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## COMITIA HIEMALIA

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ANNA CHAHOUD

*Orator Publicus*

DOCTOR IN SCIENTIIS  
JOHANNES MICHAEL DAVID COEY

**B**ibliothecam huius Collegii magnificam ingressi, veterem librum praeclarum invenietis de magnete magneticisque corporibus, et de magno magnete tellure, cuius physiologia nova, plurimis et argumentis et experimentis demonstrata exposuit Guilelmus Gilbertus medicus Londinensis. Benevolum lectorem allocutus ‘nos ea quae longa experientia invenimus,’ inquit, ‘probabilius hypothesibus exponere non dubitavimus.’ Probabilius etiam, immo certe, hic vir magneticae philosophiae studiosus et peritissimus ea, quae longa experientia invenerat exponere solitus est, ab illa dissertatione doctorali, in qua ferri ferroque proximo cuiusque **metalli** virtutes elucidavit quas dicimus magneticas electricasque. JOHANNES MICHAEL DAVID COEY in podium procedit, sodalis nobis gratissimus et collega egregius, acerrimus vir e grege philosophorum naturalium. Quem novimus professorem philosophiae naturalis experimentis probandae, auctorem et fautorem fortissimum nostri Concilii Rebus Artissime NavoNexis dediti, conditorem fulgidi fani Scientiae Gaias, eum plurimis honoribus decoratum sodalem cooptavere doctissimi Regiae Academiae Hibernicae, Societatis Regiae, Academiae et Americanae et Europaeae, et ceteri rerum naturae curiosissimi per orbem terrarum, magis magisque mirantes huius viri inexhaustum ingenium. Mira enim quot fecerit plane legitur inscriptum in aureo emblemate, quo nuper ornatus est a Societate Germanica Philosophiae Naturalis: ‘hoc praemium ad memoriam Maximi physici illustris consecutus est physicus praeditus tanta acie ingenii, ut nuperrime inventae materiei magneticae, sive ἀμόρφου sive cum oxidio compositae, sive metallicae dimidiatae vel durae, virtutes comprehensas optime explicavit et primus ad usum vertit et ad utile commune.’ Sed planius dicam, ut viri curiosissimi vis indagationis mirabilisque ars clarius intellegantur. Docet enim ipse perspicuis argumentis nihil generi humano magis profuisse quam scientiam magnetum. Nonne magnetica acu duce, quam dicimus pyxidem nauticam, advenimus nos ad fines orbis terrarum? Nonne electricis vehiculis utimur celeribus salubribusque, societatibus repertis materiae magneticae cum particulis electricis? Quid denique de orbi ut ita dicam interretiali? Quid de ea nube immensurabili, cui omnia nostra cotidie committimus? Sed, ut solet nos monere more magistri prudentis, nimia commoditas facit paupertatem; unde repente ventum est ad extrema salutis discrimina, vi insita rerum paulatim deficiente, universa vero incolumitate periclitante. Magno pretio mittimus simulacra moventia quamvis minuta volitantia per orbem, magno pretio nubem illam graviores facimus; si ad astra, non ad ruinam tendimus, consilia naturae quam primum sequamur. Quod rectissime dicit vir optimus; itemque hoc, Sinicos doctores fuisse philosophiae magneticae conditores, non (ut nobis placebat) Thaletem illum Milesium lapide quadam reperta quae (ut placuit Aristoteli) ‘τὸν σίδηρον κινεῖ’; cuius tamen vetustam laudationem, paucis verbis mutatis, liceat mihi usurpare vehementius peroranti ut summa laurea ornetur hic ‘primus repertor novissimae magneticae technologiae, naturae rerum certissimus explorator, minutissimorum metallorum peritissimus contemplator’, ut eiusque ‘ratio divina’ planius videatur quam experiendo comprobavit; nam non ‘ex septem illis sapientiae memoratis viris’, sed temporibus nostris ex undecim sapientissimis viris ‘hic est facile praecipuus’.

DOCTOR IN SCIENCE  
JOHN MICHAEL DAVID COEY

Walk into our magnificent Library, my friends, and ask to see a copy of William Gilbert's essay *On the Magnet and Magnetic Body, and on that Great Magnet the Earth*, published in 1600. In this revolutionary essay the author proudly affirmed his right to "expound in a probable theory the discoveries made through assiduous experiments." Our first candidate's research in the field of magnetic science – since his Dublin doctorate on *Magnetic and Electric Properties of Iron Minerals* – has yielded no less probable, no less revolutionary, or influential results in our times. As he approaches the podium, we recognize not only a cherished friend, an immensely distinguished member of our academic community, but also one of the most famous and formidable scientists in the world. JOHN MICHAEL DAVID COEY, Professor Emeritus in our School of Physics, former Erasmus Smith Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, is the mind behind our CRANN Institute for Nanotechnology and the Science Gallery. A Member and Gold Medallist of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Member of the US National Academy of Science and of the European Academy of Science (to name but a few of his innumerable honours), to this day he continues to amaze the world with the quality and quantity of his scientific discoveries. Upon receiving the prestigious Max Born Medal and Prize for outstanding contributions to Physics, the German Physical Society praised him 'for the understanding and description of the magnetic properties of novel magnetic materials, including amorphous alloys, magnetic oxides, half-metals and hard magnetic materials, and for pioneering their use in devices.' What does that mean? I will tell you: he is, quite simply, an astounding scientific-mystery solver and a technological genius, driven by undiminishing curiosity and enthusiasm for science. A scientific explanation you may hear from him: he calls his field of investigation 'the felicitous applied science,' because magnetism has enabled the most brilliant life-changing advances in human history. How could the earth have been explored without the compass? Would we have trams or electric vehicles, if we had not understood the relationships between magnetism and electricity? Would we have the 'cloud' without magnetic films? How much in our everyday life we take for granted! And here is the problem. The cost, he warns us, is 'the energy crisis, global warming, the information revolution.' Do you know how much pollution is generated by a viral video? Do you know that how much energy is consumed by data centres? He reminds us of our responsibility towards the environment, and that means an obligation to develop new technologies faster, if we want to 'undo the damage that progress has done.' These are the words of a true natural philosopher. Although he rightfully points out that magnetic science began two thousand years ago in China, and not, as we always wanted to believe, with the Greek philosopher Thales' observation of the 'iron-moving stone' (Aristotle, *On the Soul* 405a), I nevertheless dare borrow the words of ancient eulogy of the Milesian philosopher as I ask for your assent to bestow the highest University honour on this 'most skilled observer,' 'most accurate investigator of nature', the 'author of an inspired theory confirmed by experiment' (Apuleius, *Florida* 18) – not 'the first among the Seven Sages,' but one of the eleven most distinguished scientists alive.

## DOCTOR IN LITTERIS

SUSANNA McKAY

**F**elicitatem diei, cum factum est Gentium Foedus Amicitiae, memoria honoravimus die laeto mensis Aprilis praeteriti; tunc placuit Universitati in primis laudare mulieres piissimas quae pacem inter cives discordes conciliarent; quae adhuc neque arduis neque imperviis deterrentur a fausto itinere incepto ad salutem universae Hiberniae Aquilonaris. Et tamen (nefas!) tantas res gestas vix memoriae traduntur, muliebribus vocibus repressis vel omnino crudeliter suffocatis. Quod aegre tulit SUSANNA McKAY, mulier praedita tam diserta virtute, quae vocem suam impavidam innumeris mulieribus miseris libenter praeberet, ut demum earum res gestae audirentur: tanta enim pietate aurem animumque tendit vigilantem. Nam attente atque eloquenter scribere solet *De temporibus moribusque Hibernicis*, eademque iudex *Litterarum Londinensium*, scriba fidelis *Custodis* et commentator *Aetatis Novi Eboracensis*. Pro virtute ac puro corde nuntii Hibernici eam iure colunt Larem Tutelarem. Aquilonari quercorum oppido oriunda, Dublinium primum venit discipula scholaris Collegii nostri, ubi studia feliciter excoluit in Litteris Anglicis et Francogallicis. Cum sibi promississet se numquam redituram esse in patriam Aquilonarem, redit tamen; respondit autem non doctoribus Regiae Universitatis, qui ad indagationem vocaverant, sed gemitibus violatae turbae muliebri – ‘miseram me, differor doloribus!’ ‘ah misera perii!’ – unde audacia piissima tum miseris condidit Belfastii Refugium Consiliumque Criminis turpissimi, cum ipsum nomen stupri infandum ducebatur. Ei refugio praeposita multos per annos, innumeris succurrit mulieribus infami facinore atque flagitio stupratis. Ex quibus prima testis nefandi atrocitatis fuit Sophia illa, quae scriptrice nostra adiuvante sponte narravit (horribile auditu) fatum suum lacrimabile: maerentes enim voces maxime esse audiendas monet candidata nostra, ut demum rupto silentio finem faciant doloris letalis. Praeterea de patria id secum meditabatur, omnes dolores luctusque esse dignos qui memoriae traderentur, ne infelices frustra occidi viderentur. Animum itaque magnopere vertit partibus civium suorum protestantibus (a protestanti ut dicitur fide Christiana), quorum maestum concentum moderatabatur et quasi in aerem sustulit, ut planius ab alto videretur iter longinquum arduumque ab exilio quodam ad pacificam patriam communem. Omnia vero dilucide narravit candidata nostra duobus voluminibus, intervallo viginti annorum editis, de rebus ac moribus Protestantium Aquilonarium. ‘Tertium autem volumen non sequetur, lectores fideles’, inquit, ‘auctore Gentium Foedere Amicitiae, fines murique iam decussi funditus evertendi sunt; partes haec ac illae conciliandae sunt diversis vocibus et paciferis, in primis vocibus mulierum iustitiam sibi advocantium, ut civitas ad veram pietatem conveniat, omni molestia violentia iniquitate deposita.’ Haec intrepida ac diserta pacis patrona digna est summo honore atque obsequio fideli. Figite mentibus, quaeso, admonita Johanna vatis Hiberniae Aquilonaris:

Dum oculis duo paene colores percipiuntur  
Heu misera in tenebris inconsolabilis erro.

## DOCTOR IN LETTERS

SUSAN McKAY

A few months ago, we have marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. At the heart of the celebration in this University was the recognition of the crucial role that women played in making that historic change possible, and in continuing to this day strenuously to protect its ambition for peace and reconciliation, on the yet long and winding road towards healing in Northern Ireland. Far too often have women been written out of narratives, far too often their voices have been suppressed by fear or silenced by violence. I am honoured to introduce a woman who has lent her uncompromising voice to countless brave, hurt women, and allowed their stories to be heard. SUSAN McKAY is a powerful writer and journalist with a distinctive voice of her own, as is evident to anyone who reads her features in *The Irish Times*, *The Guardian* or the *London Review of Books*, *The New Yorker* or *The New York Times*—but just as striking is her ability to *listen*. Her recent appointment as Irish Press Ombudsman is testament to her exceptional integrity. Born and grown up in Derry, she first came to Dublin as a very young woman, having obtained an entrance scholarship to our College, and graduated with Honours in English and French. She had been determined never to return to the North, and yet she did. She had intended to pursue doctoral studies at Queen's University, and yet she did not. Urgent voices were calling her to a far more urgent task. It was 1982 when she co-founded the Belfast Rape Crisis Centre, which she directed with characteristic care and compassion, and unimaginable efforts. When she first turned to book-writing, it was to channel the voice of a woman who had suffered an unspeakable crime. *Sophia's Story* was the first act in her life-long dedication to documenting the lives of victims and survivors. The 'pain of unlistened-to stories' – Primo Levi's heart-breaking phrase, which she cites in *Bear in Mind Those Dead* – continuously takes her back to Northern Ireland. Her two monumental monographs on *Northern Protestants*, twenty years apart, give a lucid account, through a multitude of voices, of the changes that gradually took them from *Unsettled people* to *Shifting Grounds* in the aftermath of the peace process. There will not be a third book, she says. The spirit of the Good Friday Agreement was to break down old borders, not to build new ones. It is time to move forward, beyond any binary logic of traditional divides and monolithic identities. It is time to tell different stories and listen to a diversity of voices. First of all, the voices of women: 'Women need respect, compassion and justice,' she urges, with the fiery voice of an indomitable advocate, 'Why do they have to bare their souls and fight like warriors?' This woman deserves your strongest approval, and your unreserved commitment to build a peaceful society. Remember the true words of the Northern Irish poet:

... the black-and-white of things  
can sometimes leave us inconsolable.

(Jean Bleakney, *Black and White*)

## DOCTOR IN LITTERIS

FERGUS SHIEL

**H**oc dedit indicio Plato philosophus ei rei, iuventutem arte musica esse educandam: ‘ὅτι μάλιστα καταδύεται εἰς τὸ ἐντὸς τῆς ψυχῆς ὃ τε ῥυθμὸς καὶ ἁρμονία, καὶ ἑρρωμενέστατα ἄπτεται αὐτῆς φέροντα τὴν εὐσχημοσύνην’; itemque illud de harmonia: ‘ἡ δὲ ἁρμονία, ξυγγενεῖς ἔχουσα φορὰς ταῖς ἐν ἡμῖν τῆς ψυχῆς περιόδοις, τῷ μετὰ νοῦ προσχρωμένῳ Μούσαις ὑπὸ Μουσῶν δέδοται.’ Non dubito quin ille, si modo id cognovisset, liberalius probasset drama melicum quod quadringentos abhinc annos Latine appellavimus, vi Italica recentiore, ‘Operam’—quo nomine nihil est aptius, credo: quamquam ‘hanc operam’ ‘has operas’ nunc dicere solemus, sciendum tamen est ‘opera’ verbum esse re vera plurale, quod omne opus donumque Musarum in eo contineatur, modos dico et versus lyricos bucolicosque, fabulas comicas tragicas, choros lepidos, gestus histrionicos, varium denique choragium variasque scaenicas personas. Sapientissime vero atque humanissime usus est donis Musarum FERGUS SHIEL, sublimis magister symphoniacus et dux mirificus Operae Nationalis Hibernicae. Hodie non virga, sed toga ornatum videmus in podio: num eo minus flectit animos nostros? Dublinium eum genuit; puerulus ad Musas adducebatur a parentibus, Musarum cultoribus ipsis, ut educeretur modulationibus clavichordii, violini, violae; sed iam adolescentulus, velut divino spiritu instinctus, maiora spectabat: ‘Quid, si nescio quo modo omnia instrumenta sonandi regere possim? Quid, si virga quadam magica modos concinnatos modulari possim per aerem, quasi cursum velivoli micantis gubernem?’ Unde consilium illud audaciae plenum, magistrum symphoniacum se facturum esse. Vix intraverat discipulus moenia Collegii nostri, cum statim cohortem symphoniacam nobis instituit; exercitiis deinde in Musica feliciter excultis, iam peritum Parisiis disciplina acerrima docebat Leo ille venerandus, quondam adiutor Arturi et Guilelmi, utriusque magistri celeberrimi saeculo praeterito. Postquam de cohorte symphonica Scotica bene meruit, rediit in patriam novo consilio capto maiore etiam audacia, Divae Operae templum se domi conditurum tam fulgidum, tam frequens, tam perenne quam ipse foras invenerat. Nulla mora interposita acies Musarum Hibernicas instruxit. Ecce hinc modi audiuntur, hinc versus apti modulationi; hinc videntur assidui choragi musici cantores; huc concurrunt spectatores studiosi undique insulae Hiberniae congregati. Sic traditur eo auctore aedificatum esse illud primum templum dramatis melici, aedibus omnibus patentibus; adiecto postea theatro melico, aedes magnificas surgere Operae Nationalis Hibernicae, auctore nationali concilio artibus omnibus praeposito. Hic assiduus magister choragusque, octoginta fere fabulas melicas moderatus est, minime negligens eas compositas, in saeculo praesenti vel etiam in collegio nostro. Quid autem dicam de studio iuventutis musice instruendae vel sanandae? Supra iam laudavimus de virtute musica sentientiam viri sapientis: ‘ὥσπερ αὔρα φέρουσα ἀπὸ χρηστῶν τόπων ὑγίειαν, καὶ εὐθὺς ἐκ παίδων λανθάνη εἰς ὁμοιότητά τε καὶ φιλίαν καὶ συμφωνίαν τῷ καλῷ λόγῳ ἄγουσα.’ Quid denique de mirabili disciplina magistri, de indefessa ducis sedulitate? Aptissime responderit ipse, credo, festivitate melici Pisauriensis: *Pronto prontissimo son come il fulmine!* Cui apposite Theatrum nostrum resonet, quaeso, hoc vehementi assensu: *Ah bravo Fergus, bravo bravissimo!*

## DOCTOR IN LETTERS

FERGUS SHIEL

‘**R**hythm and harmony permeate the innermost part of the soul more than anything else and affect it most powerfully, bringing it grace’ (Plato, *Republic* 401d), and “harmony, which has motions akin to the orbits of the soul within us, was given by the Muses to the person who can make intelligent use of their gifts” (*Timaeus* 47d). You see, my friends, why the Greek philosopher might have applauded the musical genre which for four hundred years we have called, with an Italian word, ‘opera.’ All the Muses are engaged in this most complete of art forms, as it embraces music and poetry, lyric and pastoral tunes, tragic and comic themes, dance and design, costume and choreography. The man who stands on this podium, unusually without his conducting baton, has indeed made an intelligent use of the Muses, promoting the inclusive, open, deeply human character of opera. FERGUS SHIEL is a superb orchestra conductor and the visionary Artistic Director of the Irish National Opera. Born in Dublin from a beautifully musical family, in his childhood he studied piano, viola and violin; but he soon wanted more. Aren’t conductors the fortunate musicians who have an entire orchestra as their instrument? Aren’t they magicians whose hands send melodies flying harmoniously to the skies? ‘Watching an orchestra conductor was similar to watching the Concorde taking off,’ he recalls, and at the age of fourteen he had already decided to become a conductor. He was a Music Freshman in our College, when he established and conducted Trinity Orchestra. Upon graduating in 1992, he moved to Paris, where he perfected his conducting technique under the guidance of the legendary Léon Barzin, former collaborator of such conducting giants as Toscanini and Furtwängler. After extremely intensive years with the Scottish Opera, he returned home, determined to build for opera such a strong tradition, expertise and presence in Ireland as he had found abroad. Bringing together Irish composers, writers, theatre directors, musicians and singers before the widest possible Irish audience, he founded Wide Open Opera, which he directed until its marriage with Opera Theatre Company and the birth of the Irish National Opera, under the auspices of the Irish Arts Council, in 2018. It is significant that more than half of the phenomenal number of operas which this Maestro conducted (and how many more he has produced!) were composed by living artists, including our very own Trinity composers. Let us recall Plato one more time: ‘Music enters the soul, like a breeze bringing health from a good place, and leads it to friendship and harmony’ (*Rep.* 401c), and ultimately, to liberty and democracy (Plato, *Laws*, 700a–701b). Such is the value of musical education, such is the healing power of music. This man has generously engaged, and excelled, in both: remember the Dublin Youth Orchestra, the Julianstown Youth orchestra in Co. Meath, his place of residence, and the wonderfully named ‘How Aria?’ community project in conjunction with St Patrick Mental Health Services. And all the while, he masterfully directs the Irish National Opera, with the precision that he applies to the execution of each and every note in his orchestra. How does he do it? The answer is simple: when he believes in something, he moves heaven and earth to make it happen. He is indefatigable and unstoppable, and, like Rossini’s Figaro, ‘indispensable, irreprehensible’. Let then our Public Theatre resound with your warmest cheerful assent: ‘Ah bravo Fergus, bravo bravissimo!’

## DOCTOR IN UTROQUE JURE

MARIA IRVINE

‘Atque si natura confirmatura ius non erit, virtutes omnes tollentur. ubi enim liberalitas, ubi patriae caritas, ubi pietas, ubi aut bene merendi de altero aut referendae gratiae voluntas poterit existere? nam haec nascuntur ex eo, quia natura propensi sumus ad diligendos homines, quod fundamentum iuris est.’ Non dedecet, credo, initium facere a Cicerone strenuo defensore iuris antiqui Romani, nam haec candidata tam exemplo nobis fuit iustitissimae cuiusque virtutis ut patriam firmiorem faceret fundamentis iuris atque aequalitatis. Coram oculis mulierem habemus naturali propensione iura fideliter secutam inde ab adulescentia, cum spatium singuli diei satis fuit ut discipula sororis Universitatis operae forensi se designaret. Quadraginta quattuor per annos custos fuit fidelis patrii iuris legumque. Primo forensi in certamine causidica disertissima causas diversas orabat, quarum quasdam celeberrimas, de iure pertinenti nunc ad salutem publicam atque privatam, nunc ad formas rei publicae, nunc ad plura quam possint enumerari alia genera legum. Viginti quinque post annos in sellam iudicalem accedit iudex quaestionum peritissima, primum in sella iudicii celsi, deinde in iudiciis provocationis, postremo in sella iudicii supremi. Tunc demum anno fatali, pestilentia inaudita saeviente, praeses iudicii supremi in fastigium provecta est, quod antea nulla mulier adierat, neque ulla quattuor officiis functa erat iudicialibus. Nunc mulier tam singulari virtute praedita sponte stipendia iudicialia emerita est—vel rectius dicam bene merita, legibus officiis vinculis ipsis societatis civilis strenue servatis. (Veniam date, quaeso, usurpanti dicta viri iure periti, nam leges summam curam requirunt). Non solum patriae summae gloriae leges a nationibus Europae confederatis sanctas iuste ac fideliter servavit, sed etiam perlucidis exemplis monstravit principia iuris Romani nondum obsoleta esse nec supervacua. A primo eorum incipiam. Nonne satis liberalitatis exhibuit in foro, in iudiciis, in cathedra (nam saepe libenter docebat scholares societatis operae forensi promovendae praepositae), omni ope atque opera libenter data praesidio periclitantum? Sequuntur principia coniuncta caritatis et pietatis: nonne iustitiam promovebat pari ratione ac duces Hiberniae illae fortissimae, nullo discrimine, nulla licentia, auctoritate sui cuiusque iudicii servata? Quis autem est tam immemor eius intrepidae constantiae ac benignitatis, iudiciis a taetra peste prohibitis una cum omni hominum conventu, ut negaret eam voluisse de altero bene merere? Postremo dicam de voluntate gratiae referendae. Nonne eam nuper audivimus ab imo corde gratias agere piis parentibus, sedulo viro, sodalibus collegisque fidelibus? Nunc vero nihil relinquitur nisi ut virtutes huic mulieri propriae repetantur. Praecipuam sibi esse ipsa dicit pertinaciam; sodales autem laudibus extollere soliti sunt eius benevolam humanitatem, diligentem curam studiumque certandi. Equidem laudaverim, vetusta eloquentia iterum usurpata, iudicem verissimam, integerrimam, sanctissimam et iustissimam plurimarum rerum. Perfecta igitur probatione hanc rogationem promulgo: velitis iubeatis, probi cives Universitatis Dublinensis, ut

MARIA IRVINE

Doctor in Utroque Iure albo senatus adscribatur honoris causa.

## DOCTOR IN LAWS

MARY IRVINE

“**A**nd if Nature is not to be considered the foundation of Justice, that will mean the destruction of human society. Where then will there be a place for generosity, or love of country, or loyalty, or the inclination to be of service to others or to show gratitude for kindness received? For these virtues originate in our natural inclination to love our fellow human beings, and *this* is the foundation of Justice” (Cicero, *On the Laws* 1.43). The eloquent judgment of the unrivalled defender of ancient Roman laws is an apt introduction to an Irish woman who, faithful to her natural inclination, has made this Republic firmer and stronger in its constitutional democracy. The Judge who stands before us today has pursued justice all her life, since the day she fell in love with the Bar, after but one law lecture at University College Dublin. A loyal defender of the laws for forty-four years, she acted for twenty-five as a barrister, specialising in medical law, in constitutional law, and in many more areas of the law than can be mentioned here, appearing in some of the most memorable cases in the country. She subsequently brought her legal experience and expertise to the bench, where she served for fifteen years, first as Judge of the High Court, then Judge of the Court of Appeal, and finally Judge of the Supreme Court. In 2020 – at one of the darkest times in world history – she was appointed the first ever female President of the High Court. No-one in the history of the State had held four separate judicial offices before: so unique is our candidate’s distinction. She recently stepped down from the bench, after a long illustrious career. She has left (if I may borrow the powerful words heard on the moving occasion of her retirement) a “legacy of great jurisprudence”, having made a “magnificent contribution to the law, to public service, and to society.” This judge has not only embodied Ireland’s faithful adherence to the principles of European law; she has superbly exemplified the five virtues on which, in our ancient definition, Justice rests. The first is ‘generosity’, demonstrated as a barrister, as a judge, and as an inspiring lecturer at the Law Society, and vocally demanded in support of the judicial system and of those in need, especially young people. Second, love of country: her achievements and commitment to improve the administration of justice in Ireland firmly place her in the ranks of the extraordinary women who, by serving the law, have transformed this country. Third, ‘loyalty’: even in the most difficult cases, she has never doubted that “Your judicial role requires you to act independently and in accordance to the law.” Fourth, ‘service to her fellow-human beings’: no-one here forgets how strenuously she defended people’s right to be heard in Court, how she protected their well-being, during the Covid pandemic. Finally, ‘gratitude’: her sense of justice is so deep that she openly and warmly acknowledges a profound debt to her supportive family and friends, and to her faithful colleagues and collaborators. This woman describes herself as “tenacious”. Her colleagues see her as “kind, considerate, helpful, attentive, diligent, and competitive”. As for me, I would once more call upon the ancient advocate, and use his superlatives for this Judge’s exceptional “truthfulness, integrity, virtue, and justice in all matters.” Surely no further evidence is required. I ask you, honourable assembly, to decree and ratify that

MARY IRVINE

be unanimously proclaimed Doctor in Laws of the University of Dublin.