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CRIMINAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

J. F. O'Neill, LL.B., Solicitor Advocate,
Senior Public Prosecutor (Higher Court Advocate)

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With a Foreword by Presiding District Judge (Magistrates' Court) Fiona Bagnall

The Magistrates' Court deals with the vast majority of those who encounter the criminal justice system whether as defendants or witnesses. The work in the courts of summary jurisdiction has become increasingly complex and practitioners face ever more pressures. This new book addresses all aspects of work in the Magistrates' Court on a sequential basis, from initial investigation by the police to decision making by the PPS and through to the court process itself. The book will be an invaluable reference for those starting their careers in the Magistrates' Court as well as experienced practitioners who need to check more obscure points – in short all those involved in the criminal justice system.

The text covers up to date issues in relation to PACE, disclosure, hearsay, bad character, special measures, bail, committal hearings, sentencing and ancillary orders and is complimented by an associated website and Twitter feed to provide updates to the text and observations on developments in the criminal law as it applies in the Magistrates' Court. The book also covers practical issues like advocacy, the rules of evidence and police interviews and contains case law and evidential points relating to some of the most commonly encountered criminal offences.

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