

GRIFFITH COLLEGE LAW FACULTY NEWSLETTER



GRIFFITH COLLEGE
– 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE –
1974 TO 2024

Issue 001

2023/ 2024 Academic Year

Guest Lecture delivered by Dr. Luigi Lonardo



On October 27th, Griffith College had the privilege of hosting Dr. Luigi Lonardo for a guest lecture on "Judicial Protection in EU Courts: The Case of Sanctions Against Russia." Dr. Lonardo expertly dissected the intricacies of judicial protection within the EU legal framework, using the sanctions against Russia as a focal case study. His insights provided learners with a deeper understanding of the legal processes and challenges involved in international sanctions. The lecture was both informative and thought-provoking, leaving attendees with a greater appreciation for the complexities of EU judicial proceedings.

The First Seven Weeks

The First Seven Weeks is an initiative introduced by the Faculty of Law and is designed to support learners, during the initial weeks of their programmes. It is also a revision tool for learners returning to their studies. The first seven weeks ensure early adjustment to third-level education linked with subsequent success. The programme was created in conjunction with lecturers and Programme Directors to provide a range of information to assist learners in settling into their studies. The programme covers a wide range of topics including an introduction to Moodle, answering problem and essay questions, study strategies, note-taking, referencing, and Oscola.



Innocence Project



The Irish Innocence Project, initiated by Griffith College Law Faculty in October 2009 and officially launched on March 6, 2010, continues to assist individuals who believe they have been wrongfully convicted. By providing investigative services to uncover new or previously undiscovered evidence, the Innocence Project assists in advancing miscarriage of justice cases.

This initiative— the first of its kind in Ireland—was inaugurated by Dr. Greg Hampikian, Director of the Idaho Innocence Project and DNA expert for the Georgia Innocence Project. It is part of a global network validated by the Innocence Network, encompassing 68 similar projects worldwide, including in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK.

Housed within the Griffith College Law Faculty, the Project also collaborates with Trinity College's law faculty. The Innocence Projects Board includes members from both colleges, as well as experienced solicitors and barristers. Currently, 23 law learners and interns from Griffith College and Trinity College are working on around 48 cases involving suspected wrongful convictions. Under the guidance of qualified legal professionals, learners review all aspects of the cases, from initial investigation to final appeal.

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Meiji Gakuin University Learners Embark on an Enriching Semester at Griffith College Dublin

During the first semester of the 2023/2024 academic year, the Law Faculty had the pleasure of hosting seventeen learners from Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan. The learners embarked on a dynamic academic journey that combined legal studies with English language courses, delving deeply into both academic and cultural experiences. The learners undertook a variety of law modules within the faculty. In addition, they participated in an intensive English language programme designed to enhance their communication skills.

I think that I will never forget this time that I have spent together in Ireland with my peers. Every single moment was very special for me and everyone has been so kind.

-Nana



The academic experience of the learners was further broadened by several educational and cultural activities. A visit to EPIC, The Irish Emigration Museum allowed the students to explore Ireland's emigration history and the worldwide influence of the Irish diaspora. This was followed by a tour of the Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship and Famine Museum, where they gained profound insights into the lives of Irish emigrants during the Great Famine.

Digging deeper into the practical aspects of their legal education, the learners visited The Four Courts, where they observed Ireland's judicial system in operation. They also visited the Criminal Courts of Justice, which gave them a comprehensive understanding of the criminal justice process in Ireland.



In addition to these excursions, the students engaged in mooting and debating sessions. Mooting provided them with a real-life courtroom experience, where they presented and argued cases, receiving feedback from legal practitioners.

As the semester concluded, the students from Meiji Gakuin University left a lasting impression on the Griffith College community. Their presence brought diverse perspectives and fostered a spirit of international collaboration.



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A Talk by Marcella Higgins

On November 20, 2023, Marcella Higgins, Registrar of the Honorable Society of King's Inns, provided learners with an enlightening guest lecture. Mrs. Higgins provided an in-depth look into the requirements and process for gaining entry into the Honorable Society of King's Inns. Her lecture also offered valuable insights into the journey and challenges of becoming a practising barrister within the jurisdiction.

The event was further enriched by the presence of Gary Moloney BL, a practising barrister and a lecturer at Griffith College. Mr. Moloney shared his first-hand experiences from the legal field, offering practical advice and shedding light on the day-to-day realities of a barrister's life perspective on their future careers.

This lecture was an exceptional opportunity for our aspiring legal professionals to engage directly with industry experts and gain crucial knowledge to guide their professional ambitions.



Law Student for a Day



On Friday, November 24th 2023, the Law Faculty was delighted to welcome secondary school learners from across the country to our annual "Law Student for a Day" programme. This event offers second-level learners the unique opportunity to attend mini-lectures delivered by our esteemed faculty members and gain a firsthand understanding of what it's like to work in the field of law. The programme aims to inspire and inform the next generation of legal professionals, providing them with valuable insights into both the academic and practical aspects of a legal career.

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Irish Association of Law Teachers (IALT) Annual Conference



The Irish Association of Law Teachers (IALT) annual conference was held on November 10th and 11th, 2023, at St. Patrick's Campus, Dublin City University. This year's theme was "Ireland in the EU at 50."

Renowned for its friendly and supportive atmosphere, the IALT conference provides a platform for speakers to present their current research and ongoing projects, fostering a collaborative and engaging environment for all attendees.

Karen Sutton, Head of the Faculty of Law at Griffith College, was pleased to present her paper on "Assisted Dying and Minors: Is the Right to Die Moving Closer for Minors?" during the Legal Rights and Legal Capacities panel. Karen was joined by several of her colleagues from the Law Faculty, including Precious Abebe, John Eardly, Marcus Gatto, Romina Maddalena, and Dr. Ruhi Anand, each presenting on their own research areas at the conference.

International Womens Day



On March 8th, we celebrated International Women's Day with the theme, "Inspire Inclusion." The event featured a keynote address by the dynamic George Boyle, followed by a panel discussion with distinguished women in research. We were privileged to hear from several esteemed members of our faculty, including Karen Sutton, Head of Faculty; Dr. Ruhi Anand, Programme Director of Postgraduate Law; and our dedicated faculty administrators, Romina Maddalena and Precious Abebe. The day was a tremendous success, filled with insightful discussions and a shared commitment to fostering inclusion and diversity.

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Schools Debating Competition

On Friday, March 22nd 2024, the Faculty of Law hosted the annual Schools Debating Competition. Twenty teams from secondary schools across Ireland debated the motion, "This House believes that Ireland's exam-obsessed model is failing Irish students." Each team, comprising four members, presented arguments within a 15-minute timeframe, with individual speaking slots ranging from 3-5 minutes. In preparation for the event, students submitted a 1,000-word essay on the given motion. The Griffith Law Faculty faced the challenging task of evaluating these essays to select the 20 schools that would compete.

It was wonderful meeting a range of schools across Ireland. It was a real honour being a judge and seeing the high quality of debate that we got to experience.

-John Eardly, Programme Director, LL. B. (Hons)



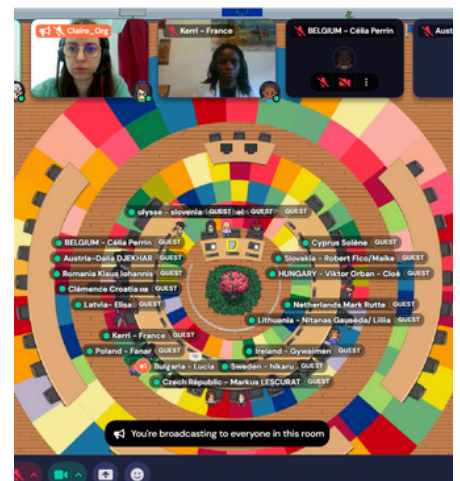
The finalists on the day were CBS Kilkenny and Saint Brigid's Killarney, who debated the motion, "This House believes that the age of majority should increase from 18 years to 21 years." CBS Kilkenny won the final debate. The Schools Debating Competition was a fantastic day for everyone involved, showcasing a high standard of debate in every round. Students impressed with their eloquence, critical thinking, and depth of knowledge on complex issues. Be sure to keep an eye out for the next Schools Debating Competition, set to take place again in 2025!



EU Simulation

Griffith College Law students embraced their roles as heads of state in a recent political simulation, tasked with crafting position papers that reflected the views of assigned political figures, even when those views clashed with their own. The central agenda was to decide on the President of the European Commission's nomination for the upcoming elections. Ultimately, the Council rallied behind Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen, with only Hungary dissenting.

Given the consensus, the Chair expanded the simulation to include nominations for the High Representative and Vice President, and the President of the European Council. Students received additional reading material on the evening of Day 1 to prepare for Day 2's deliberations, mirroring real-world pressures. The organisers noted the participants' ability to astutely personify political 'games,' adding a layer of realism to the exercise. This immersive experience provided invaluable insights into the complexities of international politics.



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Frances Fitzgerald MEP visits Griffith College



The Faculty of Law had the honour of welcoming Frances Fitzgerald to Griffith College Dublin for an enlightening talk with our learners. Ms Fitzgerald provided an in-depth look into her extensive political career, particularly her role as an MEP in the European Parliament. She offered valuable insights into the workings of the Parliament and the collaborative efforts between the European Union and its Member States. Our learners greatly appreciated the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of these important political processes from such a distinguished speaker.



Advocacy Society

The Griffith College Law Faculty Advocacy Society offers a wide range of extracurricular activities for learners to enhance their skills and experiences. Recently, learners have participated in key events such as the Irish Times Debating Competition, the Law Society of Ireland's Negotiation Competition, and the Free Legal Aid Clinic. These activities not only help learners to improve their communication and public speaking abilities but also provide valuable feedback from legal practitioners. Additionally, these events offer a great opportunity for learners to make friends with peers from different year groups and programmes.

Chief Justice's Summer Placement Programme 2024

Our third-year student, Sara, was selected to represent the Law Faculty for the prestigious Chief Justice Internship 2024. This internship offers learners from across the country a unique, month-long opportunity to shadow a Judge in the High Court, Court of Appeal, or Supreme Court.

During the internship, participants not only attend court hearings but also engage in a variety of enriching activities, including, participating in workshops, attending talks by staff of the Courts Service and other justice sector professionals.



“ His Honourable Mr Chief Justice O'Donnell appeared to interact with all the summer interns, giving an engaging talk about ethics and compassion being central to the next generation of practitioners and what he hopes we will gain from our time in placement. ”

-Sara

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EU Law Society: Annual European Union Institution Visit

Students from the Law Faculty's EU Law Society recently had the exciting opportunity to attend the annual European Union institution visit to Brussels. During this enriching experience, learners visited key EU institutions, including the Parliamentarium, Hemicycle Chamber, Council of the European Union, and the European Commission.

It was a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget, I made loads of new friends and got to see a whole other potential career path thanks to this.

-Justin



Learners heard from representatives of these institutions and attended the debate "Towards European Union's Enlargement in 2030?" organised by deBuren, the House of European History, and Europahuis Ryckvelde. Additionally, they visited the Museum of European History and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

These visits allowed learners to immerse themselves in the history of the European Union and gain an in-depth understanding of the operations of its institutions, directly from staff members. The experience also provided valuable insights into the various opportunities available to students within the EU institutions.

Thank you for organising, we've had such a great time and it was genuinely an amazing experience

-Sara



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Philadelphia Internship 2024

Our learners Kerri, Brandon, and Cassandre were selected to participate in the prestigious Philadelphia Internship in Pennsylvania during the month of July. The learners had the unique opportunity to intern under Justice Kevin M. Dougherty of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

During their internships, the students were assigned to various Judges and given a range of tasks, including legal research, interacting with other interns from various states, and attending court observations. They had the privilege of observing numerous Judges in different courts, such as Orphans' Court, Family Court, Criminal Court, and the Court of Common Pleas.

“

I was able to see just how many cases, even those with trial dates set, never made it to trial, and through that I was more able to appreciate the significance of cases that did. This experience in particular is one that I will carry with me on my legal journey, and I am extremely grateful for it.

-Brandon

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In addition to their professional duties, our learners also enjoyed exciting extracurricular activities, including a ride-along with the highway police and a boat ride with the marine police. This internship provided Kerri, Brandon, and Cassandre with invaluable hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of the American legal system.

“

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to undertake this internship. It has afforded me a front row seat to witness the real-world impact that the Philadelphia justice system has on lives as well as exposed me to different approaches taken by both lawyers and judges.

-Kerri

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Griffith College Faculty of Law wins Operational Excellence in Third-Level Education 2024

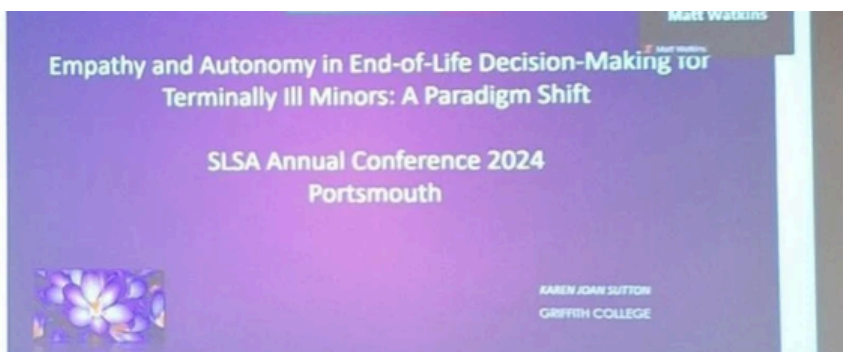
Griffith College Faculty of Law triumphed, securing the Operational Excellence in Third-Level Education award at the Operational Excellence Awards for the second consecutive year. This remarkable achievement highlights the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. The Operational Excellence Awards recognise the most innovative individuals and organisations leading the way in operational excellence and business transformation across Ireland.

This award recognises our dedicated faculty and lecturers at Griffith College, who continually strive to impact education

-Dr. Ruhi Anand



Head of Law Faculty Presents Paper at SLSA Annual Conference 2024



Karen Sutton, Head of the Faculty of Law, was thrilled to present her paper titled 'Empathy and Autonomy in End-of-Life Decision-Making for Terminally Ill Minors: A Paradigm Shift' at the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Annual Conference 2024. This prestigious event, hosted by the University of Portsmouth Law School, will be held in Portsmouth from March 26th to 28th.

The SLSA Annual Conference, established since the Association's inception in 1990, serves as a pivotal platform for socio-legal studies professionals to share insights, exchange ideas, and build connections within the field.

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Irish Law Awards 2024



Griffith College's Law Faculty was nominated for the prestigious Irish Law Awards 2024 in three distinguished categories. This incredible achievement highlighted the Faculty's ongoing dedication to excellence in education, as it approaches its 25th anniversary in 2025.

The categories in which the Faculty was honored as finalists include:

- Law School of the Year
- Law Book of the Year
- Pro Bono Publico/Community Law Firm/Lawyer of the Year

This recognition truly underscored the Faculty's commitment to outstanding legal education and community service. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Griffith Law Faculty: Finalists in five Education Awards Categories!



We are thrilled to share that Griffith College's Faculty of Law was named a finalist in five categories at this year's Education Awards 2024.

The categories in which we competed are:

- Best Industry/Business - Academic Collaboration
- Best International Collaboration Project
- Best Student Experience Award
- Student Engagement & Communications Award
- Best Masters Programme

Launched in 2007, the Education Awards are designed to highlight the key areas that impact student performance. They provide opportunities for providers of Higher Education and Further Education and Training, along with their employees and contributors, to have their achievements recognised across various important facets of their operations.

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Bake Sale for the Mater Hospital



We are thrilled to announce that our dedicated faculty members recently organised a delightful bake sale to support the cancer unit at the Mater Hospital. Their culinary efforts resulted in an array of delicious homemade baked treats that were eagerly enjoyed by both staff and students. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity and enthusiasm of our college community, we not only achieved but exceeded our fundraising target. This heartwarming initiative not only indulged our taste buds but also contributed significantly to a good cause. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated and made this event a resounding success.

Law Careers Events - Griffith College Cork



A Law Careers Evening took place in April where students got the opportunity to hear from Griffith College Cork alumni on their path to a successful legal career and what a day in the life of their role entails. Guest speakers on the evening were Darren Fitzgerald and Elaine Audley.

Darren is Head of Private Clients in Orbitus Law LLP and advises on commercial and residential property matters as well as probate and family law. Darren graduated with a Diploma in Professional Legal Studies from Griffith College Cork in 2007 before going on to pursue a BCL Degree in UCC. Elaine is a lecturer in Griffith College Cork and a practising barrister. Elaine graduated with a LLBH from Griffith College Cork in 2018 and a Certificate in Mediation in 2019.

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CPD for Solicitors Event



In the month of May, Griffith College Cork held a Lifelong Learning Festival with some fantastic talks on law and human rights.

Pictured is one of our lecturer, Sahara Nankan, who delivered 'A Critical Appraisal of the Criminal Justice Bill 2022', in Griffith College Cork, who delivered 'A Right to Consultation: Outlining an Emerging Human Right'.

Dr. Nicholas McMurry Book Launch

Dr. Nicholas McMurry, Programme Director for the Faculty of Law in Griffith College Cork, launched his book 'Participation and Democratic Innovation under International Human Rights Law', published by Routledge.

The book explores the human rights principle of participation and the human right to participation. It is going to be an invaluable resource for academics, researchers and policy-makers working in the area of international human rights law.

