



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



Children Order Conference

Thursday 26th May 2016
Law Society House, Belfast

5 CPD Hours

Title: Children Order Conference
Date: Thursday 26th May 2016
Time: 9.30am – 4pm. Registration and Refreshments from 9am.
Venue: Law Society House, Belfast
Cost: £150
CPD hours: 5 – to include 2 Client Care and Practice Management and 3 General Group Study

This event, organised by the Children Order Panel Accreditation Board, will be a valuable course for those:

- Working in the area of the Children Order;
- Currently on the Children Order Panel;
- Who are not members of the Panel but practise in this area.

A range of experts in this field will be delivering presentations on topical and relevant issues.

The programme for the day is as follows:

9.00am	Registration and Coffee	
9.30am	Introduction	Fiona Donnelly, Chair of the Children Order Panel Accreditation Board
9.40am	Welcome	The Honourable Mr Justice O’Hara
10.00am	Civil Justice Review – Family Update	The Right Honourable Lord Justice Gillen
10.45am	Coffee	
11.10am	How to Digitise	Paul Sachs, Netmaster Solutions Ltd His Honour Judge Tanzer QC
12.20pm	Break out groups, either: a. Confirmation Bias- do children live up to their labels? - b. Paperless Working -	Grainne Murphy BL Kathryn Minnis, DSO
1.00pm	Lunch and stalls	
2.00pm	Family Drug and Alcohol Court	His Honour Judge Crichton CBE
3.15pm	Break out groups, either: c. Mediation in Family Cases - d. The Child as Participant in Proceedings - e. Communicating with Children -	Nuala Quinn BL Teresa Fallon NIGALA Sheryl Jenkins, Speech and Language Therapist
4.00pm	Close	

Speakers will include:

The Right Honourable Lord Justice Gillen

The Right Honourable Lord Justice Gillen was educated at Methodist College and Queen’s College, Oxford. He was appointed to the High Court in January 1999, having been called to the Bar in 1970 and taken Silk in 1983. He was appointed Family Judge and was Chairman of the Children Order Advisory Committee from January 2001 until December 2006. In January 2007 he became one of two judges assigned to judicial review and in September 2008 in was appointed judge in charge of the Queen’s Bench Division. He became a Lord Justice of Appeal in September 2014.

The Honourable Mr Justice O'Hara

The Honourable Mr Justice O'Hara (Sir John O'Hara) graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 1978. He was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in September 1979 and to the Bar of Ireland in 1996 and took Silk in 1999. He was appointed a High Court Judge on 8 April 2013. He is Senior Family Judge and has held the position of Chairman of the Children Order Advisory Committee since 2015. In 2004 he was appointed to Chair the statutory Inquiry investigating and reporting on Hyponatraemia-related deaths in Northern Ireland. He was Chairman of the Bar Council from 2008 to 2010. In March 2011 he was appointed Chairman of the Bar Council's Advocacy Training Board.

His Honour Judge Nicholas Crichton

Nick Crichton CBE was a solicitor in private practice for 15 years. He was a District Judge for 27 years and the Resident District Judge at the Inner London Family Proceedings Court from its opening in April 1997 until it closed early in 2014. He then retired, but continues to sit as a Deputy DJ. He is a passionate advocate for children's rights and chaired the Voice of the Child sub-committee of the Family Justice Council for many years. He has been instrumental in setting up the Family Drug and Alcohol Court – a project providing intensive support to families with serious drug and alcohol problems in the hope of enabling them to retain or recover the care of their children. He has worked overseas on various projects in the field of child protection – in Russia, the Ukraine, Poland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Ethiopia, Namibia, Australia, New Zealand, and most notably Bulgaria where he has been working for 18 years including spending 5 years working on a project in which he has visited all 28 family courts and visited many specialist institutions. He is currently engaged on a project which seeks to develop model family courts in Bulgaria, linked into support services for families. He is a trustee of Lumos, a charity set up by JK Rowling, the purpose of which is to get children out of institutions around the world. He is a frequent speaker at conferences, both in the UK and abroad. He has 5 grandchildren. When he can he spends time at his house in Shetland, photographing birds and otters.

Paul Sachs

Paul Sachs is the Chairman and CTO of Netmaster Solutions Ltd. For over seven years Paul has been working closely with judges, solicitors and barristers in the UK and overseas to develop a service that meets the needs of all the communities involved in the litigation process. The result is a system that delivers outstanding bundle creation capabilities for solicitors; an intuitive courtroom presentation system that counsel can use without a courtroom operator; and a system that judges can use as much for box work as in the courtroom itself. The success of this open, collaborative approach is demonstrated by the use of the CaseLines service in the UK Supreme Court and in all of the Crown Courts in England and Wales.

His Honour Judge Tanzer QC

His Honour Judge John Tanzer has been a circuit judge since 2001 having gone to the Bar in 1975 where his practice included Family Law. He was one of the first adopters of IT in connection with the trial process both for preparation and in conjunction with advocacy itself. He produced a number of templates including one for summing up a jury trial and has lectured on IT at the Judicial College. Since appointment as a judge he has been deeply involved with the development of judicial IT. His core focus is that judges should have an independent IT system of their own through the creation of an accessible One Stop Shop. In that role he has worked with other judges, the civil service and suppliers. He has also been closely involved with the movement towards a digital case system where his emphasis has been on usability. Currently he is involved full time with IT projects.

Workshop presenters include:

Grainne Murphy BL

Grainne was called to the Bar in 1992 and "grew up" with the Children (NI) 1995. Over time she has become an experienced barrister in both public and private law children's proceedings and adoption proceedings. Grainne has represented parents, grandparents, adoptive parents, foster carers as well as children represented by Guardian ad Litem and young persons deemed legally competent. After presenting a general paper to the Family Bar Association in 2015 regarding the use and instruction of experts in the family court, her curiosity was pricked regarding the impact or potential impact that unintentional bias may play in children's proceedings particularly on those making recommendations to the Court and the Trust decision makers. This cumulated with a paper presented to the recent Family Law Four Jurisdictions Conference in Liverpool. This was well received and triggered interest and discussion from the final decision makers, i.e. the Family Judges who were in attendance at the conference. Grainne hopes that the concept of Confirmation Bias, which is common to us all, will give family practitioners food for thought when involved in cases whereby children are not removed or are removed from their parent's care and indeed in other public law and private law applications.

Kathryn Minnis, Assistant Director, DSO

Kathryn Minnis is Assistant Chief Legal Advisor in the Directorate of Legal Services. DLS provides legal advice and representation to the Health Trusts throughout Northern Ireland. Kathryn is often found lurking in Ards FPC well beyond the reach of cutting edge IT developments. This, combined with her prowess in the operation of SKY+ series record and online shopping made her the obvious candidate to investigate how technology could be harnessed for benefit of all in the family courts. Her report to the Family Sub-group of Lord Justice Gillen's Review of Civil and Family Justice was the culmination of a month-long adventure into exotic and esoteric practices including the High Court of New Zealand, the Netherlands' Rechtswizier platform and Birmingham Mercantile Court.

Sheryl Jenkins, Speech and Language Therapist

Sheryl has been a Registered Intermediary since the pilot scheme launched in Northern Ireland in May 2013 after successfully completing the RI accreditation training (Masters Level). Within this role Sheryl works mostly with children, specialising in particular with young children under the age of 10 years.

Sheryl is also employed by the Western Health and Social Care Trust as a Speech and Language Therapist working using a trans-disciplinary model. She works with children with a wide range of communication difficulties within the clinic, home and school settings. Sheryl's work as a Speech and Language Therapist was also recognised when she was presented with the Advancing Healthcare (AHP) Rising Star Award 2014 as a regional winner.

Nuala Quinn, BL Mediator

Nuala graduated in law from Queen's University, Belfast in 1981. She was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1984 where she practiced as a barrister for over 30 years. Nuala was called the Bar of Ireland in 1988 and admitted to the New York Bar as an attorney and counsellor-at-law in 2009. Nuala has been involved in promoting and providing education and skills training for legal and other professionals for more than 20 years. She is currently a visiting lecturer and tutor at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen's University Belfast & the Law Society of Ireland Law School at Blackhall Place, Dublin. In 2011 & 2012 Nuala designed and delivered a skills training programme on Human Rights for the Serbian parliamentary secretariat. She has provided mediation skills training for Barristers at the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland since 2011. More recently Nuala has delivered advocacy skills training for Victim Support staff members and was also part of the team delivering the family law programme for solicitor applicants to the Children Order Panel.

Nuala is an experienced civil, commercial, employment and family mediator. In 2008 Nuala became an accredited civil and commercial mediator. She undertook family mediation training in Dublin in 2009. Nuala has completed mediation and advanced negotiation courses in the United States, at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California and at the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation for Senior Executives. In 2011 Nuala was awarded a 1st in her LLM from Trinity College Dublin where her dissertation was on the international trend towards induced mediation. In 2012 Nuala delivered a workshop on pending legislation at the Mediation Institute of Ireland's annual conference in Dublin. Nuala continues her academic interest in the vindication of human rights through access to justice with particular reference to the use of alternatives to court for dispute resolution.

Teresa Fallon, Assistant director, NIGALA

Teresa qualified as a Social Worker in London in 1984 and worked for ten years as a Social Worker and a Senior Social Worker with children and families as well as acting as an Approved Mental Health Social Worker. Teresa moved to Northern Ireland in 1994 and was employed as a lecturer for two years with the North West Institute. Teresa started to work as a Guardian ad Litem at the inception of the Agency in October 1996. After working as a Guardian for eighteen years, Teresa was appointed as Assistant Director in July 2015.

Booking information

If you would like to book a place please e-mail cpdbookings@lawsoc-ni.org stating the following:

Name: **Firm:** **Telephone:** **E-mail:**

Please indicate your preferences in respect of the interactive workshops below in order of priority for both the morning and afternoon sessions. We will do our best to accommodate all delegates. Places in workshops will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you do not respond or do not indicate your preference, we will allocate this for you.

Morning: Please indicate preference 1 and 2

- a. Confirmation Bias - do children live up to their labels? - Grainne Murphy BL
- b. Paperless Working - Kathryn Minnis

Afternoon: Please indicate preference 1, 2 and 3

- c. Mediation in Family Cases - Nuala Quinn BL
- d. The Child as Participant in Proceedings - Teresa Fallon NIGALA
- e. Communicating with Children - Sheryl Jenkins, Speech and Language Therapist