

Charter of The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland

Stamp £32.

Registration 10s.

George the Fifth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith. To all unto Whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas by a Petition addressed to His Excellency Edmund Bernard, Viscount Fitzalan of Derwent, our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, from the Northern Law Society setting forth that the said Society was Incorporated on the Fifth day of August, 1911, under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, as an Association not for profit. That the said Society consisted of Solicitors practising within the City of Belfast and the Counties of Antrim and Down and Armagh, and had 165 members, who were all Solicitors of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland. That the said Society had among its objects to consider all questions affecting the interest of the Profession, and to Petition Parliament or to promote deputations in relation to Measures affecting the Profession, or making changes of Law or Practice, or effecting improvements in the principles and Administration of the Law, and to support or oppose any such Measure in whole or in part. That the affairs of the said Society were managed by a Committee consisting of a President, Eight Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Fourteen other Members. That the Society was in possession of a Library and other Chattel Property. That the Members of the said Society contributed Annual Subscriptions for promoting the objects of the said Society. That the present Incorporated Law Society of Ireland has hitherto had complete jurisdiction over the admission to, and control of, the profession of Solicitors in Ireland, the enrolling of Apprentices to Solicitors, the Legal Education of such Apprentices, the conduct of Examinations, the appointment of Lecturers and Examiners, and the collection of Fees and Penalties. That by Section 38 of 10 and 11 George V. cap. 67, it was provided that a Court should be established in Northern Ireland to be called the Supreme Court of Judicature in Northern Ireland, and by Section 47 (1) of the aforesaid Act the regulation of the Profession of Solicitors in Northern Ireland was given to the Parliament of Northern Ireland. That it was expedient and necessary that the powers and functions theretofore vested in and exercised by the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland should as regards Northern Ireland be transferred to a Society in Northern Ireland having like powers, the Petitioners submitted that the aforesaid would be carried into execution more effectually, beneficially, and satisfactorily to the public if the said Northern Law Society were Incorporated by Royal Charter by the name of "The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland," and thereby endowed and vested with such sufficient powers, capacities, privileges, jurisdictions, and authorities, and under such Regulations as would best conduce to the purposes of their Incorporation, and prayed that the subject of such Petition might be taken into consideration and such Order made thereon as to His Excellency should seem good and proper to carry the intention of the Petitioners into effect:

And Whereas our right trusty and well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor Edmund Bernard, Viscount Fitzalan of Derwent, Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, having referred the said Petition to our then Attorney-General for Ireland, to consider the same and to report what was

proper to be done thereupon, our said Attorney-General reported his opinion that he saw no legal objection to a compliance with the Prayer of the Petition nor any reason why the Northern Law Society should not be entitled to a Charter for the same purposes as those for which the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland obtained a Charter, the provisions of the Charter to the Northern Law Society being confined to Practitioners in Northern Ireland.

And Whereas the said Petition has been referred to our Attorney-General for Northern Ireland who has reported his opinion to the like effect.

And Whereas it having been represented unto us by our said Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland that it would be expedient to accede to the Prayer of such Petition and to grant our Royal Charter for the purposes stated therein we are graciously pleased to condescend thereto:

Know Ye Therefore, that we of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by and with the advice and consent of our right trusty and well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor Edmund Bernard, Viscount Fitzalan of Derwent, our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland and according to the tenor and effect of our letter under our Privy Signet and Royal Sign Manual, bearing date at our Court at Saint James's the 25th day of February, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Two, in the Twelfth Year of our Reign, have granted, constituted, declared and appointed and by these Presents for us our heirs and successors, do grant, constitute, declare and appoint that the present members of the said Northern Law Society and all other persons being Solicitors practising in our Courts of Justice within that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Northern Ireland, or who shall from time to time be duly admitted as members thereof, shall be and be called one body politic and Corporate in Deed and in Law, by the name and style of the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland, and them by the name of the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland, we do for us our Heirs and Successors, make, erect, ordain, and Constitute, establish, confirm and declare to be one Body Politic and Corporate in Deed and in Law for ever. And we do will and declare that by the name of "The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland" they and their Successors shall and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and places, and before any Judge, Justices, or Officers of us, our heirs and successors, in all and singular actions, pleas, suits, complaints, matters, and demands of what kind or quality soever they shall be, in the same manner and form, and as fully and amply as any of our subjects of this our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland can and may do:

And that they "The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland" shall and may have and use a Common Seal for the affairs and business of the said Society, and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Society and their successors, the same Common Seal from time to time to break, change, alter or make anew as to them shall seem expedient:

And we do further will and declare that by the name of "The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland" they shall have perpetual succession, and at all times hereafter shall be able and capable in law to purchase, acquire, have, take, hold, receive and enjoy to them and their successors, in perpetuity, or for any term of lives, or years, or other estate any messuages, lands, tenements, rents, possessions and hereditaments of what nature and kind soever, the yearly value of which shall not exceed in the whole, at any one time, the sum of One Thousand Pounds, computing the same respectively, at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof, and also all manner of goods, chattels and

things whatsoever of what nature and value soever, which they may think requisite for the purposes of the said Society:

And also from time to time to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose of any of the same messuages, lands, tenements, rents, possessions and hereditaments, wherein they shall have any estate or interest or which they shall so acquire as aforesaid:

And we do hereby further will and grant special licence power, faculty and authority, to any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, their heirs and successors respectively to give, grant, sell, alien, assign, dispose, or demise in mortmain, in perpetuity or otherwise to or to the use and benefit of, or in trust for "The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland" and their successors, any messuages, lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments not exceeding, with the lands so purchased or previously acquired, and then held by the said Society, such yearly value as aforesaid, and also any sum or sums of money, goods, chattels, stocks in the public funds, securities for money and other personal estate, to be laid out and disposed of in the purchase of any lands, tenements or hereditaments not exceeding in the whole the like yearly value for the purpose of the said Society.

And we do further will and declare that in case any member of the Society shall, in consequence of the Rules of any Court of Competent Jurisdiction, be rendered incapable of practising in the Courts of Justice in Ireland, or Northern Ireland, or any of them, such person shall *ipso facto* forthwith cease to be a member of the said Society:

And we do further will and declare, that the number of the members of the Society shall be indefinite, and that the persons who have associated themselves as the Northern Law Society and are members thereof at the time of the granting of this our Charter of Incorporation shall be the first members of the said Society, and shall continue to be members thereof so long as they comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Society:

And we do further will and declare that for the better rule and government of the Society, and for the better direction and management of the affairs thereof, there shall be a Council, consisting of not less than Fifteen Members, or not more than Twenty-five Members, and a President, Two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary, elected from among the Members of the said Society:

And we do further will and declare and appoint that Samuel Gordon Crymble, shall be the first President of the said Society, and John M'Kee and Samuel Ross shall be the first Vice-Presidents of the said Society, and that Joseph Allen, Robert Baillie, Sir Charles H. Brett, John Dunville Coates, Joseph I. Donaghy, Thomas J. Elliot, Ivan B. Elliot, John M. Hamill, John B. M'Cutcheon, J. Charley M'Dowell, David West M'Gonigal, William M'Ildowie, Charles A. M'Kenzie, Alexander S. Merrick, James Quail, James M. Pollin, Daniel Frederick Spiller, James C. Taylor, Martin Harper Turnbull, Robert Watts, George H. Wheeler, and James Wood shall be the Members of the first Council until the First General Meeting of the said Society for the Election of the Council shall be held in pursuance of these presents:

And we do further will and declare that the Council of the said Society shall have power from time to time at their meetings, to be held at the times and places to be directed by the Bye-Laws of the said Society, to appoint and elect in the manner to be directed by such Bye-Laws, such persons as they shall think fit, being Solicitors practising within that part of our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Northern Ireland, or who shall have voluntarily retired from such practice (not being Barristers) to be Members of the Society:

And we do further will and declare and direct that subject and without prejudice to the powers hereinafter vested in the General Meeting of the Society, the Council shall have the sole and entire management of the Society, and of the income and property thereof, for the uses, purposes and benefit of the Society, and shall have the sole and exclusive right of nominating and appointing a Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, and such other officers, clerks, attendants and servants as they deem necessary or useful to the Society, and of removing them if they shall think fit and shall prescribe their respective duties, and that it shall and may be lawful for the Council, or any five or more of them, to assemble and meet together when and as often as they shall think fit, until the passing of the Bye-Laws of the said Society and from and after the passing of such Bye-Laws for the Council or so many of its members as may be necessary to form a quorum in accordance with the said Bye-Laws to assemble and meet together at such times and places as may be appointed by the said Bye-Laws, or in default of such appointment as may be appointed by the Council:

And we do further will and declare that at any General Meeting it shall and may be lawful for the Members of the said Society, or of such of them as shall be then present, to ordain and make such and so many Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, as to them or to the major portion of them shall seem necessary, convenient and proper for the regulation and good government of the Society, and of the Members and Officers thereof, and of the manner of electing the President and Vice-Presidents and other Officers of the Society and Members of the Council, including, if it shall be deemed expedient, for County Representation or for the Representation thereon of any Local Law Society or Association, and also the period of their continuance in office, and the manner and time in which any vacancy in the office of President or Vice-Presidents, or any vacancies in the Council by death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise shall be supplied and for regulating the times and places at which Meetings of the said Society and Council shall be held, and the manner of appointing and admitting persons to be Members of the said Society, and of removing or expelling Members from the said Society, and fixing the conditions upon and the manner in which clerks serving under articles, or who have served under articles to members of the Society, may be admitted to the Hall and Library of the Society, and for convening the ordinary or any special Meetings of the Members, and generally for carrying the objects for which the said Society is founded into full and complete effect, with reasonable penalties, fines and amercements, to be contained in such Bye-Laws on the officers for non-performance of or for disobedience to the same, and the said Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, penalties, fines and amercements, or any of them, from time to time to alter, change, or annul, as the said General Meetings shall think requisite, and to mitigate the same as they shall find cause, so as all and singular such Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, Penalties, fines, and amercements be reasonable and not repugnant or contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this our Realm:

And we do further will and declare that a General Meeting of the Members of the said Society shall be held within the space of Six Calendar Months after the date of these Presents, for the making and ordaining Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders and Ordinances for the government of the said Society, and that an Annual Meeting shall thereafter be held at such time as the Bye-Laws shall direct for the Election of the Council, and for other purposes of the said Society, and that other General Meetings may be held from time to time as occasion shall require, as the Bye-Laws shall direct:

And we will and direct that at all General Meetings the President of the said Society, if he is present, and if not, then one of the Vice-Presidents, and in the

absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, then some one of the Members of the Council to be chosen by the Council, and in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents and all the Members of the Council, then some member of the Society, to be chosen at the Meeting, shall preside as Chairman:

And, lastly, we will and declare that the Letters Patent to be passed to the said Corporation to be thereby established and their successors or the enrolment or exemplification of said Letters Patent, shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in Law according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken and construed and judged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the said Corporation and their successors, as well in all our Courts of Record as elsewhere by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers and other subjects of us our heirs and successors, any non-recital, mis-recital, or any other omission, imperfection, defect, cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding:

Provided Always that these our Letters Patent be enrolled in the Rolls of our High Court of Justice in that part of our said United Kingdom called Northern Ireland within the space of Six Months next ensuing the date of these presents:

In Witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made Patent.

Witness our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland at Dublin the Tenth day of July in the Thirteenth Year of our Reign.

GERALD HORAN,
CLERK OF THE CROWN AND HANAPER.

Enrolled in the Registrar's Office
of the High Court of Justice,
Northern Ireland, on the 12th
day of September, 1922. Book
No. One.

SEAL.

WILLIAM HORNER
REGISTRAR.