Officer at Flutter Entertainment plc, the global sports betting company which is also listed on the New York Stock Exchange. He was also a long-standing partner at Arthur Cox LLP, one of Ireland's leading law firms, where he spent 27 years, including eight years as Managing Partner



JULIE GALBRAITH

Solicitor, General Counsel and CBO of Arachas

Julie is an experienced solicitor. She is General Counsel and Chief Business Officer of Arachas. Arachas is Ireland's largest insurance broker with over 800 employees. Julie has over 15 years of experience in the legal sector, most recently as Head of Employment at Eversheds Sutherland. Julie leads a number of key strategic functions within Arachas. She runs the legal function, which encompasses commercial contracts, regulatory, insurance, litigation, real estate, and employment. The HR and marketing and brands team also report into Julie giving her an unrivalled view of the overall business.

Julie is a qualified solicitor in Ireland, England and Wales and a Board member of Croke Park stadium and the Employment Law Association of Ireland.



ETAOIN HARBINSON

Head of Legal at hyperexponential

Head of Legal at hyperexponential, a fast-growing Insurtech company with offices in London, New York, and Warsaw. She leads the company's global legal function, overseeing commercial contracting, corporate governance, AI and data governance, regulatory compliance, and data privacy. Etaoin also advises on strategic initiatives and product development, ensuring legal frameworks align with innovation and growth.

Before joining hyperexponential, Etaoin was the Lead Commercial lawyer at Vanguard, where she led initiatives in procurement and regulatory compliance, including the implementation of frameworks such as DORA. She previously advised on commercial law and data privacy across EMEA at Zendesk, following her career in Dublin as an M&A lawyer working on both public and private transactions. As a member of hyperexponential's leadership team, Etaoin draws on this breadth of experience to partner with business leaders in managing risk, enabling innovation, and driving international expansion in support of hyperexponential's mission to build the decision infrastructure for the insurance ecosystem.



MEET THE PANEL



DR BARRY SCANNELL

Partner in the Technology Group of William Fry

Dr. Barry Scannell is a partner in the Technology Group of William Fry and an alumnus of King's Inns. Barry specialises in AI legal issues, has a PhD in AI and copyright, and is a member of the Government's AI Advisory Council.



MR RUSSELL KANE

Consultant in AI and former University Engagement Lead for Microsoft

Russell Kane explores the impact of AI on businesses through keynote talks and workshops as well as delivering courses for Microsoft on AI. Previously he lead Microsoft's engagement with universities on the island of Ireland. He explores Data and AI technologies across different fields with academic and other partners, from start-ups, SMEs and corporations through to professional bodies utilising workshops and hackathons. He also created and delivered an introductory course on AI for the public in Ireland as well as recording several courses on AI, Design Thinking, Copilot, Future Trends. Before joining Microsoft, he was a computing academic at Queen's University, Belfast for over 20 years, where he focused on Innovation Leadership, delivering talks in US, Europe as well as China and India. He organized hackathons in QUB and internationally, involving various disciplines such as data science, AI, medical, mental health, transport & sustainability. Before academia, he worked in the Public Sector and Fintech Sector.



LEE BRISTOW

Tech Entrepreneur

Lee is a specialist in the strategic governance of AI and cyber risk. His work focuses on guiding leaders through the complexities of AI safety, digital resilience, and the future of work—transforming governance from a compliance hurdle into a strategic enabler.

"I thrive on fostering insightful conversations that help organisations build digital trust, innovate with confidence, and secure their place in a responsible digital future."

MEET THE PANEL



BRIAN MCELLIGOTT

Partner in the Technology Law team of Mason Hayes & Curran and is Head of its Artificial Intelligence (AI) team.

Brian re-joined the firm in January of 2023 having spent time In-House as Chief Intellectual Property counsel with an Irish AI fintech start-up. Brian helps clients prepare for compliance with the AI Act. This involves guiding them through:

- EU AI Act strategy and compliance planning.
- prohibited and high-risk AI systems threshold analyses
- high-risk AI systems compliance planning
- advising LLM / GenAI providers on the GPAI Code of Practice
- working with clients to implement transparency obligations into the output of AI products
- structuring and advising clients on AI Governance and related responsible AI policies and procedure

Prior to working In-House, Brian was a Partner in the MHC intellectual property team with many years' experience in IP and technology law in a number of large firms. He is a proven results-driven and collaborative leader able to navigate complex technology and intellectual property issues in a fast-paced environment. He has a passion for working in diverse technical and complex fields. He has an undergrad in Theoretical Physics.



TONY WATSON

Interim CEO, LSRA

Tony joined the Legal Services Regulatory Authority in September 2019 as the Head of the Complaints & Resolutions Department. At the moment he is the Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Authority. Tony qualified as a solicitor in England and worked as a litigator in London before moving to Ireland in 2005. He worked in the Complaints Section of the Law Society of Ireland, where he was Deputy Head of Complaints, prior to transferring to the Authority. Tony has extensive experience in the regulation of lawyers, and the investigation and resolution of complaints in particular.



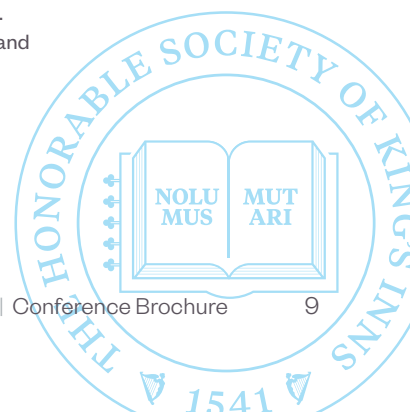
SARA GEORGE

Chair of the Employed Barristers Committee, Bar Council of England and Wales

Sara George is currently the Chair of the Employed Bar Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales.

Sara is Sidley's lead Crisis Management and Strategic Response lawyer in Europe. She is a former prosecutor for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), and brought the first criminal prosecution by the FSA against a director for misleading the market (Regina v. Rigby and Bailey), the first Listing Rule contravention, numerous market abuse cases, and refusals of authorization.

Sara has extensive experience representing corporations in crisis situations and in matters involving allegations of criminal misconduct, including market abuse, insider dealing, money laundering, cybersecurity breaches, fraud, corruption, and bribery.



MEET THE PANEL



DEIRDRE ARDAGH

DPO and Senior Regulatory Counsel at Three Ireland

Deirdre is deeply engaged in fostering a compliance-driven culture while steering strategic growth initiatives. She's a member of the Three Ireland AI Steering Committee and represent Three Ireland on the Hutchison Data Protection Working Group. With many years of experience, as both a barrister and a solicitor, she provides timely legal counsel on data protection, commercial law, and regulatory compliance. Internally, Deirdre actively contributes to education programs and policy development to ensure effective risk management. Externally, she represents Three before regulatory bodies, in both policy development and contentious matters. Previously, as a Partner in the Corporate & Commercial team in private practice, she advised clients on GDPR compliance and data protection obligations, supporting clients with nuanced legal solutions.



MICHELLE O'KEEFFE

Co-Founder | Platform55

Michelle is a pioneering tech entrepreneur and the co-founder of Platform55, a groundbreaking solution dedicated to creating fair and future ready workforces. Their framework helps Close the gender pay gap and meet compliance requirements, Improve employee retention, especially among underrepresented talent groups, Equip People Leaders to drive cultural and behavioural change, Strengthen employer brand and future-proof their workforce and Embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into business operations.

Before establishing Platform55, Michelle enjoyed a successful career in the advertising industry, culminating in her role as Managing Director of The Irish Times digital media agency. Balancing this senior role with the arrival of her daughter provided Michelle with invaluable insights into the challenges of juggling career and parenthood.



Keep in touch

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