



*Professional Negligence
& Liability*

Dublin



HOLMES

5 June 2025

830am – 530pm

@ Stephens Green Club, 9 St Stephen's Green, Dublin

Special Guest

- Jim O'Callaghan – Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Moderator

- Mr. Justice Michael MacGrath (Court of Appeal)

Speakers

- Harry Fehily - Holmes Solicitors (Chair)
- Sara Moorhead SC
- Howard Elgot - Parklane Plowden Chambers
- Peter O'Brien BL
- Paul Harvey - former Managing Partner of Morr & Co
- Niamh Moloney - Liberty Specialty Markets
- John Barry - McGill & Partners
- Andrew Nugent - Quantity Surveyor
- Carol Lynch - BDO
- Shane Santry RIAI - SSA Architects
- Catherine Sanz - Legal Affairs Editor, Business Post

CPD Available

0830-0900 Registration and Refreshments

0900-0920

"Introduction"

- *Harry Fehily – Managing Partner - Holmes Solicitors - PNLA Ireland Representative*

Harry is the Managing Partner of Holmes. He has a broad range of experience having worked supporting clients across multiple practice areas. He is an experienced Commercial Litigation Solicitor and a CEDR (Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution) Accredited Mediator.

Having extensive experience of advising clients across a range of contentious and non-contentious matters, Harry practices with an emphasis on commercial litigation and financial lines claims, including professional negligence litigation, cyber claims and claims against directors and officers. He also has extensive experience of resolving property related disputes and shareholders' disputes. He practices extensively in the Commercial Court (a commercial division of the High Court) and is vastly experienced in dealing with cases in this venue.

Harry practises in the area of dispute resolution and has been involved in many mediations. <https://holmeslaw.ie/people/harry-fehily>

- *Katy Manley – President of the PNLA/Consultant BPE Solicitors*

Katy Manley trained in London and qualified as a solicitor in 1989 moving to the west country in 1991.

She was made an equity partner in a leading Bristol practice in 1995 becoming Head of the Professional Negligence team. She remained with this firm until the launch of Manley Turnbull in 2006 which, until closure in 2022, specialised in professional negligence claims.

Katy is a founder member and President of the Professional Negligence Lawyers Association ('PNLA') launched in 2004. With the management team, Katy has been responsible for arranging seminars and events, lobbying Government and consultation with regulatory and other bodies. Through the PNLA seminars Katy has developed a very strong network of relationships with members of the Bar, experts and solicitors throughout the UK and Ireland with an identity of interest in this niche practice area.

0920-0935

'Introduction by Moderator'

- *Mr. Justice Michael MacGrath (Court of Appeal)*

Michael MacGrath is an Irish judge who has served as a Judge of the Court of Appeal since July 2024. He previously served as a Judge of the High Court from 2018 to 2024

He was called to the Bar in 1984 and became a senior counsel in 2000. His practice was predominantly focused on civil law and commercial law.

He was counsel for the Barr Tribunal and he represented the Attorney General of Ireland and the public interest at the Moriarty Tribunal.

In addition to his legal practice, he was the chairperson of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission between 2005 and 2009, and was the chair of the Mining Board from 2013.

MacGrath was a tutor in law at University College Dublin. He was the editor of a text on engineering law in 1989. He has acted as the external examiner for Tort law the King's Inns since 2009.

MacGrath was appointed to the High Court in January 2018. He was appointment came following a vacancy created at the retirement of Judge Henry Abbott.

He has presided over cases involving commercial law,[10] regulatory law,[11] judicial review, employment law, and medical negligence.

In the midst of a judicial review hearing in 2019, a lay litigant unsuccessfully attempted to effect a citizen's arrest against him. In 2019, he decided against the Friends of the Irish Environment which sought to challenge governmental policy on climate change and reducing carbon emissions. The decision was appealed to the Supreme Court of Ireland with a hearing in June 2020.

He was elevated as a judge of the Court of Appeal in July 2024, and was appointed by President Michael D. Higgins.





0935–0950

'Special Guest'

- Jim O'Callaghan – Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

Jim O'Callaghan 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.

O'Callaghan has a BCL degree from University College Dublin, a master's degree in law and an M.Phil. in criminology from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and a barrister-at-law degree from the King's Inns. O'Callaghan devilled for Rory Brady.

In 2000, he represented Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in defamation proceedings against a businessman, appearing with Rory Brady and Paul Gallagher, both of whom later served as Attorney General of Ireland. He was made a senior counsel in 2008.

O'Callaghan also served as a legal adviser to Fianna Fáil from January 2011 to his election to the Dáil. In 2014, he co-edited a book titled, Law and Government: A Tribute to Rory Brady.

He was a member of Dublin City Council from 2009 to 2016. On 19 May 2016, he was appointed as Fianna Fáil Spokesperson for Justice and Equality. At the 2020 general election, O'Callaghan was re-elected as a TD for the Dublin Bay South constituency.

At the 2024 general election, O'Callaghan was re-elected to the Dáil. On 23 January 2025, he was appointed as Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in the government led by Micheál Martin.



0950–1025

'Managing Multi-Defendant, High Value Complex Litigation Claims'

- Sara Moorhead SC

Sarah Moorhead is a Senior Counsel and a Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Accredited Mediator. She is primarily a trial lawyer/courtroom advocate. She has extensive expertise in the areas of Judicial Review, Personal Injuries, Administrative and Contract Law, Medical Negligence, Professional Negligence, Insurance Law, non-Jury, Asylum and Immigration law.

Sarah has represented the Government in proceedings before the European Court of Justice. She has also advised the Office of the Parliamentary Legal Adviser and acted as Legal Counsel in a number of Tribunals of Inquiry.



1025–1100 *'The Potential for Professional Negligence Claims to arise from Climate Risks'*

- Peter O'Brien BL

Peter O'Brien is a Dublin based barrister specialising in insurance related and funded litigation including subrogated recovery claims, professional negligence claims, product liability claims, and employer and public liability claims – in particular stress and bullying at work claims. He has acted for defendants in notable litigation such as the pyrite and metal-on-metal hip proceedings.

He is a vice-chair of the Civil Service Appeals Board acting as an adjudicator in respect of employment matters relating to the Civil Service.



1100–1115

Refreshments

1115–1150 *'Effective Management of Risk in Law Firms in the context of Law Firm Mergers'*

- Paul Harvey, former Managing Partner of Morr & Co LLP

Paul Harvey is a senior business leader with extensive legal experience and a proven track record of success across all areas of transformational change, growth and development.

Paul was the managing partner of Morr & Co LLP for 14 years. He now combines his consultancy practice with boardroom advisory roles.

1150–1225

'Navigating The Irish Professional Indemnity Insurance Market'

- Niamh Moloney - Liberty Specialty Markets

Niamh Moloney has over 25 years of underwriting experience, having always specialised in Professional Indemnity. She started her career with QBE in London working on their Lloyds syndicate.

She joined the Liberty office in Dublin in 1999 and is currently the General Manager of Insurance in Ireland, and is responsible for running all of the financial lines business in Ireland.

Niamh is an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute.





1225–1300 *'Understanding the RIAI Contract from an Insurance standpoint'*

- *John Barry - McGill & Partners*

John has been an experienced Insurance professional for over 30 years. He assists corporate clients in the design, placement and management of their general insurance and risk transfer programmes.

He has particular experience in complex D&O programmes for both private and public companies and especially for aviation, aircraft leasing and aircraft securitizations. He has addressed the International Bar Association, Company Secretaries Conference, Dublin Chamber of Commerce and KPMG Internal Auditors Association on D&O. He also looks after the Professional Indemnity, Crime and Cyber needs of many large companies and professional firms.

His clients include many of Ireland's large Construction companies and Developers and has significant experience in arranging large Owner Controlled Insurance Programmes including the New Children's Hospital, Luas Extensions, Capital Dock, MetroLink, DART Upgrade. Croke Park Redevelopment, IFSC among others. He has particular expertise in the arrangement of Latent Defects policies and introduced the Premier Guarantee product as an alternative to HomeBond back in 2000.

He provides Insurance Advisory and Due Diligence including M&A and Real Estate and has extensive experience as Authority Insurance Advisor on most of the PPPs in Ireland to date.

1300–1400 *Lunch*

1400–1435 *'Understanding and Managing Construction Costs Inflation'*

- *Andrew Nugent - Andrew P. Nugent & Associates, Quantity Surveyors*

Andrew has 30 years' experience working in Private Quantity Surveying Practice in both Ireland and the UK and is the Managing Partner of APNA since establishment in 1993. Andrew has a wealth of experience in all aspects of construction and property consultancy services.

Professional Qualifications:

- BSc (Hons) Surveying (1983)
- Conservation Surveyor Grade III (1998)

Accreditations:

- Fellow Member of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (MSCSI)
- Fellow Member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS)
- Past President of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) – 2015/2016
- Chairman of the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) QS Professional Group
- Registered Quantity Surveyor under Building Control Act (2007)

1435–1520 *'Assessing the Potential Impact of US Tariffs*

on the EU on Irish Construction Claims'

- *Carol Lynch - Tax Partner & Head of Customs and International Trade Services, BDO*

Carol is a Partner in the BDO Customs and International Trade Services department. Carol has over 25 years' experience in customs services, joining BDO from Crannagh & Co which was established in 2005 and specialised in customs, trade tax and regulation.

Carol has significant expertise in customs, excise, export controls, anti-dumping, audits and investigations. She also has significant experience working with clients in aviation, food and drink, pharmaceutical, consumer electronics and software along with general manufacturing sectors.

Carol previously acted as Head of Trade and Customs as well as Vice-Chairman of European Trade Practice for another large accountancy firm in Ireland.

Carol holds a certificate in Business Sustainability Management from Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

1520–1535 *Refreshments*





1535–1610 *'How Vexatious Professional Negligence Claims*

by Lay Litigants are handled by the UK Courts'

- Howard Elgot – Parklane Plowden Chambers

Howard Elgot is one of the very few provincial barristers to have been shortlisted as Barrister of the Year by the Law Society.

He has acted as both leading and junior counsel in many cases of national importance in the High Court, Court of Appeal, House of Lords and the Supreme Court. He practices principally in the fields of clinical and professional negligence, and personal injury litigation. He is accredited as an adjudicator by the Professional Negligence Bar Association. He previously practised at 3 Paper Buildings, Temple, London.

Independent guides refer to Howard as a “well-prepared, fearsome cross-examiner and negotiator”, a “marvellously innovative thinker”, who is “admired for his client-friendly demeanour and sympathetic attitude.”

“An extremely astute counsel who is quickly able to see the salient issues in the most difficult of claims. He has formidable cross-examination skills, and is always thoroughly prepared. A match for any KC.” The Legal 500 (2025) - Clinical Negligence (Tier 1)

1610–1645

'Joint and Several Liability in Claims against Construction

Professionals'

- Shane Santry RIAI - SSA Architects



Having trained in London and worked in various Dublin practices upon his return to the country, Shane founded the practice in 2000. He is predominantly involved in the contract administration and construction side of projects. He also has a sub-specialty in dispute resolution and is an accredited arbitrator and was made a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 2011.

He has a keen interest in the RIAI and is involved in various panels and committees. In 2006, he joined the Practice Committee and has been a continuing member ever since. He currently serves as Chair of the RIAI Conservation Accreditation Board and Building Regulations Sub-Committee. In 2018, he was elected to Chair of the RIAI Board of Architectural Education which is responsible for member entry, CPD, and architectural education. He was a member of the professional exam board for over 10 years. He was appointed a member of the RIAI Council in 2018 and is a member of the RIAI Finance Committee. In the past, he has been involved the development and writing of the Code of Practice in relation to the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations.

In 2019, he was admitted to the Ordre des Architectes in France.

Having developed a specialism in sports stadia safety, Shane was appointed UEFA's Building Safety Adviser for the Euro Football Finals 2020. In this role, Shane led the building safety and coordinated works, and was involved in the writing of the UEFA Building Safety & Procedures document for the tournament. This involved the venue and building works and services coordination including TV, catering, marketing, and media.

Shane is now the leading specialist in the licensing of premises and has an unmatched record in the licensing of premises including pubs, supermarkets, off licenses, hotels, restaurants, distilleries, clubs, and theatres.

1645–1720

'Media Strategy for Contentious Irish Litigation in the Media'

- Catherine Sanz, Legal Affairs Editor of the Business Post

Multi award-winning journalist whose work has been nominated for an Emmy.

Legal affairs editor with the Business Post newspaper in Dublin, Ireland.

Author of Drama Drives Interest: The Web Summit Story published in October 2024 by HarperCollinsUK.

Formerly Producer/Reporter for ABC News in New York and Senior News Reporter for the Times.

1720–1730

Questions and discussion – Chairman's closing remarks



Terms and conditions in relation to courses, seminars and conferences ('events') provided by The Professional Negligence Lawyers' Association (PNLA) and organised by PNLA Training Ltd. (PNLA Training)

1. The full fee invoice for the conference ticket is payable.
2. For conferences taking place at a venue on a fixed date, if cancellation is received in writing at least 21 working days before the event the fee will be credited less a £75 administration charge. Substitutions are welcome at any time subject to any variation in price that might be payable if the substitute is not entitled to a discount as a PNLA member or specialist.
3. For virtual conferences the ticket(s) purchased are for the individual delegate(s) named in the booking. If a delegate gives access to the recorded speaker programme to others then they agree to pay for a ticket at the full fee for all those delegates who watch the programme deriving from such access.
4. The booking constitutes a legally binding contract. The delegate and their employer/partnership/other practice entity are jointly and severally liable for payment of all the fees due.
5. The PNLA and PNLA Training reserve the right without prior notice to vary or cancel an event where the occasion necessitates including changing the password for virtual conference programmes.
6. The PNLA and PNLA Training accept no liability if, for whatever reason, the event does not take place or access online is not possible.
7. Large print versions of the hand outs can be made available by prior request. If sufficient notice is not received, it will be provided as soon as possible after the event.
8. If there are insufficient rooms in the hotel to accommodate all delegates who require one when an overnight stay is involved, we will try to arrange for rooms of a similar quality in a nearby hotel, but the organisers cannot be held responsible if such rooms are not available. Any additional cost will be invoiced to the delegate.
9. To the extent permitted by law, it is agreed that the PNLA, PNLA Training Limited presenters and speakers will not be liable by reason of breach of contract, negligence or otherwise for any loss or consequential loss occasioned to any person acting, omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the course material or presentation of the event, or, except to the extent that any such loss does not exceed the price of the event, arising from or connected with any error or omission in the material or presentation of the event. Consequential loss shall be deemed to include, but not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated profits, damage to reputation or goodwill, loss of business or anticipated business, damages, costs, expenses incurred or payable to any third party or any other indirect or consequential losses.
10. The personal information provided by you will be held on a database and you may be contacted from time to time by The PNLA and PNLA Training with details of events and services that may be of interest to you. If you do not wish your details to be used for this purpose, please write to: The Database Manager, PNLA, PO Box 1685, Congresbury, Bristol, BS 49 5WQ or email: yvonne.fairbrother@pnla.org.uk

PNLA Training Ltd - Costs

PNLA Members: 330 Euros

Non-members : 400 Euros

Please contact by email yvonne.fairbrother@pnla.org.uk to arrange payment (in either GBP or Euros) and reserve your place.

or via our website:

<https://www.pnla.org.uk/event/pnla-holmes-ireland-professional-negligence-liability-conference-dublin-5-june-2025/>