



Professional Negligence & Liability

Dublin - 18 June 2026

8:15am – 5:30pm

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



HOLMES

Introduced by

Harry Fehily – Managing Partner – Holmes – PNL Ireland Representative

Mr. Justice Maurice Collins – Judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland

Speakers

Martin Hayden SC

Jennie Goode BL

Professor David McIlroy BL – Barrister (E&W & ROI)/Forum Chambers

Suzanne Scott – Law Society of Ireland

Niall Meagher – Architect, IPM

Brendan Lenihan – Bord na Mona /Navigo Consulting Limited

Julie Galbraith – Arachas Corporate Brokers

Fiona Sage – Zurich Insurance plc

Kieran Wallace – Interpath Advisory

David Curran – Holmes Solicitors

Ger Perdissatt – Acuity AI Advisory

CPD Available

0815–0845 *Registration and Refreshments*

0845–0900

'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.



0900–0915

'Introduction'

- Mr. Justice Maurice Collins - Judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland
Mr Justice Collins was appointed to the Supreme Court in December 2022.

A native of County Cork, Mr Justice Collins was educated at University College Cork and the Honourable Society of King's Inn. He was called to the Inner Bar in 2003.

In 2019, Mr Justice Collins was appointed as a judge of the Court of Appeal and served on that court until his appointment to the Supreme Court.

Since October 2020, he has been a part-time Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission.



0915–0950

'The Impact of AI on the Concept of Legal Professional Privilege'
&

'The recent decision of the Commercial Court of England & Wales, Novitas Loans Ltd. v. AmTrust Speciality Ltd. [2026] EWHC 592 (Comm), and why it matters for insurance coverage, solicitor professional indemnity, and litigation funding.'

- Martin Hayden SC

Martin Hayden SC is a highly experienced and versatile barrister with a distinguished practice spanning commercial litigation, aviation law, banking and finance, tax, public procurement, competition law, and judicial review. Called to the Irish Bar in 1987 and taking Silk in 2001, he is also a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple since 2014.

With over three decades of courtroom experience, Martin has built a formidable reputation for handling complex and high-profile matters before the Superior Courts of Ireland and the European Court of Justice. His extensive advocacy experience includes appearances before major public inquiries and tribunals, and his strategic legal insight continues to influence significant developments in regulatory and commercial law.



0950-1025



*'The Risk of Defamation for Professionals:
Defences, Latest Developments and Potential Difficulties'*

- Jennie Goode BL

- Junior Counsel - 2005
- Qualifications - LLB (Lingfranc) Trinity College Dublin, LLM (European Community Litigation) Strasbourg & Luxembourg Universities

1025-1100

'The Professional's Scope of Duty in light of the UK Manchester Building Society v. Grant Thornton Decision'

- Professor David McIlroy BL - Barrister, England & Wales, Barrister-at-Law, Ireland
Head of Chambers, Forum Chambers

David is Head of Chambers at Forum Chambers. He is called to the Bar of England & Wales and to the Bar of Ireland. He has also been called to the Bar of Gibraltar. He specialises in banking and financial services law, cryptocurrencies and professional negligence as well as commercial litigation and civil fraud, particularly on cases involving cross-border elements, class actions or innovative arguments.

David is ranked by the legal directories Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 for Banking and Finance and for Professional Negligence. He is also ranked in Tier 1 by Legal 500 for Cryptocurrency. David is coeditor of Butterworth's Encyclopaedia of Banking Law.

Alongside his busy practice, David is Global Distinguished Professor of Banking Law at the University of Notre Dame (USA) in England and Visiting Professor at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

1100-1115

Refreshments

1115-1150

'Ensuring Effective Access to Justice:

Why Does Ireland Have the Lowest Case Clearance Rate in the EU?'

- Suzanne Scott BL - Head of Research - Law Society of Ireland

Suzanne Scott is the Head of Research at the Law Society of Ireland, leading the work of its newly established Centre for Justice and Law Reform. In that role, she leads evidence-based research on the Irish justice system. As of early 2026, she is driving initiatives like the Justice Indicators project, organising the Centre's annual summer school, and managing research fellowships aimed at strengthening legal reform.

Prior to joining the Law Society, Suzanne was a legal advisor for the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities, advising on complex issues, including on the development of regulatory frameworks for offshore energy generation and district heating. She was previously Senior Legal Researcher at the Law Reform Commission, where she led research on projects such as the Reform of Non-Court Adjudicative Bodies and Appeals to Courts.

1150-1225

'Jurisdiction clauses, ADR provisions in the context of policy coverage'

- David Curran - Partner - Holmes Solicitors

David Curran is a dual-qualified and highly experienced commercial and Insurance litigation lawyer and in particular, has extensive experience in professional negligence litigation. He is the co-author of the only dedicated Irish legal text on Irish professional indemnity law and he is currently co-writing a new book on Insurance Claims in Ireland which is due to be published in 2027. He is also qualified as a sports arbitrator for the GAA and is former independent chair of the Disciplinary Committee of the Irish Football Association and currently sits on the Appeals Panel for Cycling Ireland.



1225-1300

*'Managing Boardroom Disputes Effectively and Efficiently:
Less Courtroom Drama, More Cohesive Collaboration'*

- *Brendan Lenihan*

Chairman of Bord na Mona / Managing Director, Navigo Consulting Limited

Brendan Lenihan is Managing Director of Navigo Consulting and is a management consultant, Chartered Accountant, professional non-executive director and accredited mediator. Through his consultancy, Navigo Consulting, he provides strategic, financial and governance advice to clients in Ireland and the UK.

He has a First Class Honours graduate of UCC (B. Comm 1990) and UCD (Diploma in Professional Accounting 1991). He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1993. Acquired many consultancy skills, including expert level group facilitation during a 30 year career. He was Awarded the Professional Diploma in Corporate Governance from UCD Smurfit Business School 2017 and went on to graduate from the Honourable Society of the Kings Inns with an Advanced Diploma in Mediation and is an accredited member of the Mediators Institute of Ireland.

- Previously he was a Partner with Arthur Andersen, with whom he worked in New York and Dublin. Served as President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland in 2013-14 and for 8 years was the Group Finance Director of a multinational real estate company where he was responsible for hundreds of companies in 9 different legal jurisdictions.
- Trusted and experienced adviser to a large variety of clients from sizeable corporates to family businesses as well as individuals, charities and public bodies.
- Board Director of HSE (Health Service Executive, 2019 – 2023), and Bus Eireann, (State Owned Bus Transport operator in Ireland), chairing the Board Audit & Risk Committees on both Boards. Previously External member of CIE Group Board Audit & Risk Committee. CIE Group is a state transportation holding company whose group members provide rail and bus services in Ireland;
- Chair of the Board of Directors of Irish & International Trading Corporation PLC and Chair of Advisory Board of Regan Wall (leading law firm specialising in M&A);
- Member of the Investment Committee of Enterprise Ireland, a state agency tasked with developing indigenous businesses, especially in the manufacturing and traded international services area.
- External member of Audit & Risk Committee of the Dental Council of Ireland, the state regulator of Ireland's dental profession.
- Previously Trustee and Chair of Audit & Risk Committee Pieta House, a charity providing prevention, intervention and bereavement services to those affected by suicide and self-harm.
- Chair of Board of Trustees of Good Shepherd Cork, a charity helping the homeless and vulnerable in Cork.
- Previously Group Finance Director of one of Ireland's largest nursing home groups.
- Previously Non Executive Director of international body coordinating the accounting profession in Britain and Ireland (CCAB Ltd).
- Awarded a number of academic, civic and professional honours including Graduate of the Year (UCC), and Winner, Irish Times Debating Competition.

1300-1400 *Lunch*

1400-1435

*'The Evolving Role of the Insurance Broker for the Professional Sector:
From Transactional Risk Transfer Agent to Trusted, Strategic Risk Advisor'*

- *Julie Galbraith - Arachas Corporate Brokers*

With over a decade of legal expertise and business acumen, Julie Galbraith is the Chief Business Officer and General Counsel at Arachas, Ireland's largest insurance broker. Her role encompasses leading the HR and marketing teams while supporting business operations and commercial insurance buyers across Ireland.

As a qualified solicitor in Ireland, England, and Wales, She brings a deep understanding of employment law and corporate governance to her work. She is passionate about driving organizational success by fostering collaboration and delivering strategic support to achieve business objectives.





1435–1510

'Navigating Environmental, Social and Governmental Responsibility in the Digital Age: Integration of AI and Digital Technologies in the Insurance Sector'

- Fiona Sage - Global Head of Claims Operations - Zurich Insurance plc

Fiona Sage is Interim Chief Claims Officer for Zurich Insurance Europe AG in Ireland, with responsibility for the governance, oversight and performance of the Irish claims function across general insurance lines. She brings over 27 years' experience in senior claims, legal and operational leadership roles across domestic and international insurance markets and has deep expertise in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, risk management and internal control frameworks. Fiona has led and overseen complex transformation programmes, audit and assurance activity, and claims operations subject to heightened regulatory scrutiny. A qualified barrister, she is recognised for her strong commitment to customer outcomes, robust controls and effective corporate oversight.

1510–1525 *Refreshments*

1525–1600

'Understanding Professional Risks in the Insolvency Sector: Staying on the Right Side of Liquidations, Receiverships & Examinations'

- Kieran Wallace - Interpath Advisory

Kieran Wallace has more than 25 years' experience in restructuring and insolvency, including acting as a liquidator, receiver and examiner to various companies, including acting as one of the Joint Special Liquidators to IBRC (formally Anglo Irish Bank), a long-running liquidation on behalf of the Irish State which commenced in 2013. Kieran also has acted in a number of high profile forensic expert witness and fraud investigation cases.



1600–1635

'Current Trends in Construction Negligence Claims: BC(A)R, Building Disputes and Breakdowns in Relationships'

*Niall Meagher Dipl.Arch., B.Arch.Sci., Dip.Proj.Mgmt., Dipl.Arb., FRIAI, FCI Arb
Managing Director, Interactive Project Managers*

Niall Meagher FRIAI is a Registered Architect and the Managing Director of Interactive Project Managers Ltd. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a diploma holder in Project Management from Trinity College Dublin and in Arbitration from University College Dublin. Niall is a Ciarb accredited Mediator and Adjudicator.

Niall has specialised in project management since 1995. Niall has specific expertise in the management of complex, mixed-use city centre projects, conservation and restoration projects. Notable recent projects include the Restoration of St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford (rebuilt following a fire in 2009), Dublin Landings Mixed Use Development North Wall Quay, Saint Patricks Cathedral Dublin and currently the RDS (Leinster Rugby) Anglesea Stand.

Niall has significant industry participation especially through the Board and Committee of the RIAI and the Liaise Committee of the Construction Industry. Niall is a member of the Construction Contracts Adjudication Panel established under of the Construction Contracts Act. Niall is an elected member of the RIAI Professional Conduct Committee (Board established under the Building Control Act) and is Chairperson of the RIAI Contracts Drafting Group.



1635–1720

'Assessing the Ongoing Impact of Artificial Intelligence for the Professional Sectors: Mitigating Risks, Maximising Opportunities and Reaping Rewards'

- Ger Perdisatt - Acuity AI Advisory

Ger Perdisatt founded Acuity AI Advisory after 25 years in senior operational and governance roles across professional services, technology and the public sector. He served as Chief Operating Officer of Microsoft Western Europe — responsible for 14 markets, approximately €10 billion in annual revenue, and a 180-person operational team. That role required governing technology adoption at scale, managing operational risk across diverse regulatory environments, and translating complex strategic objectives into measurable outcomes. He is a current Non-Executive Director at Dublin Airport Authority and Tailte Éireann. Those roles require exactly what boards across Ireland are now being asked to do with AI: exercise meaningful oversight of complex systems without operational dependency on management for the analysis. That experience is the foundation of Acuity's AI governance consulting practice.



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: 380 Euros

Non-members: 450 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/ireland-professional-negligence-liability-pnla-holmes-conference-18-june-2026/>