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“Mental Health and Criminal Law” Seminar

ACJRD, in association with the Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association and Dublin City University, held a seminar on "Mental Health and Criminal Law" at the Law Society of Ireland on Friday, 23rd January, 2015.

Mr. Kris Gledhill, University of Auckland, was the keynote speaker with a paper entitled "Mental Disorder and Liability to Punishment: Recent English Developments". From an Irish perspective, Mr. Tom O'Malley, National University of Ireland, Galway, presented his paper "Mental Disorder and Proportionate Punishment" and Ms. Áine Hynes, Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association, presented her paper "Operating The Criminal Law (Insanity) Act: a Legal Practitioner's Perspective". The seminar was chaired by Judge John O'Connor.

The evening was a great success. Presentations from Kris Gledhill and Áine Hynes are now available to view on our website:

www.acjrd.ie/mental-health



(Back: L-R) Maura Butler, ACJRD Chairperson; Dr Yvonne Daly, DCU; Joan Doran, IMHLA; Finbarr O'Leary, ACJRD

(Front: L- R) Judge John O'Connor; Kris Gledhill, University of Auckland; Tom O'Malley, UCG; Áine Hynes, IMHLA

2015 Membership Reminder

See www.acjrd.ie/membership for joining information and forms.

Become a member to support and feed into our activities.

Members are also entitled to discounts for our conference and seminars.

Annual Subscriptions are now due.

Working Groups Networking Event

A networking event for Working Groups was held in the Blue Room of the Law Society of Ireland on Wednesday 17th December 2014.

ACJRD has seven different Working Groups:

- Addiction
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Mental Health
- Reintegration
- Restorative Justice
- White Collar Crime

Each working group comprises individuals who are working, or have an interest, in that area. Working Groups are chaired by members of the ACJRD Council.

The Networking Event was an opportunity for Working Group members to interact with each other "face to face". It also afforded the chance for members of the Working Groups to meet and hear ideas from the other groups.

The evening focused on individual Working Group discussions with each group then giving a synopsis of their discussion, outlining their hopes for 2015, to the wider group. The wealth of knowledge and ideas shared was truly impressive. After all the hard work, refreshments were served and people had a chance to talk further with others who had common interests. Very positive reviews were received by attendees at this event.

If you would like to join one of the ACJRD working groups, please complete the Working Groups Application Form on our website: <http://www.acjrd.ie/workinggroups>. For further information please contact the ACJRD Manager: Danelle.Hannan@acjrd.ie or 01 617 4864.



ACJRD Working Group members in discussions at the Networking Event.

Recent Publications

Irish Probation Journal 2014

The eleventh edition of the Irish Probation Journal is available online. Download a copy of this report from the publications page of the Probation Service website at www.probation.ie.

Community Return: A Unique Opportunity

This evaluation report of the first twenty six months (2011 - 2013) of the Joint Probation Service-Irish Prison Service Community Return programme can be viewed on the Probation Service website. Download a copy of this report from the publications page of the Probation Service website at www.probation.ie.

Garda Inspectorate Report - Crime Investigation

The most recent report by the Garda Inspectorate "Crime Investigation" was published on 11th November, 2014. The Inspectorate examined the policies, practices and procedures used in the prevention and investigation of crime. The inspection also included a review of the allocation of Garda resources, the use of technology, the management of caseloads, and monitored the progress of individual investigations. The comprehensive report makes more than 200 recommendations for change to be implemented on a short, medium and long term basis. Download a copy of the report at www.qsinsp.ie.

Community Safety Evaluation Data

Data compiled by the Childhood Development Initiative Ltd from their Community Safety Evaluation has been archived and is available for use. See <http://www.ucd.ie/issda/data/>

Building Bridges

This report is an evaluation of Le Chéile's Restorative Justice Project in Limerick. The full report and executive summary are available on <http://www.lecheile.ie/le-cheiles-restorative-justice-project-returns-nearly-e3-for-every-e1-invested/>

Prison Law by Mary Rogan

In Ireland, prison litigation is becoming increasingly common. Prison numbers are at an all-time high and conditions in many Irish prisons have been criticized by international and domestic human rights bodies, such as the Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Inspector of Prisons, who have voiced concern about the lack of accountability for decisions taken by prison administrators on issues such as discipline, transfers, and release. The rights of prisoners are a key focus of the book. These rights are examined in relation to prison conditions, contact with the outside world, discipline, remission, transfer, and release.

"Sexual Trauma and Abuse: Restorative and Transformative Possibilities?" Research Report

This report, published by Facing Forward is now available to download at www.facingforward.ie

Developments in other Jurisdictions

In England and Wales, the Department of Education has recently announced the funding of a national unit to extend the Family Drug and Alcohol Court model nationwide. The unit will work with a range of practitioners and academic institutions, who are coming together to help set up sites in new areas thereby extending this vital service to vulnerable families.

The Family Drug and Alcohol court is rooted in the idea of problem-solving justice, where courts use their authority to address the complex social issues that bring people before them. It is run by specially-trained and dedicated judges who provide direct, ongoing supervision and support to parents in recovery. They work closely with a multi-disciplinary team who offer personalised care and treatment to families at risk. The Court works with parents, social workers and substance misuse professionals to combat addictions in families and, where possible, keep them together. Where this isn't possible, the Court aims to make swift decisions in order to find children a permanent loving, stable home with minimal disruption.

A recent evaluation report concluded that families going through FDAC are more likely to stay together, that parents are more likely to reduce their drug use, and that the children going through FDAC are less likely to experience further neglect and abuse than similar families passing through mainstream family courts.

FDAC is one of the most successful examples of problem-solving court innovation in England and Wales in recent years.

See <http://justiceinnovation.org/better-courts/publications/Building-Better-Courts>

“Youth Justice Transformation” Report Launch

The report from the ACJRD 17th Annual Conference ‘Youth Justice Transformation’ will be launched shortly.

The report features papers from the conference plenary speakers: Peter Taylor, Community and Learning Development Managers Scotland; Peter Mullan, Office of the DPP; Dr Elaine Arnall, Buckinghamshire New University; Patricia Muldoon, Youth Justice Agency N.I. & D.I Mark Dennison, PSNI; Dr Mairead Seymour, D.I.T and Ursula Fernee, The Probation Service. Summaries from the eight conference workshops will also be included.

For those of you who attended the Conference it will be a reminder of the wonderful speakers who presented and for those of you who were unable to attend, it is a very interesting read.

Details of the launch event will be circulated shortly.



Upcoming Events

- Mon 2nd March
10.00 am
Dublin
Information Seminar on the Children and Family Relationships Bill
Email Ceara Martyn of the Children's Rights Alliance at intern@childrensrights.ie or phone 01 662 9400
- Tues 3rd March
9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Dublin
Child Protection, the Law and Managing the Professional Relationship (facilitated by One in Four)
Email info@facingforward.ie
- Wed 4th March
5.00 pm
'Eircode Community Outreach Programme'
Deadline for applications for funding to get involved
See www.wheel.ie/eircode or www.irishrurallink.ie/eircode
- Thurs 5th March
Dún Laoghaire
The Law on Assisted Suicide:
An Irish & International Perspective
Contact Sarah Flynn on 01 2934764 / 01 2933650
or email sarah@cmgevents.ie
- Thurs 5th March
9.30 am - 12.00 noon
Dublin
The Lawlessness of the Home - SAFE Ireland Report Launch
Official Launch by Minister Frances Fitzgerald T.D.,
Contact Claire on 0906 479 078 or email office@safeireland.ie
- Mon 9th March
11.00 am
Dublin
ISPCC Shield Campaign - Stand Up Against Bullying
Details: www.ispcc.ie Contact Aoife Corcoran on (+353) 1 676 7960 or email acorcoran@ispcc.ie
- Thurs 19th March
9.30 am - 4.00 pm
Dublin
Working with Young People Who Sexually Abuse: Learning, Behaviour, and Attachment Problems
NOTA Ireland - Email : bernie.maher@cuh.ie
- Tues 24th March
Brussels
Employment and Social Inclusion in Europe:
Ways Forward for the Young Jobless Generation
Details: <http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/eu/>
- Sun 21st - Thurs 25th June
Edinburgh
Crossing Boundaries - Exploitation, E-Crime, Evidence & Extradition
Details: Choose "Conference Information" at www.isrcl.org
- Tues 23rd - Fri 26th June
Berlin
World Mediation Organization Symposium
Details: <http://worldmediation.org/symposia/locations/>