ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Thursday | 12 November | 2026

King's Inns Main Building

KINGS INNS 1541

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Henrietta St, Dublin 1,
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THE DETAILS

When
12 November 2026,
9:00am – 5:00 pm

Where
King's Inns
Main Building,
Constitution Hill

PROGRAMME

9:00 **Registration**

9:30 **Welcome and Opening Address**
The Hon Mr Justice Oisín Quinn, Judge of the High Court

'The Role of the Employed Barrister"
The Hon Mr Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court

'The Importance of the Employed Barrister in the Public Sphere"
Rossa Fanning SC, Attorney General

10:30 **Tea / Coffee Break**

11:00 **"Regulatory Challenges for Employed Barristers"** Brian Kennedy SC

"The Regulator's Perspective"
Niamh Muldoon, CEO, Legal Services Regulatory Authority

12:00 **"Challenges for In-House Counsel - Leadership"**
"Leading as an In-House Counsel"
Hannah Carney, Executive Coach, Mentor and Practising Mediator with Diane Duggan, Head of Legal, Supervision and Enforcement, The Electoral Commission Ireland.

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **"The Role of the Employed Barrister in Mediation"** Mark Connaughton SC

14:00 **"Movers and Returners"**
- Sam Mercer, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, Bar Council of England and Wales,
- Genevieve Harris, Middle Temple, Talent Retention Working Group

Artificial Intelligence in Practice: Transforming Dispute Resolution and Legal Strategy
Chair: Rachel Tobin, Global Senior Vice President, Legal & Workplace, Crescendo. Stephen Dowling SC, CEO and Founder, TrialView Maged Helmy, Founder and CEO, Newcode.ai
"AI and Practice"
Robert O'Reilly BL

15:45 **Break**

"Managing Risk in Complex Regulatory Environments: Advising in ambiguity and succeeding as a trusted advisor"

- Helen Whately, Senior Associate General Counsel, Security Legal, Meta
- Hannah Smith, Principal Lawyer, General Pharmaceutical Council
- Darren Dunn, Senior Director, Corporate Investigations and Business Conduct Compliance (Europe), GXO Logistics

Concluding Remarks - The Hon Mr Justice Oisín Quinn

17:00 **Networking & Drinks Reception**

18:30 **Member Dining (optional) – Must be booked separately.**

TALKS

THE ROLE OF THE EMPLOYED BARRISTER

This session explores the evolving role of employed barristers within the modern legal profession, highlighting the breadth of career opportunities available across public service, corporate organisations and regulated industries. It considers the unique contribution employed barristers make to legal practice, public administration and business leadership.

REGULATORY CHALLENGES FOR EMPLOYED BARRISTERS

This session examines the changing regulatory landscape affecting employed barristers, including professional obligations, ethical responsibilities and developments in legal regulation. Speakers will offer perspectives from both practice and regulation, providing practical guidance for legal professionals navigating an increasingly complex environment.

CHALLENGES FOR IN-HOUSE COUNSEL - LEADERSHIP

Focusing on leadership, mediation and career development, this session considers the diverse skills required of today's in-house counsel. Discussions will include leading legal teams, the growing importance of alternative dispute resolution, and supporting career progression through initiatives such as "Movers and Returners", which encourage greater diversity and talent retention within the profession.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PRACTICE: TRANSFORMING DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND LEGAL STRATEGY

Artificial intelligence continues to reshape legal practice. This session explores how AI is transforming dispute resolution, litigation strategy and legal decision-making, while also considering the practical opportunities and governance challenges facing organisations adopting AI technologies.

MANAGING RISK IN COMPLEX REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS

Senior legal leaders from technology, financial services, healthcare regulation and international business will discuss how organisations identify, manage and respond to regulatory risk. The session will provide practical insights into governance, compliance and strategic legal leadership across highly regulated sectors.

MEET THE PANEL



MR JUSTICE DAVID BARNIVILLE

President of the High Court of Ireland

Mr Justice David Barniville was appointed President of the High Court in 2022. Born in Dublin, Mr Justice Barniville was educated at University College Dublin and The Honorable Society of King's Inns. He was called to the Bar of Ireland in 1990 and admitted to the Inner Bar in 2006.

Mr Justice Barniville was appointed to the High Court in 2017 where he served as the judge in charge of the Commercial Division (2019-2021) and the Strategic Infrastructure List (2018-2019). He was, and is again, the judge designated to hear all arbitration matters in the High Court under the Arbitration Act 2010.

He was elevated to the Court of Appeal in August 2021 where he served until his appointment to the office of President of the High Court in July 2022.

Mr Justice Barniville is a member of the Board of the Courts Service, the Judicial Council and the Judicial Appointments Commission. He chairs both the Finance Committee and the Investment Committee of the Courts Service.

He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at University of Limerick and University of Galway. He also serves on the ICC's Governing Board for Dispute Resolution, the Board of Trustees of BAILII, the Advisory Board of the International Bar Association's Judges' Forum and the Implementation Group for Ireland for Law.



THE HON. MR JUSTICE 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.



ROSSA FANNING SC

Attorney General of Ireland

Rossa Fanning SC has served as Attorney General of Ireland since December 2022. Called to the Bar in 1999 and appointed Senior Counsel in 2016, he established a distinguished practice specialising in commercial, constitutional and public law. As Attorney General, he is the Government's principal legal adviser and oversees the provision of legal advice across all areas of public administration.

MEET THE PANEL



BRIAN KENNEDY SC

Senior Counsel

Brian Kennedy SC is a practising Senior Counsel with extensive experience in commercial litigation, professional regulation, administrative law and public law. He regularly advises and represents professional regulators, statutory bodies and regulated professionals, and has appeared in many significant cases before the Irish superior courts. He is recognised for his expertise in professional disciplinary and regulatory matters.



NIAMH MULDOON

Chief Executive Officer, Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA)

Niamh Muldoon is Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority. An experienced regulatory leader and lawyer, she has held senior positions across the public and private sectors, including in human and public health professional regulatory bodies. As CEO of the LSRA, she leads the Authority's work in promoting an independent, accessible and effective legal services sector while overseeing its regulatory and reform functions.



STEPHEN DOWLING SC

CEO & Founder, TrialView

Stephen Dowling SC is the founder and CEO of TrialView, a legal technology company developing AI-powered tools for litigation strategy, advocacy and dispute resolution. A practising Senior Counsel with extensive experience in commercial litigation, he combines decades of courtroom expertise with innovation in legal technology, helping legal professionals leverage AI to improve case preparation and decision-making.

MEET THE PANEL

MARK CONNAUGHTON SC



Mark Connaughton SC is a practising Senior Counsel and an accredited mediator with extensive experience in commercial dispute resolution. Alongside his advocacy practice, he has developed a strong reputation in mediation and alternative dispute resolution, advising clients on resolving complex disputes efficiently and collaboratively. He is a frequent speaker on mediation and its growing role within the legal profession.

MAGED HELMY, PHD



Founder & CEO, Newcode.ai | Associate Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of South-Eastern Norway

Dr Maged Helmy is Founder and CEO of Newcode.ai and an Associate Professor specialising in Artificial Intelligence at the University of South-Eastern Norway. His work focuses on the application of AI to legal and professional services, with expertise spanning machine learning, large language models and digital transformation. He advises organisations internationally on the practical and responsible adoption of AI technologies.

HANNAH CARNEY



Executive Coach, Mentor, Facilitator and Practising Mediator

Hannah Carney is an executive coach, leadership mentor, facilitator and practising mediator with over 25 years' experience working with senior leaders, legal professionals and executive teams. She supports individuals and organisations in developing leadership capability, managing change and building high-performing teams. Her work combines strategic leadership development with practical coaching and conflict resolution expertise.

SAM MERCER



Head of Diversity and Inclusion, Bar Council of England and Wales

Award winning communicator on diversity and inclusion issues, with a unique background combining influencing with commercial experience across a wide range of private and public sector organisations and charities (both in the UK and overseas). A reputation for pursuing a business focused approach, identifying opportunities, delivering innovative programmes and generating value through Corporate Responsibility.

MEET THE PANEL



HELEN WHATELY

Senior Associate General Counsel, Security Legal, Meta

Helen Whately is Senior Associate General Counsel within Meta's Security Legal team, where she advises on complex legal, regulatory and security matters across the company's global operations. She has extensive experience supporting technology businesses on investigations, cyber security, compliance and risk management, helping organisations navigate an increasingly complex regulatory landscape.



HANNAH SMITH

Principal Lawyer, General Pharmaceutical Council

Hannah is a Principal Lawyer in Enforcement at the General Pharmaceutical Council, which is responsible for the regulation of all pharmacies and pharmacy professionals in Great Britain. She qualified as a barrister in 2008, spending her first 10 years as a criminal practitioner before specialising in professional regulation within healthcare since 2017. Hannah is a member of the Bar Council of England and Wales, sitting on their Employed Barristers Committee and Ethics Committee. Hannah was elected as a Master of the Bench of Inner Temple in 2025 and is a member of their Advocacy Training Committee, as well as a keen advocacy trainer.



GENEVIEVE HARRIS

Middle Temple, Talent Retention Working Group

Genevieve Harris is an employed barrister and senior legal professional based in London. Genevieve was a founder member of the Middle Temple Talent Retention Working Group and continues to sit on its committee – providing support to barristers who are either returning from time out of practice (a "returner") or switching practice areas (a "mover"). Genevieve is passionate about agility at the bar from the perspective of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Across her career so far, Genevieve has been in chambers twice and employed twice; for the last 7 years she has been in-house legal counsel for the Bank of England.

MEET THE PANEL



DARREN DUNN

Senior Director, Corporate Investigations and Business Conduct Compliance (Europe), GXO Logistics

Darren Dunn is an employed Barrister based in London. Initially, he practised criminal law from chambers in Manchester. There then followed roles in; legal education (King's Inns), as a UK Government Lawyer, before going in house and advising multi-nationals (Amazon, Salesforce, GXO) on corporate investigations and governance. Darren is a committee member of the London Irish Lawyers Association and has mentored junior lawyers making the switch to in-house.



DIANE DUGGAN

Head of Legal, Supervision and Enforcement, The Electoral Commission Ireland.

Diane has worked as a practising barrister in Public Law with a particular focus on Constitutional Law, Human Rights, Children's Law and access to justice issues, representing both the State and individuals. She served as a Chairperson of Mental Health Tribunals, co-ordinated the Bar of Ireland's pro bono scheme and along with her legal qualifications holds a degree in psychology and a Masters in Social Innovation.



ROBERT O'REILLY BL

Director and Co-Owner, LEI - Worldwide

Robert O'Reilly BL is a Director and Co-Owner of LEI Worldwide. Founded in 2017, LEI Worldwide is international award winning RegTech / Compliance platform designed for the Financial Services Industry to obtain, renew, and manage Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) numbers to meet international financial regulations such as MiFID II, DORA and MiCA. A practicing Junior Counsel specialising in commercial, employment and financial services regulation litigation, Robert is also a member of the Bar of Ireland Artificial Intelligence Oversight Committee and is an elected member of the Council of King's Inns.



RACHEL TOBIN

Global Senior Vice President, Legal & Workplace, Crescendo.

Rachel Tobin is a global senior legal and workplace leader with experience spanning legal, security, AI, privacy, and workplace strategy. She is the Co-Founder of the AI & Privacy Network and has been recognized on the Legal 500 GC Powerlist.