



IRISH RULE OF LAW
INTERNATIONAL

Season's Greetings!

It's hard to believe that the year is nearly over – and what a great year it has been for IRLI.

Starting off with the visit from the Tanzanian judiciary and East African Court of Justice in January, IRLI was busy throughout the year with the Commercial Law Training Programme in South Africa and the Access to Justice Project in Malawi. Irish lawyers traveled to Pretoria in June and August to deliver training and we were delighted to welcome three South African lawyers to undertake work placements in Dublin in September. The Malawi project received a massive boost with the approval of funding from Irish Aid and Human Dignity Foundation for the next three years and there has been great activity with the arrival of new programme lawyers. We were honoured to be chosen to meet with President Higgins during his visit to Malawi in November.




There was also the self-funded Clinical Legal Education Programme in Vietnam in April led by Freda Grealy as well as numerous fundraising events including the Malawi By The Sea Dinner, Tag Rugby Blitz and Criminal Law and Evidence Update which together raised over €11,600 for the work of IRLI. We were thrilled to learn in November that the Buckley Foundation will be donating €10,000 to IRLI in 2015 and that the pupils from St. Benildus College in Stillorgan raised €1,000 for the Malawi project. We are also very excited about the fundraising lecture on January 22nd by BBC Broadcaster John Simpson who will be interviewed by RTE correspondent Richards Downes. Hope to see you all there!

IRLI would not be able to continue its work without the generous donations and support that we receive and I would like to sincerely thank everybody that has helped us in 2014 and wish you all the very best for 2015.

Yours Sincerely,



IRLI Coordinator

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About IRLI

Irish Rule of Law International is a joint initiative of the Law Society of Ireland and the Bar Council of Ireland, dedicated to promoting the rule of law in developing countries. IRLI seeks to harness the skills of Irish lawyers in using the law as a means of tackling global injustice and empowering all people to live in a society free from inequality, corruption and conflict.

Our e-Newsletter features items of interest to both members and partners. If you would like to submit something please [email us](#).

The views expressed within are not always the views of IRLI. IRLI does not seek to endorse the events, reports, news items and opportunities featured in this newsletter.



Malawi, Access to Justice

Since our last Newsletter in September there have been a number of changes on the ground with two new volunteers joining the team. Mark Johnson is our new Programme Officer and Orla Crowe took over from Sarah Houlihan as Programme Lawyer in the Office of the DPP after Sarah returned home to Ireland in October. We would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank Sarah for the incredible work she did setting the groundwork for the judicial training programme and case file reviews for 2015.

It has been a very busy period since September in terms of activities for the project with four police stations targeted for Diversion and Child Protection training, three workshops held to strengthen the capacity of paralegals, a camp court in Maula prison and numerous activities to mark International Human Rights Day which were funded by Irish Aid.

The main excitement however was that the team had the opportunity to meet President Higgins during his visit to Malawi in November and present to him about the work being done. Jane O'Connell and Morgan Crowe spoke on behalf of IRLI but had also invited local partners to speak about their areas of work with IRLI. You can read more about this special occasion [here](#).

IRLI also welcomed Gift Kachigamba and Innocent Kagwamminga to Dublin in October to represent Malawi and participate in the One Young World Summit. Gift and Innocent are both youth facilitators in IRLI's diversion programme "Mwai Wosinthika....Promoting Future Leaders" for young people who have been diverted from the formal criminal justice system. Their attendance at the OYW was supported by IRLI and Human Dignity Foundation.



IRLI team meeting President Higgins



Commemorating International Human Rights Day in Maula Adult Prison, Lilongwe

South Africa Commercial Training

On 7th September we were delighted to welcome Ms. Sylvia Gertze, Mr. Allan Kissoon and Mr. Khumisi Kganare to undertake a two month placement in leading Commercial law firms in Dublin. Matheson, William Fry and Beauchamps participated in the programme this year and we are sincerely grateful for their support. The placement provided an opportunity for the lawyers to gain experience in the practice of commercial law as part of the overall programme run by IRLI in partnership with the Law Society of Africa. An additional 5 lawyers undertook placements in South African firms.



Testimonial from Allan Kissoon

"I was fortunate to get the opportunity to be placed at William Fry Solicitors in Ireland for a period of two months. The experience was brilliant, I was impressed by the work ethics and standards, the attention to detail, the skill and dedication of the people to their work and the teamwork, amongst others at the firm. The people that I have had the pleasure to meet and also those that I worked with were helpful and always courteous.

I would like to express my gratitude to all those that made this placement possible, as this was a once in a lifetime experience for me and is certainly a highlight in my career. I have managed to forge friendships that I hope would last forever and have gained sufficient experience and confidence to practice what I have learned in Ireland in my own Practice here in South Africa."



You can read more about the 2014 programme on our [website](#)

Tag Rugby Blitz

A wonderful day was had by all at IRLI's inaugural Tag Rugby event which was held on 20th September in Wanderers Rugby club on Merrion Road. The event was well run by John Colgan of the Irish Tag Rugby Association who had great patience with novices such as myself. He explained that this is because he coaches rugby to under sevens!

The event was also very generously sponsored by Base Pizza in Ballsbridge who provided pizzas to all the players.

The eight teams that participated were fielded by McCann Fitzgeralds, A&L Goodbody, Philip Lee, Mason Hayes & Curran, Blackhall Place PPC1 trainees, the Law Library and Deloitte. Controversially the tournament was won by Deloitte – the only non-legal team – so hopefully this will encourage more teams to join us next year and try to take back the title for the legal profession!



Vacancy Announcement

Programme Lawyer in Legal Aid Department for Access to Justice Project in Malawi

The position of Programme Lawyer is for a period of one year commencing 23 February 2015, with opportunity for extension. Travel expenses, health insurance and accommodation costs will be provided for, in addition to a monthly volunteer living allowance.

Full role description and requirements is available [here](#)

To apply, please forward a CV and cover letter, giving specific examples of how you meet the requirements set out in the role description to applications@irishruleoflaw.ie

Deadline for applications is 31st December, 5pm.

Criminal Law & Evidence Update

On Saturday 8th November IRLI held a Criminal Law & Evidence Update fundraising event in the Bar Council's Distillery Building in Dublin. The event received a strong turnout for a rainy Saturday morning and was a success due to the detailed papers written by Junior Counsel and solicitors which were endorsed and presented at the event by eminent Senior Counsel and Solicitors.

A huge thanks to Aoife Beirne BL, Aoife McNickle BL, Conor McKenna BL, Barry Murphy BL, Sophie More O'Ferrall, Jean Tomkins, Katherine McGilicuddy BL and John Berry BL for all the effort that went into researching and writing papers for the event

The event itself was chaired by Supreme Court Judge the Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Hardiman and presentations were made by Michael O'Higgins SC, Patrick Gageby SC, Declan McGrath SC, Una Ni Raifeartaigh SC, Mary-Rose Gearty SC, Remy Farrell SC, Sean Querin SC and solicitor Dara Robinson.

Chairman of the Bar Council, and IRLI Director, David Barniville was also in attendance and made opening remarks at the event which was attended by 150 people and raised over €4,700 for the work of IRLI.

Thank you also to Brian Storan BL who helped to organise the event, and Tessa White BL, Joe Mulrean BL, Matthew Holmes BL and solicitor Fiona McNulty who volunteered to help on the day.



Future Event – Save the Date!

An Evening with John Simpson, January 22nd 2015, Law Society, 6:30pm



We are very excited to announce that IRLI will be holding a fundraising lecture on Thursday January 22nd 2015 in the President's Hall in the Law Society, Blackhall Place. BBC World Affairs Editor John Simpson (*read bio [here](#)*) will be speaking about the Rule of Law and International Affairs and the discussion will be chaired by RTE and Primetime reporter Richard Downes.

John Simpson is an acclaimed foreign correspondent and has spent his entire working life at the BBC. He is now a senior member of the London-based foreign and specialist correspondents Team for BBC News. During his career, he has reported from more than 125 countries, including 41 active war zones, and has interviewed some of the world's most famous and controversial leaders, such as Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and Colonel Gaddafi.



The event will start at 7pm sharp with tea and coffee available in the Blue Room at 6:30pm. Tickets are €25 and €10 for students, trainees and pupil barristers. Tickets will be available on the night but pre-registration is strongly advised to secure a place.

If you are interested in attending please send an email to edwyer@irishruleoflaw.ie and also keep an eye on our website in case there are any last minute changes.

Rule of Law and International Development

HIV-positive women sue Kenya government and NGOs over sterilisation

Five HIV-positive women in Kenya are suing the Kenyan government and two top international NGOs, claiming they were sterilised without their consent. The group this week filed a legal action against parties including the Kenyan health ministry, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and Marie Stopes International.

...Read more [here](#)

5 ways that #DemocracyMatters for development

Debates about the concept and relative importance of democracy in development have been ongoing for decades. During the Annual Democracy Forum 2014, co-organized by the government of Botswana and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, a Stockholm-based intergovernmental organization, Devex caught up with several representatives from government, civil society, academia, the private sector and multilateral institutions from across the globe, and they suggested five reasons why democracy matters for development.

...Read more [here](#)

CIA torture: health professionals 'may have committed war crimes', report says

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) in America called for a federal commission to investigate the full extent of health professionals' participation in CIA torture following the release of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) report on the agency's detention and interrogation programme.

...Read more [here](#)

ICC chief prosecutor shelves Darfur war crimes probe

Chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda announced on Friday that she was shelving the Darfur probe, prompting a triumphant response from Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir and renewed concerns over the viability of the Hague-based institution. But ICC defence counsel Nick Kaufman, acting on behalf of victims in Darfur, described Bensouda's move as "grandstanding" and an attempt to put pressure on the UN security council.

...Read more [here](#) and Economist article about the ICC [here](#)

Brazil truth commission: Abuse 'rife' under military rule says report

Brazil's national truth commission says illegal arrests, torture, executions and forced disappearances were performed systematically by state agents under Brazil's military rule. In its final report, the commission also called for the armed forces to recognise their responsibility for the "grave violations" that happened. More than 400 people were killed or disappeared between 1964 and 1985.

... Read more [here](#)

Alleged Juvenile Offender among 10 Hunger Strikers threatened with immediate execution in Iran

The Iranian authorities' threat to expedite the execution of 10 men on death row in retaliation for going on hunger strike is deplorable, said Amnesty International as it called for the death sentences to be commuted immediately. One of the 10, Saman Naseem, was sentenced to death in 2013 for engaging in armed activities against the state after he allegedly participated in a gun battle while he was a child during which a member of the Iran's Revolutionary Guards was killed.

... Read more [here](#)

Public Events of Interest

Simon Cumbers Media Award

Applications invited for Simon Cumbers Media Fund Student Scheme: This Scheme provides students with a great opportunity to gain experience of reporting on development issues as well as the chance to work with some of Ireland's most respected media outlets. The winning students will be funded to travel to a developing country to research and produce a media project focusing on development issues.

Full details available at <http://www.simoncumbersmediafund.ie/students>. Closing date: 13 February.

International Criminal Court summer school at the Irish Centre for Human Rights

The ICC Summer School 2015 will take place from 15th-19th June 2015. Registration for the summer school is now open at www.conference.ie. An early bird registration fee of €400 is available for delegates who register before 31 March 2015, with the fee for registrations after that date being €450.

The registration fee includes all course materials, all lunches and refreshments, a social activity and a closing dinner. Please check [website](#) regularly for further updates and details regarding speakers, registration etc. Should you have any queries, please email: iccsummerschool@gmail.com

Kimmage Capacity Development Services: KODE

Kimmage DSC is delighted to announce the 2014 KODE Course Schedule Kimmage Open & Distance Education (KODE) which offers a range of short, distance education courses to development workers. Crucial subject areas include Child Protection in Development Practice, Understanding & Addressing GBV, Project Management & Governance & Accountability.

All KODE course are practical, learner-centred and skills based. 2015 Course schedule is available now at <http://www.kodeonline.com/kodecourseschedule2014.jpg>. For further information contact Niamh Rooney, T: 01 406 4343 or email info@kimmagedsc.ie.

Immigrant Council of Ireland, Manager of Legal Services.

Reporting to the CEO, the Manager, a qualified solicitor, will oversee the implementation of a legal and information strategy that will provide frontline and accessible information and legal assistance/representation to migrants. Other responsibilities will include project management of relevant EU funded work, policy development, advocacy and participation in the organisation's middle management team.

To express your interest in this role, kindly send a cover letter and CV to Geraldine Hegarty at geraldine@immigrantcouncil.ie in strictest confidence **by Monday 5 January 2015**. Full job description available on request from Geraldine Hegarty.

Irish Red Cross

The Irish Red Cross is recruiting a Programme Manager to work with the Irish Prison Service CBHFA Programme Director. The role is to maintain consistency and support the organisational development of CBHFA in prisons, work with Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers and assist in the strategic plan to support prisoners on release from prison into society.

For full job description and more information on the Community Based Health & First Aid prison programme, see Irish Red Cross website. Please send applications by email to chassett@redcross.ie or post to Ms Catherine Harrison, PA to Secretary General, Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. **Closing date is Tuesday 30th December 2014.**

International Organisation for Migration

IOM Seeks Senior Administration & Finance Assistant: Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Mission and in coordination with the Regional Resource Management Officer RRMO at the Regional Office in Brussels, the Manila and Panama Administrative Centres, and the relevant units at Headquarters in Geneva, the Senior Finance/ Admin Assistant is responsible for assisting in the coordination of the budgetary, financial, human resources, and administrative services functions in Ireland.

For a full job description please e-mail iomdublin@iom.int. To apply, please email CV and cover letter to RoBrusselsRMHR@iom.int. **Closing date: 21 December.**

Special Tribunal for Lebanon Internship Programme

The STL offers internships to highly motivated students and young professionals with good academic qualifications who are in the final stages of education or in the early stages of their careers. The internship is a practical, educational experience whereby interns principally assist the staff of the STL in discharging their duties. Applications for the Internship Programme may be submitted throughout the year. You are advised to apply at least four months in advance for your preferred internship period.

See [here](#) for more details

Special Tribunal for Lebanon: Legal Officer

Under the supervision of the Chief of Court Management Section, the Legal Officer for Judicial Matters: Assists the Chief of Section in providing judicial advice regarding procedure to the Judges, the parties to proceedings, victims and witnesses participating in proceedings, other sections within the Tribunal and diplomatic bodies and, in relation thereto, assists in providing procedural advice which may encompass matters of protocol and diplomatically sensitive issues relating to the service of judicial documents.

See [here](#) for more details

Deadline for applications is December 23rd.

UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) Internships

The Office of Legal Affairs offers an internship programme primarily to university students and recent university graduates in the field of law. The programme has a minimum duration of two months and a maximum duration of six months

For details on specific internship opportunities visit UN careers website [here](#)

Support Us

The work of IRLI fully depends on the generous efforts of our sponsors, supporters and friends. With the help of your donations, our projects will make a substantial contribution to the enhancement of rule of law by encouraging the development of sustainable solutions to international concerns such as poverty, economic stagnation and access to justice.

There are three ways you can donate:

Online

You can do so securely through IRLI's charity page on myCharity.ie [here](#)

Bank Transfer

Transfer money directly to our bank account:

Bank of Ireland
Sort Code: 90-00-17
Account number: 69589124
IBAN No: IE02 BOFI 9000 1769 5891 24
BIC No: BOFIE2D

Post

To make a donation by post, please send a cheque, bank draft or postal order, made payable to "Irish Rule of Law International".

Address:
Room 1.30.1 The Distillery Building
145-151 Church Street
Dublin 7
Ireland

Please notify us of all donations made by postal order so that we might acknowledge receipt. For further information on any of the above, please email edwyer@irishruleoflaw.ie.

If you wish to donate to a particular project, please indicate same at time of payment.

If you are an interested in supporting a particular project, please don't hesitate to contact IRLI's Coordinator, Emma Dwyer, who can discuss this with you in more detail.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have supported or contributed to our work in any way.



Irish Rule of Law International is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland, company number 477197, CHY 18941, registered office The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7, Ireland.
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