RUNNING THE GAUNTLET
Lawyers at Sports Disciplinary Hearings - An Athlete’s Perspective

Fri 26th April 2024 | 4.30pm - 6.00pm
Inns of Court, Royal Courts of Justice, Chichester Street, Belfast
Hybrid Event
1.5 CPD Points
RUNNING THE GAUNTLET: Lawyers at Sports Disciplinary Hearings - An Athlete’s Perspective
Fri 26th April 2024 | 4.30 - 6.00pm

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Dame Brenda King was appointed as Attorney General for Northern Ireland in July 2020 and is the chief legal adviser to the Northern Ireland Executive. She first studied law at the Queen’s University of Belfast and was admitted to practice in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

After qualifying as a solicitor she undertook postgraduate studies at the University of South Carolina, specialising in constitutional law, public international law and international relations. She then completed a Masters in Public International Law and European Law at the University of Cambridge.

After a period in private practice in Belfast, and later as a legal adviser with the Northern Ireland Office, she joined the Office of the Legislative Counsel, the office responsible for drafting bills of the Northern Ireland Assembly, in 1991. She held a number of positions in that office before being appointed to lead the office as First Legislative Counsel in 2012. Between 1997 and 1998 she served as a legal adviser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She has completed programmes of study at the US Federal Executive Office and at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

From 2017 to 2019, she was President of the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel, working with lawyers and law officers across 92 jurisdictions to improve the quality of, and access to, legislation. She has over 25 years’ experience of advising on and drafting primary legislation for Northern Ireland and other jurisdictions. She was heavily involved in implementing the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and in subsequent political negotiations. She continues to provide advice to the Northern Ireland Executive and political parties on complex constitutional and administrative law issues, particularly those relating to the devolution settlement.

She received a damehood in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list in 2021 for her service to constitutional law in her previous roles.
Aoife Farrelly is junior counsel practising in civil litigation in Dublin and on the Eastern Circuit. She has both a personal and professional interest in sports law as much of her free time is taken up on sidelines through her involvement in local sports clubs.

Aoife is a member of the Leinster Hearings Committee of the GAA, the disciplinary committee for provincial competitions, having spent 3 years on the national Central Hearings Committee. Prior to that, she was on the panel of Arbitrators for the Disputes Resolution Authority for 14 years. Aoife also sits on the Board of Páirc Tailteann CLG, Redevelopment committee for Páirc Tailteann stadium, Navan.

Aoife was appointed to the Panel of Arbitrators with Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland and Disciplinary Hearing Chairperson for Tug of War, Ireland.
Emma Davey is a junior counsel barrister called to The Bar of Ireland, Northern Ireland and England and Wales.

Emma practices in civil law, specialising in employment, regulatory and sports law. She acts as a Complaints & Disciplinary Officer for Gymnastics Ireland and Hockey Ireland. She also sits as a Disciplinary panel member for Paralympics Ireland, Golf Ireland and the Community Games. Emma advises athletes, clubs and sporting bodies on issues of governance and discipline.

Emma began racing sailing dinghies from the age of 10. She has taught, coached and raced dinghies and yachts at national level and abroad. Most recently, she won two consecutive Irish National Sigma 33 Championships as part of her crew.

Emma is a qualified Arbitrator (FCIArb) and Secretary of the Sports Law Bar Association.
Elizabeth Colvin
Olympian and Solicitor

Lizzie represented Ireland in women’s international field hockey. She was a member of the Irish women’s team for 13 years, amassing 206 caps. She was part of the squad who won a silver medal at the Women’s World Cup in 2018, which is the best finish of any Irish sports team in history.

Lizzie was also a member of the team that went on to qualify for their first Olympics games, competing at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021.

Lizzie qualified as a solicitor in 2017 and works as a specialist employment law solicitor with DWF in Belfast.
Paddy Barnes
Olympian and IABA Ulster Club Development Officer

Paddy represented Ireland at an amateur level in the light-flyweight boxing division at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, becoming the first Irish boxer to win medals at two consecutive Olympic games.

He represented Ireland at the European Championships winning silver medals in 2008 and 2013 and a gold medal in 2010. He represented Northern Ireland at the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth games, winning two gold medals.

Paddy turned professional in 2016 and retired as a fighter in 2019. Paddy continued in the sport of boxing when he was appointed as the Ulster Club Development Officer for the Irish Athletic Boxing Association in 2019.
Conor Sally
Chairperson of Omagh St Enda’s GAA, Tyrone and Solicitor

Conor is Cathaoirleach/Chairman of Omagh St Enda’s GAA Club in Tyrone and is a member of Ulster GAA’s Competition Control Committee.

He is also a solicitor based in Omagh, practising throughout Ireland. Conor regularly appears on behalf of clubs, players and athletes at disciplinary hearings.
Rossa Fanning was appointed as Attorney General of Ireland on 17 December 2022. Prior to his appointment, he was a Senior Counsel at the Irish Bar with a varied caseload spanning commercial law, judicial review, defamation and privacy law. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1999 and became a Senior Counsel in 2016.

He is a CEDR Accredited Mediator and was admitted to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 2019. He was awarded BCL and LLM degrees from University College Dublin and holds an LLM from the University of Michigan.

He is a bencher and ex officio Council Member of the Honorable Society of King’s Inns, a Member of the General Council of the Bar of Ireland, a Vice-President of the Irish Centre for European Law and a Full Adjunct Professor at the UCD Sutherland School of Law.
The Sports Law Bar Association of Ireland (SLBA) is an all-Ireland association of legal professionals with specialist sports law knowledge and practices. It aims to increase awareness of sports law and support members in providing the most up-to-date advice to sports law clients.

www.slba.ie | sportslaw@lawlibrary.ie