



## Law Society - February 2024 Roundup

### NEW – Artificial Intelligence Subject Guide

The [Law Society Library Subject Guides](#) offer an excellent starting point to improve knowledge of legal subjects or access recommended resources in various areas of practice. The latest guide on [Artificial Intelligence](#) is now available from the library. Other guides are:

- [Conveyancing](#)
- [Criminal Law](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Environmental and Planning Law](#)
- [Family and Child Law](#)
- [Inhouse Lawyers](#)
- [Probate](#)

### Supporting practice management:

- **Legal Services Excellence Standard (LSES)**  
The Law Society's Legal Services Excellence Standard (LSES) is a voluntary certification scheme that has been designed by solicitors for solicitors in collaboration with the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). This initiative will be open for applications in the coming months. [Register your interest](#).
- **Updated Business Hub**  
We have recently updated our free [Business Hub](#), including business-plan templates, guidance on setting up a practice or a partnership, library resources catering to business skills for lawyers, and direct consultations with practice-support staff. The Business Hub is a vital tool in preparing for LSES auditing.
- **Diploma in Legal Practice Management**  
A new Diploma course from Law Society Professional Training is aimed at all professionals working in, or seeking, a management role in a law firm and want to upskill with practical knowledge. It's also useful preparation for an LSES audit. The course runs from 20 March to 18 December 2024. [Find out more about the Diploma](#).

### Law Society offers solution to historic planning issues in Planning Bill

The Law Society has proposed a pragmatic solution to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to overcome the conveyancing difficulties and delays arising from historic planning breaches. [Read the Business Post article](#) by Michael Walsh and Judith Cryan.

## Save the date: Upcoming Law Society Skillnet Clusters

Earn six in-person CPD hours and network with the profession at upcoming Cluster events throughout 2024. The following events are planned so far:

- **30 April**, Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
- **23 May**, Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Lough Eske, Co. Donegal
- **30 May**, Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
- **20 June**, Inn at Dromoland, Co. Clare
- **11 September**, Ballygarry House Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry
- **17 October**, Glencarn Hotel Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
- **24 October**, Breaffy House Hotel Castlebar, Co. Mayo
- **14 November**, Kingsley Hotel, Co. Cork
- **31 November**, Kilkenny Hotel, Co. Kilkenny

Contact [lawsocietyskillnet@lawsociety.ie](mailto:lawsocietyskillnet@lawsociety.ie) or phone 01 881 5727 for more information.

## Business Information Sessions

The Law Society Practice Support team produce web-based sessions which are available on the website as a [playlist of videos](#) or [audio recordings on SoundCloud](#). Register now for upcoming 2024 sessions:

- **6 March 2024**: 'Information for Practitioners on Library Services'. [Register Now](#).
- **20 March 2024**: 'Let's talk technology in my legal practice'. [Register Now](#).

## Save the date: Calcutta Run 2024

Join other legal friends and family for the annual Calcutta Run to raise vital funds to support those experiencing homelessness. This event will take place on **25 May 2024** at Blackhall Place, with further details and a Cork event to be announced shortly. [Stay tuned for more information](#).

## Joint Committee on Justice

Law Society Director General Mark Garrett and Aimée McCumiskey, Criminal Law Committee member, presented the Law Society's recommendations on the Garda Recording Devices Bill at the Joint Committee on Justice to the Oireachtas on 13 February 2024. [Read the full statement](#).

## Family & Care Referendums: Justice and Law Reform Series

The Law Society hosted a discussion forum on 1 February 2024 on the upcoming Referendums on Family and Care. The panel, chaired by our Director General Mark Garrett, provided a lively discussion which was widely [covered by the Irish media](#).

## Nationwide: International Women's Day

Tune into [RTÉ Nationwide](#) this International Women's Day, **8 March 2024 at 7pm** to catch coverage of the Law Society's Centenary Celebrations from 2023. We're delighted to be included in this feature commemorating the achievements of women in law over a century. [Explore more of 100 years of women in law](#).

### **disAbility Legal Network Ally**

In line with our Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ([GEDI](#)) policy, the Law Society has signed a pledge to be an Ally of the disAbility Legal Network showcasing our commitment to enabling a more inclusive legal sector by improving accessibility and promoting networking opportunities for members, trainees and across our workplaces. [Learn about the Network](#).

### **Law Directory 2024 opt-in deadline extended**

The deadline for opting-in to the print edition of the 2024 Law Society's Law Directory has been extended to **1 March 2024**. While there is a [digital app](#) available to all, you can also choose to receive the printed copy by updating your 'Opt-in' preference. [Check your Law Directory preferences](#).

### **Remote Witnessing of execution of legal documents**

The Law Society's Conveyancing Committee edited a practice note that was issued last year on the witnessing of certain documents in the conveyancing process. [See the edited practice note](#).

### **Prisoner Appeals Panel**

The Irish Prison Service is seeking expressions of interest for appointment to a panel of legal representatives for prisoner appeals. Practising barristers or solicitors with an interest must apply before **1 March 2024**. The application form and further information is available on the [Irish Prison Service website](#).

### **Patents of Precedence applications**

The Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Government to grant a patent to a legal practitioner (solicitor or barrister), allowing them to use the title of Senior Counsel (SC). The deadline for submission of completed applications is 5pm on **15 March 2024**. [Apply or find out more information](#).

### **Courts Service Open Data Portal**

The Open Data Portal has recently launched as a pilot, making Courts Service data easily available and accessible. [The portal is now live](#) and aims to promote a greater awareness and a better understanding of Courts data. You can find more information on the [Court Services website](#).

### **'Revolutionary' Law and Social Realities: A Centenary Retrospective**

The Law Society will be represented at an upcoming conference exploring legal, political and social currents in early 20th century Ireland, with a particular focus on the 'Dáil Courts'. This half-day conference brings together experts in the fields of history, law, gender and post-colonial studies to explore socio-legal currents in early 20th century Ireland. The free event will take place **Wednesday, 27 March 2024** from 9.30am to 1pm at The Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. [Find out more and RSVP now](#).

## Newsletter Re-design

Beginning in March, these monthly Law Society Roundup emails will be delivered in a new and engaging format, providing you with key updates to easily share with your Bar Association members through our newsletter platform.

## Supports and Benefits

- [Legal Vacancies](#) - the best place for employers to advertise legal jobs. Take advantage of reduced member rates to post any current opportunities you may have.
- [LegalMind](#) – access an independent and subsidised therapeutic service designed for the specific needs of solicitors.
- [Complimentary Client Care Leaflets](#) - series of multi-lingual information leaflets on a range of legal topics that are free to download and distribute to your clients.
- [Practising Solicitor logo](#) - free to download to your website/stationery and emails. Window stickers also available with the practising solicitor logo.
- [Psychological Services](#) – access updated information on the resources, programmes and activities available to solicitors and trainees by this new member service.