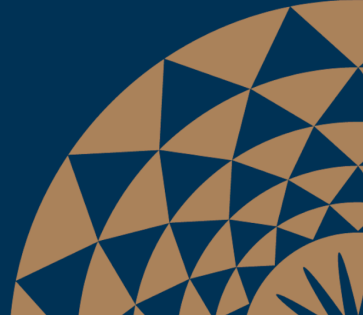


A Century of Courts



1924 - 2024



Programme of Events

The Printworks, Dublin Castle

12 April 2024

Welcome to this special event to mark the centenary of the Courts of Justice Act 1924, brought to you by UCD, the Courts Service and the Irish Legal History Society. The Courts of Justice Act 1924 was signed into law on this day one hundred years ago. Today we reflect on both the establishment of the courts system and its evolution over the past century.

Lunch and coffee will be served in the foyer, where you will also find the exhibition space, the musical performance in the morning and the departure point for guided tours. If you have any questions please ask at the reception desk.

Schedule

8.30 am ***Registration opens***
Exhibition and musical performance

9.20 am ***Welcome and Introductory remarks***
Ms Angela Denning, CEO Courts Service

9.30 am ***Setting the Historical Context***
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, UCD

10.00 am ***Session 1: Grappling with Change***

Dr Thomas Mohr (UCD): *The Dáil Courts and Opposition to the Courts of Justice Act 1924*

Dr Lynsey Black (Maynooth) and Ms Danielle Jefferis (Maynooth):
'Illegal, Immoral and Unpatriotic': Cross-Border Smuggling and the Court

Mr Justice Maurice Collins (Supreme Court): *The 'Judicial Interregnum' 1922–1924*

Chair: Ms Justice Iseult O'Malley, Supreme Court

10.55 am ***Break***
Exhibition continues

11.10 am ***Session 2: The Circuit Court and the District Court***

Judge Patricia Ryan (President of the Circuit Court): *The Expanding Role of the Circuit Court Judge*

Dr Kevin Costello (UCD): *“Twenty-six High Courts’: the Circuit Court, decentralisation and its opponents, 1924–1934*

Judge Paul Kelly (President of the District Court): *The Evolution of the District Court*

Chair: Judge Gráinne Malone, District Court

12.05 pm ***Session 3: The New Judiciary***

Dr Bláthna Ruane SC: *Establishing Judicial Independence*

Mr Robert D. Marshall (ind.): *A Balanced Judiciary: the Early Appointments to the Superior and Circuit Courts*

Mr Daire Hogan (ind.) *The Introduction of a Retirement Age for Judges*

Dr Laura Cahillane (University of Limerick): *Remuneration of Judges Under the 1924 Act*

Chair: Dr Niamh Howlin (UCD)

1.20 pm ***Lunch break***

Exhibition continues

Optional guided tours

Live podcast recording at 1.50 pm: The Fifth Court, with Mark Tottenham BL, Peter Leonard BL, Mr Justice Gerard Hogan and Professor Diarmaid Ferriter

3.00 pm ***Session 4: Language, Symbolism and Comparisons***

Dr Mark Coen (UCD): *The Symbolism of the Courts of Justice Act*

Ms Justice Úna Ní Raifeartaigh (Court of Appeal) and Dr Roisín Costello (Trinity College Dublin): *The Courts of Justice Act 1924 and the Irish Language in the Courtroom*

Prof Brice Dickson (Emeritus, Queen's University Belfast): *Appeal Routes in Northern Ireland*

Dr Donal Coffey (Maynooth University): *The Courts of Justice Act in Comparative Perspective*

Chair: Dr Thomas Mohr, UCD

4.15 pm ***Session 5: The Superior Courts***

Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell: *Who Would be a Chief Justice?*

Mr Justice Gerard Hogan (Supreme Court): *The Supreme Court and the Winter of 1936-1937*

Justice David Barniville (President of the High Court): *The Role of President of the High Court*

Chair: Ms Justice Caroline Costello (Court of Appeal)

5.00 pm ***Closing Remarks***

Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell

Exhibition Area

The exhibition area features a number of different elements.

- ❖ 'Judicial Attire and the Irish Free State', with thanks to the Courts Service, UCD Archives, UCD Library and UCD Sutherland School of Law.
- ❖ 'Branches of Government' commemorative stamps, with thanks to An Post
- ❖ 'Delivering Justice: the Law Courts in Dublin Castle 1923-1931', with thanks to the Office of Public Works
- ❖ 'Faces of the Criminal Courts', original artwork by Mick O'Connell, court sketch artist
- ❖ 'New Irish Courts' movie reel with thanks to Pathé and the Courts Service

Guided Tours

Guided Tours of Dublin Castle, led by Evan McGuigan, will show where the courts sat in the 1920s. The tours will depart during the lunch break from a designated assembly point. Our student helpers can give directions.

Book

Papers delivered at the conference will be published by Four Courts Press later in 2024. Conference attendees can receive a 20% discount on pre-orders placed before 30 April. Members of the Irish Legal History Society will receive one free copy on publication. To join the Irish Legal History Society, visit www.irishlegalhistorysociety.org

Thoughts?

Please feel free to share your reflections in the Guest Book, tag the event on social media #CenturyofCourts or email niamh.howlin@ucd.ie