

Brendan O'Connor  
President of the Galway Bar Association  
DM O'Connor & Co  
Cross Street  
Galway  
**BY DX 4515 Mary Street Galway**

RECEIVED 15 AUG 2017

Our Ref: VM/VKJ/LAW021/0183

14 August 2017

**RE: Former practice of Imelda Leahy, practicing as Imelda Leahy & Company  
Solicitors, Kilree Street, Bagnelstown, County Carlow.  
Law Society v Imelda Leahy  
High Court Record Number: 2016/64SA**

Dear Mr O'Connor,

We refer to the above entitled matter.

We act on behalf of the Law Society in this matter. Ms Leahy has been suspended from acting as or holding herself out as a solicitor by Orders of the President of the High Court dated 03 June 2016 and /or 17 June 2016. As a result, the office of Imelda Leahy, practising as Imelda Leahy & Company Solicitors, Kilree Street, Bagnelstown, County Carlow is closed.

Due to further breaches by Ms Leahy the Law Society brought a motion for attachment and committal before the President of the High Court on 18 July 2017. You might note, Ms Leahy was found to be in contempt of the aforementioned previous orders of the High Court which restrain her from acting as or holding herself out as a solicitor. It was ordered on that date that the existing orders would remain in force until further order of the High Court.

Please find enclosed a copy of the attested order of the President of the High Court which was perfected on 21 July 2017.

We would be grateful if you could arrange to circulate this information amongst your members to inform them of the outcome of these proceedings and existence of the suspension and contempt orders relating to Ms Leahy.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Vivian Meacham of this office.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

*McDowell Purcell*

**McDOWELL PURCELL**

Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2017  
BEFORE THE PRESIDENT

IN THE MATTER OF IMELDA LEAHY SOLICITOR PRACTISING AS IMELDA  
LEAHY AND COMPANY KILREE STREET BAGENALSTOWN COUNTY  
CARLOW

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACTS 1954 – 2011

BETWEEN

LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

APPLICANT

AND

IMELDA LEAHY

RESPONDENT SOLICITOR

AND

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF IRELAND

NOTICE PARTY

Upon Motion of Counsel for the Applicant pursuant to Notice dated the 12<sup>th</sup>  
day of June 2017 being listed before the Court this day in the presence of Counsel  
for the Applicant and the Respondent Solicitor in person for the following reliefs”

1. An Order pursuant to Order 44, rule 3 of the Rules of the Superior Courts giving leave to the Applicant to seek an Order for the attachment and committal of Imelda Leahy, the Respondent Solicitor, for her contempt of Court in that she breached the Orders of this Honourable Court made herein on the 3 June 2016 and/or the 17 June 2016, and/or breached her undertaking to this Honourable Court on 25 July 2016, as follows:
  - i. the Respondent Solicitor breached the Orders of the Court on 3 June 2016 and/or 17 June 2016 suspending her from practice;
  - ii. the Respondent Solicitor breached the Orders of the Court on 3 June 2016 and/or 17 June 2016 prohibiting her from holding herself out as a solicitor entitled to practise;
  - iii. the Respondent Solicitor breached the Order of the Court of 17 June 2016 that she deliver forthwith to Therese Clarke (of the Law Society) or her nominee all files and documents relating to the Respondent Solicitor’s practice;

THE HIGH COURT

- iv. the Respondent Solicitor breached her undertaking to this Court of 25 July 2016 (as recorded in the Order of the Court of that date) that she cease sending intemperate emails to the Society
2. An Order pursuant to Order 44 rules and 1 and/or 2 of the Rules of the Superior Courts for the attachment and committal of Imelda Leahy (the Respondent Solicitor) for her contempt of Court in that she breached the Orders of this Honourable Court made herein on the 3 June 2016 and/or the 17 June 2016, and/or breached her undertaking to this Honourable Court on 25 July 2016, as follows:
  - i. the Respondent Solicitor breached the Orders of the Court on 3 June 2016 and/or 17 June 2016 suspending her from practice;
  - ii. the Respondent Solicitor breached the Orders of the Court on 3 June 2016 and/or 17 June 2016 prohibiting her from holding herself out as a solicitor entitled to practise;
  - iii. the Respondent Solicitor breached the Order of the Court of 17 June 2016 that she deliver forthwith to Therese Clarke (of the Law Society) or her nominee all files and documents relating to the Respondent Solicitor's practice;
  - iv. the Respondent Solicitor breached her undertaking to this Court of 25 July 2016 (as recorded in the Order of the Court of that date) that she cease sending intemperate emails to the Society
3. An Order for the costs of and incidental to this Application and any Order made thereupon.
4. Such further or other Order as to this Honourable Court shall seem fit."

Whereupon and on reading said notice of motion and the Affidavits filed in respect of this Motion and the respective documents and exhibits referred to therein the Court having previously made orders herein on the 3rd of June 2016 and the

**THE HIGH COURT**

17th of June 2016 and the 27th of June 2016 and the 25th of July 2016 and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016 and on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016

The Court doth grant liberty to file in Court the stamped Replying Affidavit of Imelda Leahy sworn on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2017

And on hearing Counsel for the Applicant and the Respondent Solicitor and John Carroll of Crowley Millar Solicitors

And the Court finding on the evidence before the Court and on the admissions of Imelda Leahy that the Respondent Solicitor is in contempt of the Orders of the Court which restrained her from acting or holding herself out as a solicitor

And the Court noting that the hearing of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal will now resume and that no additional reliefs are being sought by the Applicant in respect of the within motion

IT IS ORDERED the existing orders in force do continue until further order of this Court

And Counsel for the Applicant making application for its costs in the Motion

The Court doth make no order as to costs

Liberty to either party to apply on 48 hours notice to the other side and to the Court

**Aisling de Búrca**  
**Registrar**  
**Perfected:- 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

McDowell Purcell  
Solicitor for the Applicant

Imelda Leahy  
Respondent Solicitor