



## CALL FOR PAPERS

# “Judicial Education and Training in Twenty-First Century Ireland: European and International Perspectives”

Online Seminar  
Friday 17 September 2021

*Irish Council for Civil Liberties  
Whitaker Institute and School of Law,  
National University of Ireland Galway  
School of Law, University of Limerick*

Papers are invited from scholars and practitioners for a seminar on the judicial education and training in Ireland. Abstracts (maximum 500 words) to be submitted by Friday 23 July 2021.

### **Background**

The establishment of the Judicial Council is a significant development in the ongoing process of reform and modernisation of the Irish court system. Two decades after the establishment of the Courts Service, which gave proper status to the administration of justice, the creation of a body dedicated to supporting and assisting with the particular work of judges brings into sharp focus some key issues and controversies in the legal system.

The functions of the Council include promoting and maintaining excellence in the exercise by judges of their judicial functions, high standards of conduct among judges, the effective and efficient use of resources, continuing education of judges, respect for the independence of the judiciary, and public confidence in the judiciary and the administration of justice. Developing mechanisms, processes, and institutional arrangements to achieve these challenging but very desirable goals will provide the Irish judiciary, and the Irish people, with a system that protects judicial independence and vindicates human rights.

Currently in Ireland there is no well-developed system of judicial education and training. Training for judges is mandatory since 1996, under [Section 16 of the Court and Court Officers Act 1995](#), but what has been provided to date is relatively limited: conferences and seminars, bench books, limited induction, shadowing, and funding for judges to attend courses abroad.

From an international perspective, this is very unusual. In [a survey from 2016](#), it was noted that in all of the 10 European jurisdictions surveyed, there existed mandatory



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh



Irish Council for  
Civil Liberties



School of  
Law

initial or induction training for all new judicial appointees. This included England and Wales. However, no such comprehensive system exists in Ireland. A [Council of Europe Report on efficiency of justice in European Judicial Systems from 2018](#) notes that Ireland is one of only three States that do not provide continuous training.

### **Purpose of Seminar**

Jointly convened by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and by the School of Law at NUI Galway, the seminar will seek to rigorously benchmark judicial education and training (JET) in Ireland against best practice in other jurisdictions in order to move beyond the challenges of the past and the present. The key research question it seeks to answer is, how can JET in Ireland integrate with work underway in other jurisdictions and contexts, particularly European and international?

### **Topics**

Topics include: (but are not limited to):

- Judicial education and training in Ireland
- International best practice in judicial education and training
- The place of skills in judicial education
- The role of technology and blended learning in judicial education
- Judicial education and judicial independence
- Judicial education and public confidence
- Judicial education and judicial well-being or resilience
- Judicial education and international law
- Judicial education and judicial conduct
- Judicial education and changes in Irish society

### **Important Dates**

Submission Deadline: Friday 23 July 2021.

Acceptance Notification: Friday 6 August 2021.

Workshop: Friday 17 September 2021.

It is anticipated that the seminar will take place online. If the public health situation changes to permit it, it will proceed as a hybrid physical/online event.

Following peer review, papers may be published in a special issue of the Irish Judicial Studies Journal.

This seminar is funded by the Irish Research Council.

Submissions and enquiries to: [ronan.m.kennedy@nuigalway.ie](mailto:ronan.m.kennedy@nuigalway.ie) or to Rónán Kennedy (Law School, National University of Ireland Galway) at +353-91-495626.



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn