

CPD In-Person Event

CLIMATE JUSTICE CPD SERIES 2024

The Law Society of Northern Ireland is pleased to partner with the Public Interest Litigation Support (PILS) Project to deliver an exciting Climate Justice CPD series for members.

The aim of the training programme is to inspire, empower and support solicitors to use your skills and expertise to assist clients, and to enhance your ability to provide services, in the emerging practice of environmental law and climate justice in Northern Ireland.

The CPD series consists of three training events, which can be booked as a package or attended on a standalone basis:

One session = £40 plus VAT

All three sessions = £100 plus VAT

- The first session will introduce the field of climate litigation with global context scene-setting, including hearing about the power of strategic environmental cases through examples from around the world.
- The second session will focus on the specific legislative context, with particular focus on relevant pieces of legislation including the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and the Aarhus Convention and corresponding regulations.
- The final session will focus on local campaign groups and some of the issues and cases they are working on, with an opportunity to speak to and network with those groups. Attendees will also hear about climate-related legal action that has taken place in Northern Ireland, including the use of Third-Party Interventions.

Further details on each of the sessions is contained below.

[To book all 3 sessions for the discounted price of £100 plus VAT please](#)

[Click here](#)

Session 1: Climate Justice Series: An introduction to climate justice litigation



Date: Wednesday 20 March 2024
Location: Law Society House, Belfast
Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm
Cost: £40 plus VAT
CPD hours: 2 Group Study

Katie De Kauwe (Solicitor, Friends of the Earth) will deliver a presentation providing an overview of the concept of climate justice and explaining the link between climate justice and human rights. The presentation will also cover an outline of the key international and EU legal instruments that are relevant for the purposes of advancing climate justice litigation.

Marc Willers KC will present a lecture providing an overview of key jurisprudence relevant to climate litigation. Mr Willers specialises in environmental law and climate justice and has been involved in high profile litigation in the area of climate justice, including at the European Court level.

A Q&A session will follow this presentation.

[Click here to book](#)

Session 2: Climate Justice Series: The legislative framework and lessons from climate justice cases in Northern Ireland



Date: Wednesday 17 April 2024
Location: Law Society House, Belfast
Time: 12:30pm - 2:00pm
Cost: £40 plus VAT
CPD hours: 2 Group Study

Anurag Deb (PhD researcher at QUB School of Law and Paralegal at KRW Law) will give an in-depth lecture on the key provisions of *The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022*, to include the obligations it imposes and key timelines involved (which will be relevant to potential litigation in this area).

Laura Neal (Solicitor, Friends of the Earth) will provide an overview of other legislation that exists and applies in Northern Ireland which can be used to bring climate justice cases, including, but not limited to: Environment (NI) Order 2002, Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (NI) 1995, Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010. In this part of the session, participants will also learn practical lessons about how to use the legislation in this jurisdiction to craft strategic climate justice litigation. Laura Neal will also provide an overview of the Aarhus Convention and corresponding Cost Protection (Aarhus Convention) Regulations (NI) 2013 as well as practical tips, from her own experience of being involved in various climate justice cases in NI, that will benefit solicitors who are interested in supporting climate litigation in future.

A Q&A session will follow this presentation.

[Click here to book](#)

Session 3: Climate Justice Series: Local environmental issues and corresponding legal action



Date: Wednesday 15 May 2024
Location: Law Society House, Belfast
Time: 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Cost: £40 plus VAT
CPD hours: 2 Group Study

This session will provide participants with insights into various ways in which solicitors can support legal actions through case studies in which different areas of law have been engaged and different legal tools utilised as part of climate justice campaigns.

The first panel will cover a range of issues, including: **protest rights and defamation**.

The second panel will also cover a range of issues, including: **planning applications/disputes and third party interventions**.

Panellists will describe their experiences either as a campaigner or as an organisation supporting the campaigner/campaign group. Each panellist will speak for 5-7 minutes and then a Q&A will be chaired by the PILS Director. The names of panel members will be confirmed a number of weeks in advance of the session.

The panel sessions will be followed by networking. This part of the session will allow time for participants to network with campaigners for their mutual benefit. We are hoping that after hearing the panellists' stories, participants may be able to identify ways in which they could support the individuals and groups, or similarly situated individuals. This will be a time during which participants and campaigners can discuss and network in a structured, informal setting.

We hope that this session will show participants that they may already possess some of the knowledge and skills required to support climate justice litigation.

[Click here to book](#)

