



GRIFFITH COLLEGE DUBLIN

LAW FACULTY NEWSLETTER APRIL-MAY 2010



Bernard White of the Griffith College Law Society, with Chief State Solicitor Mr. David J. O'Hagan

Chief State Solicitor Gives a Talk to Griffith Law Students

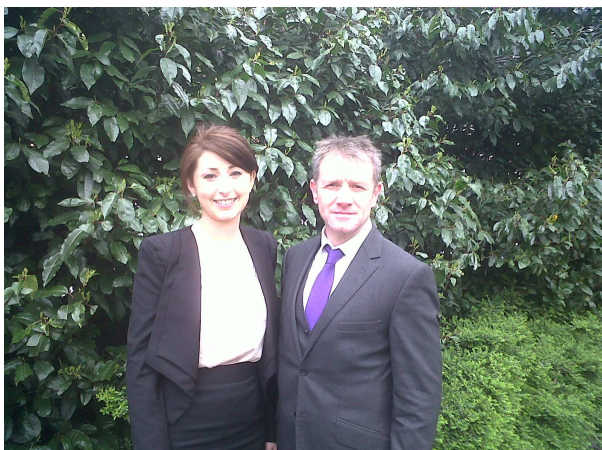
On Wednesday 24th March 2010, the Chief State Solicitor Mr. David J O'Hagan gave a talk to students about his role in office. Invited by the Law Society of Griffith College Dublin, Mr. O'Hagan gave a speech about being the solicitor to Ireland, to the Attorney General, to Government Departments and Offices, and to State Agencies. After the talk, he offered students an opportunity to ask questions about the works of the Chief State Solicitor's office, as well as about career advice within the legal profession.

Griffith Takes Part in Thomas Finlay UCD Moot Court

March 26th and 27th saw the Thomas Finlay UCD Moot Court intervarsity competition being held in Roebuck House, Belfield. GCD was represented by Miss Edwina Malaniff and Mr Philip Smith.

"Tort" was the theme of this year's competition. Some 16 teams, including 9 from the UK, and from as far a field as United States took part. The GCD participants argued their way to the last six and were beaten by only six speaker points by the semi-finalists.

Griffith College Law School team has now participated twice in a row in this prestigious annual competition and is hoping that the tradition will continue into the next year.



FE1 Prize Winners

It is with great pleasure that Griffith College is proud to announce that three of its Law Society of Ireland Final Examination Part 1 (FE1) students won prizes in 2009.

Myra Ann Brosnan and Melissa Marie O'Sullivan won Company Law prizes and Rebecca Clare Keatinge tool the first prize in EU Law, which she was studying by distance from her home in Cambodia.

Jennifer Goode is GCD lecturer in EU Law and Caren Geoghegan lectures in Company Law.

Summer preparatory course begins on 31st May. Applications can be submitted online through www.gcd.ie/fe1 or by e-mail proflaw@gcd.ie.

News in Brief

Annual Schools Debating Competition

Annual Schools Debating Competition was held in Griffith College on 24th March 2010. The first prize went to St. Declan's from Cabra.



Griffith College Law Society 2010/11 members:

Bernard White, President; Graham Butler, Vice-President, also elected as Students' Union President.

Irish Innocence Project in Atlanta

In March 2010 David Langwallner, Dean of the Law School, and a Case Worker on the Innocence Project Team attended the Innocence Network international conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The Irish Innocence Project, established in 2009, aims to assist persons who have been convicted of a crime but claim factual innocence and thus may have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

The Innocence Network is comprised of 86 international independent projects which aim to assist those who have been victim of a miscarriage of justice.

The Atlanta conference was attended by over 400 delegates from across the globe. Discussion during the event centred on many issues including advances in DNA science, the developing science concerning the unreliability of eyewitness evidence, the psychological underpinnings of false confessions, recantation as a basis for exoneration, and the jurisprudence and policy of exoneration. A highlight of the event was meeting with 86 exonerees who were all wrongly convicted of a crime. Given that the Irish Innocence Project, spear-headed by David Langwallner, is the first of its kind in this jurisdiction, the attendance of Irish representatives generated considerable interest from other participants and organisers of the conference.



Co-Founder of the International Innocence Network, Barry Scheck, with the David Langwallner, Dean of Griffith College Law Faculty

David Norris in Griffith Debate on the Civil Partnership Bill

On 29th April 2010 Griffith College LGBT Society held a debate on the newly proposed Civil Partnership Bill. Roderic O'Gorman, EU and Constitutional Law lecturer in Griffith College, was speaking in favour of the Bill, while Senator David Norris was arguing against.

Roderic, a Green Party candidate in 2007 local and general elections, is the author of the Green Party's relationships policy and party adviser on the drafting of the Bill. Senator Norris is a leading human rights advocate; first elected to the Seanad in 1989. He is also the first ever openly gay member of the Oireachtas. His victory in the landmark *Norris v Ireland* case led directly to the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Ireland in 1993.

The debate, chaired by Siobhan Leonard, Deputy Head of the Law Faculty, attracted students from various faculties in the College.

Law Society 2010/11

It has been confirmed that Patricia T. Rickard Clarke from the Law Reform Commission will be giving a talk on Wednesday 13th October 2010. Time and location details are to be confirmed.

GCC Lecturers Attend Global Conference

In early May, Kieran Walsh and Suzanne Doyle, lecturers from Griffith College Cork, attended the 2nd Global Interdisciplinary Conference on *Good Sex, Bad Sex: Sex Law, Crime and Ethics*, which was held in Michna Palace in the Czech capital of Prague and was attended by over 50 delegates from some of the world's leading universities, with speakers from departments of law, philosophy, politics, psychology, anthropology and literature.

Kieran and Suzanne delivered papers dealing with aspects of their PhD research as it applied to sexual law and ethics. Suzanne's paper focused on the roles of both feminist theory and the social model of disability in allowing a greater understanding of the ability of persons with intellectual disabilities to consent to sexual relations. Kieran's paper questioned the extent to which age of consent legislation is both a product of unreal constructions of childhood and denies the lived reality of adolescent sexual experience. Former Head of Law in GCC and current IRCHSS Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Tanya Ní Mhuirthile delivered a paper on the extent to which international human rights law can accommodate intersexuals outside the male/female heterosexual matrix. All three papers are available on the conference website www.inter-disciplinary.net.