



GRIFFITH COLLEGE DUBLIN

LAW FACULTY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

## Guest Lectures Series: Family Law expert Carol Coulter gives lecture to GCD law students

On 31<sup>st</sup> March Dr Carol Coulter, the editor of the *Law Matters* page and journalist in the *Irish Times*, delivered a talk on Family Law to Griffith College students

Dr Coulter was speaking about the workings of the Irish family law courts and family law in Ireland. She also presented her book "Family Law in Practice: A Study of Cases in the Circuit Court", published by Clarus Press. The audio MP3 recording of the lecture is presently available to law students on Moodle.



During the month of March Griffith College human rights law students also had an opportunity to attend two more guest lectures. On 25<sup>th</sup> March, Niamh Hayes, LL.B (Dub.), LL.M. (NUI), Ph.D candidate, gave a guest lecture on International Criminal Tribunals and Courts. Niamh discussed the development of the use of international

criminal courts from the Nuremberg Tribunals to the setting up of the International Criminal Court. Niamh is completing a Ph.D. in the Centre for Human Rights in NUI Galway.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Tanya Ni Mhuirthile, BCL (UCC), LL.M. (UCC), Ph.D candidate gave a guest lecture on the rights of inter-sexed people under Article 8 of the ECHR. A very topical area, Tanya discussed the implications of the recent case of *Foy v An tArd Chlaraitheoir & Ors (No 2)* unrep. High Court, 10 Oct 2007 and looked at the lack of acknowledgement of the rights of inter-sexed persons within Irish law.

These talks conclude annual series of guest lectures, which the Faculty of Law initiated this year. From the start of the new academic year more guest speakers, including Griffith College lecturers from Cork, will be delivering talks to Griffith students.

### Dean of the Law Faculty Offered Scholarship in the University of British Columbia

David Langwallner, Dean of the Law Faculty, has been offered a visiting scholarship to the University of British Columbia to study comparative Canadian and Irish Constitutional Law in Canada in June 2009.

### LLM in International Law

The validation of the LLM in International Law with streams in Human Rights Law and Commercial Law is currently under way. More updates to follow in May 2009.

## GCD Debating Society

Since its foundation Griffith College first Debating Society has adopted and put into practice its Constitution.

It held a series of in-house debating sessions with prizes for the most successful applicant on the night.

Furthermore, the DS committee has established links with other Debating Societies both in Ireland and abroad.

The DS has also provided intensive preparation for students who wish to participate in upcoming Debating Competitions such as the Irish Mace, Irish Times and the World Championship due to be held at Koc University, Istanbul.

For updates and further details see [www.gcd.ie/debatingsociety](http://www.gcd.ie/debatingsociety)

## GCD Law Society

2008-2009 Academic Year has also seen the creation of Griffith's first Law Society, which has extensively supported the Law School in promoting guest speakers, such as Carol Coulter. The Law Society has also encouraged a large turn out at the recent Four Courts visit in Dublin.

To keep everyone up to date Society's newsletter with recent cases and minutes of meetings alongside any other relevant law materials will be circulated to all its members.

Furthermore, next academic year in November 2009 the SC is looking to organise a trip to the European courts.

For updates and further details see [www.gcd.ie/lawsociety](http://www.gcd.ie/lawsociety)

## The Innocence Project

From September 2009 Griffith College Law School will be running a Diploma / Certificate in The Innocence Project where participants will be able to work on real legal documents, potentially have visits with clients to write and research a report as to whether on an individual case, there has been a miscarriage of Justice.

The project will be open to current second or third year students or those doing the proposed LLM or attending FE1 or King's Inns lectures at Griffith. Participants will be carefully selected. Applicants need to have interest in and dedication to detailed research and clinical work and aspire to work as litigators in Criminal, Public and Constitutional Law. Experience of working in a law office is desirable but not essential. Academic grades achieved at the College will also be taken into account.

## FE1 and the King's Inns Preparatory Courses are Now Fully Available Online.

From June 2009 Griffith College preparatory law courses for the Law Society and King's Inns are fully available in online format.

To enhance the variety of content offered in the Law School and to provide students with an opportunity to study from home the college is also looking at blended-style learning for its degree programmes. For our latest online developments read the recent article on distance learning from the Irish Independent.

The screenshot shows a webpage from Independent.ie. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Independent.ie' and 'FEATURES'. Below this is a search bar and a '16° Dublin' indicator. The main content area features a headline 'Logging on to laptop learning' with a sub-headline 'More colleges are now putting their lectures online'. The article text begins with 'Wednesday April 01 2009' and describes how a student, Rebecca Keating, is studying law at Griffith College. A photo of Rebecca Keating is included. To the right, there is a sidebar with a 'JobsFair, Still Hiring Here now!' advertisement and a 'Win a trip to Istanbul' promotion. At the bottom of the article, there is a 'Dedicated student' caption and a 'LoadzaJobs.ie' advertisement.

The article can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.independent.ie/education/features/logging-on-to-laptop-learning-1693210.html>