



## AGENDA OF MEETING

---

DATE OF MEETING **10 November 2022** TIME OF MEETING **6.30pm**  
VENUE **Presidents' Hall, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7 and by Zoom Webinar. Registration for online attendance is essential. Please refer to [www.lawsociety.ie/AGM](http://www.lawsociety.ie/AGM)**  
MEETING **Annual General Meeting**

---

1. Reading of notice convening the meeting.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 4 November 2021.
3. Consideration of the Annual Report for the year 2021/2022 and approval of Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.
4. Report of the Scrutineers on the Annual Election and the Provincial Elections and the final declaration of results.
5. Election of auditors.
6. Special Business pursuant to Bye-law 4(3)(a) of the Bye-laws of the Society:

**Report:**

Report from Antoinette Moriarty, Head of Psychological Services at the Law Society of Ireland on the Law Society's Psychological Services and Dignity Matters update.

**Report:**

Report from Richard Hammond S.C., Chairperson of the Education Committee on the proposed proposal for construction of a new multi-purpose education facility and associated works.

**Motion 1:**

*"That pursuant to Bye-Law 9(3)(b) of the Bye-Laws of the Law Society of Ireland, this General meeting approves the expenditure from the financial reserves of the Law School of the Law Society of Ireland of up to €7,500,000 for the purpose of the planning and construction of a multi-purpose educational facility building, together with associated works to adjoin the Green Hall on its western side".*

**Proposer: Richard Hammond S.C.**  
**Seconder: Paul Keane**

**Note:** Please see Appendix 1 below for explanatory memorandum on this motion.

**Motion 2:**

*“That the following sentence be added to the end of Bye-law 6(7)(c):*

*“The then current office-holders of the positions of President, Senior Vice-President, and Junior Vice-President may not nominate any candidate(s) for selection as members of the Council.”*

**Proposer: Dr. Shane McCarthy  
Second: David Higgins**

**Motion 3:**

*“That Bye-Law 6 Clause 6(b)(ii) now be amended as follows:*

*(ii) a nomination form for the nomination of a candidate for the annual election (in the form set forth in Part I of the First Schedule to these Bye-laws, **or as may otherwise be determined by the Scrutineers**) and, if an eligible member of the Society, a nomination form for the nomination of a candidate for the provincial elections (in the form set forth in Part II of the First Schedule to these Bye-laws, **or as may otherwise be determined by the Scrutineers**).*

*That Bye-Law 6 clause 7(a) now read:*

- (a) Every candidate for the annual election shall be a member of the Society and shall be nominated by two other members of the Society, who shall complete and sign a nomination form (in the form set forth in Part I of the First Schedule to these Bye-laws, **or as may otherwise be determined by the Scrutineers**).*

*That Bye-Law 6 clause 7(b) now be amended as follows:*

- (b) Every candidate for one of the provincial elections shall be an eligible member of the Society and shall be nominated by two other eligible members of the Society, who shall complete and sign a nomination form (in the form set forth in Part II of the First Schedule to these Bye-laws, **or as may otherwise be determined by the Scrutineers**).*

*That Bye-Law 6 clause 8(a) now be amended as follows:*

- (a) It shall be the sole responsibility of each intended candidate for the annual election or for one of the provincial elections to ensure that a nomination form duly completed and signed pursuant to clause (7) of this Bye-law shall be duly received by the Secretary ~~at the Blackhall Place premises~~ before 5pm on the final date for the receipt of such nomination forms, provided that such nomination form shall be deemed to have been duly received by the Secretary where a copy of same is received by means of **post, facsimile, or electronic mail, or such other electronic means determined by the Scrutineers**, ~~at the Blackhall Place premises~~ before 5 pm on the final date for the receipt of such nomination forms ~~and subject to the original of such nomination form being received at the Blackhall Place premises by not later than 5 pm on the second working day following upon the said final date.~~*

**Proposer: Peter McKenna  
Second: Kate McKenna**

**Note:** Please see Appendix 2 below for commentary on this motion.

**7. Appointing date of next Annual General Meeting.**

8. Appointment of Scrutineers for Council Election 2023/2024.
9. Any other business properly arising.

**Mark Garrett**  
**Director General and Secretary**  
**27 October 2022**

***Note:** The President of the Law Society, Michelle Ní Longáin, invites those attending the Annual General Meeting to a reception in the Members' Lounge immediately following the meeting.*

## **Appendix 1**

### **Explanatory Memorandum**

#### **Proposal for construction of a new multi-purpose education facility and associated works**



#### **Introduction**

The Education Committee of the Law Society of Ireland is bringing a motion to the 2022 Annual General Meeting seeking approval for the expenditure of up to €7,500,000 from the reserves of the Law School of the Law Society of Ireland. It is not proposed to incur any borrowing in respect of this proposed development.

#### **Space**

The Law School is fundamentally short of space. 469 trainee solicitors started the new fused Professional Practice Course (“PPC”) which commenced on 6 September. This course is the largest number of students on a single course since 2007. Our current capacity for a single course is 480 students. Combined with the hybrid PPC attendees (now exceeding 100), trainee registrations have increased to almost 600 *per annum*.

This increase in numbers is not confined to the PPC. At post qualification level we currently offer 30+ certificates, diplomas, master programmes and a professional doctorate in law as well as a full suite of masterclasses, Continuing Professional Development (“CPD”) conferences and annual committee-focused training events (a mix of online and on-site). Both the diploma and CPD teams are operating at maximum capacity from a facilities perspective, offering courses each evening and on Saturdays.

There are currently additional opportunities to collaborate with external education providers to offer a broader range of programmes. However due to an already over-stretched campus it is not feasible to add additional programmes to our current offerings.

The Law School has 2 lecture theatres, 3 multipurpose rooms, 9 tutorial rooms and 2 meeting rooms, much of which is now outmoded, despite representing peak suitability 25+ years ago, when much of it was designed. There is a chronic shortage of teaching space, as a result the lecture theatres, the President's Hall and even the members' dining room and the student canteen are being used as tutorial rooms to meet the needs of the growing trainee population and the Law Society's members. Since 2005, we have adapted the Education Centre and Green Hall to increase capacity and create additional teaching spaces; however, we have reached the limit of what can be done with the existing buildings. There are no rooms onsite for students to study in, use for extracurricular activities, or for our part-time teaching staff to use.

The Law School campus is in full use six days a week with the full time PPC, the hybrid PPC, Diplomas and Certificates, CPD events, smaller examinations and assessments and discrete courses such as the Bar Transfer Course (which runs over the summer months).

### **Future landscape**

The ongoing review of professional education is another supporting factor for this development. While the future of professional education is under scrutiny, the future of the Law Society as a provider of such education is not. The current LSRA proposal is for an oversight body to be put in place. This body will examine and license the Law Society, the King's Inns and others to provide courses. Based on comparable examples in other jurisdictions, these criteria are likely to include the quality of teaching accommodation, the number of rooms available, break-out facilities etcetera. We need to invest now to ensure that the quality of our physical infrastructure matches the high quality of our course lecturers and tutors.

### **Nature of professional legal education**

The nature of professional legal education is another supporting factor. The bulk of our teaching is done in smaller tutorials and skills groups and the new PPC uses more of this teaching method than its predecessor. The current PPC numbers now requires 28 tutorial groups for each tutorial generally divided into two streams of 14 groups each.

While COVID enabled us to offer much online teaching, we had to defer several skills courses until physical teaching resumed. Online instruction can be very effective for lectures, but it is much less successful for small group teaching and very difficult to use for skills teaching. The revised PPC makes greater use of skills workshops as well as problem-based and transactional learning thus necessitating changes in the layout of our learning zones to allow movement and flexibility. That is why this extension provides a large number of collaborative spaces for such teaching as well as a room that's equipped to record material for dissemination online.

Now is the time to put in place additional facilities to future-proof our campus and meet the needs of our members and the growing graduate population.

### **Funding**

The funding is in place. The Law Society is answerable to the President of the High Court for its spending and budgeting. His consent is required for any new fees order. As a consequence, any Education surpluses are earmarked for capital spending. The Education reserve fund is sufficient to meet these construction costs over the next two/three years. The funds are on hand to enable this development to happen.

### **Peart Report**

The foregoing rationale for the development should hopefully be clear. It is also worth noting that the **Peart Report** at Proposal 26 provided that *'the LSI will expand the physical resources*

available for the provision of professional legal education by, at the minimum, the creation of 10-15 additional tutorial rooms’

The Council has approved this report, it was submitted to the LSRA, and Department of Justice and the Society committed to its implementation. This proposal is the implementation of this recommendation with the goal of future-proofing professional legal education at the Law Society by developing the best campus we can.

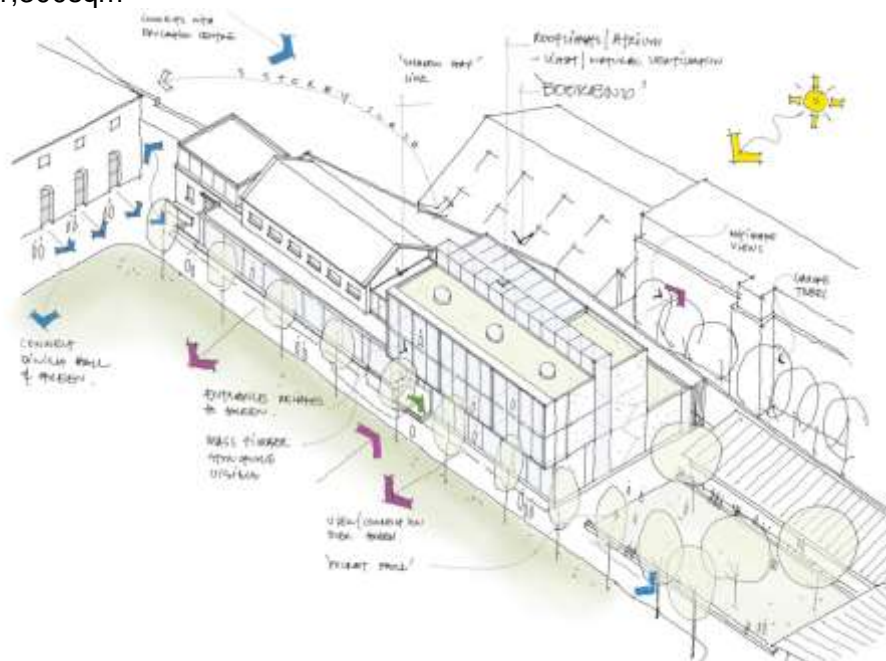
### Feasibility Study

Architects carried out a feasibility study to identify options to extend tutorial room provision on campus.

A new three-storey education building beside the Green Hall was the optimum site. Most rooms will look over the playing field. The Green Hall Extension will be the nerve centre of campus that prioritises collaborative learning & it will ensure that physical and digital spaces are accessible to everyone. With the addition of a lift to this space the entire Green Hall will be Part M compliant.

The aim of this development is to move away from the traditional classroom and provide much needed learning zones that caters for every learning mode.

- **Space to include:** 12 smart community learning labs, mock court, recording room, large CPD training room, smaller lecture theatre plus a large number of breakout spaces
- **Area:** 1,300sqm



### Sustainable Concept

The aim is that this building will be sustainable using low carbon modular construction. The building will use passive means as much as possible – the vision is to create a lightly serviced building supplemented by mechanical and electrical technology e.g. air/air heat pumps technology, solar panels and a BMS system.

### Associated Works

The print room will be affected by this proposed construction and will be accommodated in a new single storey building. The print room area will be designed for a multiple of uses that can be reconfigurable where required. This area will contain a simple building, an overhanging roof, an urban garden, an element of rewilding, a low energy active hub at the end of campus.

- **Space to include:** print room and plant room.
- **Area:** 115sqm

### **Opportunity**

Given that construction work will be carried out at that end of campus, it is likely to also give an opportunity to follow-through on the A.G.M. motion from 2014 and develop purpose-built changing rooms as part of the project. These would replace the current sub-standard portacabins.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed Green Hall extension will allow the Law Society of Ireland to continue to be at the forefront of legal professional education. Training solicitors to meet the challenges they will face in their careers is some of the most important work the Law Society does. Our education model is deeply rooted in the public interest and focussed on the future.

This development will enable the Society to be an exemplar in a competitive market and allow us to continue to deliver education and support to our members and the profession.

## **Appendix 2**

Commentary:

E-voting at Council and Provincial elections was successfully introduced by way of approved motion (96%) at the AGM in November 2021 and through subsequent amendments made to the Bye-Laws, as approved by the members (97%), in March 2022. It is now proposed to introduce the electronic submission of nominations for Council and Provincial elections, and the amendments as outlined above are proposed to facilitate such introduction.