



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Electoral Reform Act 2022 Conference Programme

Date:	Monday 29 January 2024
Time:	5:00pm – 7:00pm
Location:	The Swift Lecture Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College

The Hon. Ms. Justice Marie Baker

Ms. Justice Marie Baker was appointed as the first chair of An Coimisiún Toghcháin by President Higgins. Her term as chair will last for seven years. She was called to the Bar in 1984 and was called to the Inner Bar in 2004. She practised on the Cork and Munster circuits. In 2014, she was appointed as a part-time Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission.

Ms. Justice Baker has previously lectured on contract and commercial law in Dublin City University (formerly known as the National Institute of Further Education). She was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 2019.

Biography - Art O' Leary

Art O'Leary is Chief Executive at An Coimisiún Toghcháin, The Electoral Commission, a management and oversight organisation for electoral and wider democracy matters.

From 2014 - 2021, Art was Secretary General to the President of Ireland, acting as Chief of Staff and Chief Adviser to President Michael D. Higgins.

Art designed and ran the Constitutional Convention, Ireland's first Citizens' Assembly in 2012, the recommendations from which resulted in a number of constitutional referendums. He has also been involved in a number of Citizens' Assemblies since then.

Prior to that, Art worked in the Irish Parliament for over 20 years, primarily as a member of the senior management team as Director of Parliamentary Committees, Information & Communications and Human Resources, and as head of a number of parliamentary functions.

He is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Politics and Government at University College Cork and is a Director on the Board of Community Foundation Ireland. He has an MBA from Henley Business School.

Gary Murphy

Gary Murphy is Full Professor of Politics in the School of Law and Government.

In November 2012 he was appointed by the Irish Minister of the Environment to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee whose report was published in May 2013 and formed the basis for the Irish local elections of 2014.

In 2016 Prof. Murphy's book "Electoral Competition in Ireland since 1987: the politics of triumph and despair" was published by Manchester University Press. He is also a renowned authority on the regulation of lobbying and is co-author of the book "Regulating Lobbying: a global comparison."

His biography of the former Fianna Fáil leader and Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey, "Haughey", was selected as a book of the year by the Irish Times, Sunday Independent, Sunday Business Post, Mail on Sunday, and Irish Examiner in 2021.

Catherine Allen

Catherine is a partner in Mason Hayes and Curran where she leads the Public, Regulatory & investigations and inquiries. She heads the Professional Regulatory group, managing complex investigations and inquiries. Catherine particularly enjoys

advising on the complexities of information law as it relates to public and third sector bodies, including freedom of information and data protection. She also heads our Professional Regulatory group, managing some of the team's most complex and difficult investigations and inquiries.

Ailbhe O'Neill SC

Ailbhe is a Senior Counsel practising in the areas of Regulatory and Public Law.

An expert in Constitutional Law, she was appointed to the role of legal advisor to two Referendum Commissions during their tenure: The Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (adoption of the Fiscal Stability Treaty) chaired by Mr. Justice Kevin Feeney; and the Thirty-third Amendment (creation of a Court of Appeal) chaired by Ms. Justice Elizabeth Dunne.

Ailbhe has published widely in the area of Constitutional Law and she lectures at Trinity College Dublin where she is a member of the School of Law.

Schedule of Events

5:00pm - Ms. Justice Baker to open the conference: opening remarks and Overview of the programme.

5:10pm – 6:00pm - Art O'Leary : Overview of the Commission, establishment and governance and work to date. Gary Murphy: Constituency review.

6:00 pm COFFEE BREAK

6:10pm - 7:00pm - Ailbhe O'Neill: The functions of the Commission in relation to referenda and online political advertising. Catherine Allen: Regulation of electoral process information, online electoral information and manipulative or inauthentic behaviour (Part 5).