

**THE DUBLIN SOLICITORS BAR ASSOCIATION
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR**

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE

Divorce: the past, the present and future reform

1 MAY 2019

The Radisson Hotel
Golden Lane
Dublin 8

2.00-5.00pm

Muriel Walls will consider Divorce - over 20 years on; discussing what clients need, the process to divorce and finding a system that suits the needs of 21st century Ireland

Karen Kiernan will speak about working towards the provision of a comprehensive Court Welfare Service focussing on what Court Users think.

Mary O'Toole will discuss and review recent Family Law updates and case law over the last 12 months.

Chairperson: Minister Josepha Madigan

Muriel Walls

Muriel has specialised in family law for over thirty years. She has been involved in many leading cases and is a recognised expert. She has written and lectured extensively and is a member of many national and international family law organisations. Muriel is a CEDR accredited mediator and a family mediator and collaborative practitioner. Muriel has also campaigned for change in family law throughout her career for the benefit of clients and children. She was involved in the divorce referendum of 1995, the children's rights referendum 2012 and marriage equality referendum 2015. Muriel was Chair of the Legal Aid Board for five years and formerly was a board member of the Family Support Agency for nine years.

Karen Kiernan

Karen is CEO of One Family – Ireland's organisation for people parenting alone, sharing parenting and separating. She represents court users on the Board of the Courts Service; she sits on the Family Law Development Committee and the Dublin Circuit Family Court Users' Group. She is a member of the National Advisory Council on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children & young people 2014-2020* and chairs their sub-group focussing on Child Poverty.

Mary O'Toole S.C.

Mary is qualified as a barrister since 1980. She was appointed to the Senior Bar in 2000. She has been in full time practice as a barrister since 1980. Her main area of specialisation is family law and related areas. This includes constitutional or ECHR of children, families, public law, child cases, international child abduction, adoption and EU provisions relevant to family law. She is a founder member and a former Chairperson of the Family Lawyers Association and was a legal advisor to the Oireachtas Committee on the constitutional amendment of children. Most recently Mary O'Toole S.C was appointed by the Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan in April 2018. She is currently reviewing cases in relation to the Magdalene Restorative Justice Scheme where a woman's length of stay in a Magdalene Institute is in dispute. She is currently advising on the assistance to be given to applicant's who may lack capacity to accept an award in addition to her Family Law practice.

Josepha Madigan

Josepha was appointed as Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 30th November 2017. Josepha is the sole Fine Gael T.D. for Dublin Rathdown. Prior to her appointment as Minister, Josepha served on the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee, the Future of Healthcare Committee, and was the Chairperson of the Budgetary Oversight Committee. She was a Fine Gael Councillor, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, from May 2014 until her election as a T.D. Josepha practiced as a solicitor for twenty years and, amongst her many achievements, won Family Lawyer of the year at the Irish Law Awards 2014.

Conference Information

Date: 1 MAY 2019
Time: 2.00-5.00pm
Location: **The Radisson Hotel
Golden Lane
Dublin 8**
Fees: € 150.00 Member
€ 245.00.00 Non Member
Registration: 1.30pm
2.00pm Presentations followed by questions and answers
5.00pm Conclusion
CPD: 3 Hours Group Study

Conference Registration Form (FAMILY)

Please complete the registration form below and send this with your payment to:-
Maura Smith, Dublin Solicitors Bar Association, 54 DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN 2, (DX: 212011)

Surname _____
First Name _____
Firm/Organisation _____
Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax. _____
Year of Admission _____ DX _____
E-Mail Address _____
Payment By Cheque, payable to **Dublin Solicitors Bar Association**
[] Member
[] Non-Member
[] Trainee (in a member firm)

CONFIRMATIONS

Booking confirmations will be issued to all delegates by e-mail or fax prior to the seminar. Please present your booking confirmation at the seminar registration desk.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be received in writing. For cancellations received 5 working days or less prior to the event, the attendance fee is non refundable.

DISCLAIMER

It may be necessary, for reasons beyond the control of the conference organisers, to alter the content and timing of the program or the identity of the speakers.

For Additional Information contact:-
Maura Smith – Tel.: 01 6706089 – E-Mail: maura@dsba.ie – Web: www.dsba.ie