



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach
A College of NUI Galway

SCoTENS
THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON
TEACHER EDUCATION, NORTH AND SOUTH



St. Angela's College, Sligo and Ulster University

Present

Cross Border Conference

Education and the Law

*Exploring Legislation, Litigation, Approaches and Strategies.
Implications for School Management and Staff, Legal Practitioners and Teacher
Education.*

Saturday 30th May 2015

*Virginia Henderson Lecture Theatre, Arus Michael,
St. Angela's College Campus, Lough Gill, Sligo*

 @STACSEdLaw



Programme

8:30		Registration / Tea / Coffee
9:00		Welcome Dr. Sam McGuinness, Head of School of Education, Ulster University Mr. Eugene Toolan , Head of Education Department, St. Angela's College, Sligo
	Chair:	His Honour Judge Keenan Johnson, Judge of the Circuit Court, (ROI)
9:05		Official Conference Opening: Mr. Frank Feighan, T.D., Chairman of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement
9:15		Keynote Speaker: The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Clarke SC, Judge of the Supreme Court, (ROI) 'Education in the Courts'
10:30		Nessa Agnew, Solicitor, Education Authority (NI) 'School Discipline in the Education Authority'
11:30		Tea / Coffee Break
12:00		Kathryn Stevenson, Head of the Legal Department at the Northern Ireland Children's Law Centre (NI) 'Special Educational Needs in Northern Ireland'
13.00		Lunch
14.00		Dr. Dympna Glendenning, Barrister and Author, (ROI) 'Squaring the Circle: Balancing Church-State interests in the Education (Admissions to School) Bill 2015'.
15.00		David Ruddy, BL and Primary School Principal, (ROI) 'Avoiding Litigation in Schools'
16.00		Plenary Session: Implications for Teacher Education } Ms. Helen Johnson Mr. Gareth Parry
16:30		Conference Close

*All presentations include a Discussion / Question and Answer Session
The right to substitute and rearrange lectures is reserved*

Speakers

The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Clarke SC, Judge of the Supreme Court, (ROI)

Mr. Justice Frank Clarke SC was educated at University College Dublin and the King's Inns and was called to the Bar in 1973 and to the Inner Bar in 1985. During his time at the Bar he practised mainly in the commercial and public law fields (including constitutional law). He was twice appointed by the Supreme Court as counsel to present argument on references of Bills to the Supreme Court by the President under Article 26 of the Constitution. He also acted as Counsel to the Public Accounts Committee on its enquiry into the DIRT tax issue and was external counsel to the Commission to Inquiry into Child Abuse (Laffoy and Ryan Commissions).

In the academic field Mr. Justice Clarke was a professor at King's Inns from 1978 to 1985 and has been Judge in Residence at Griffith College, Dublin from 2010 to date. He was appointed Adjunct professor in the Law School in Trinity College, Dublin in September 2012. Mr Justice Clarke has been invited to speak at many international conferences. He has served on the Board of the Irish Law Reports Monthly and is the nominee to represent the Chief Justice on the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for Ireland.

He was appointed a Judge of the High Court in 2004. He served as Chair of the Referendum Commission in relation the second Referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. He was mainly assigned to the Commercial List of the High Court although also involved as the judge presiding over the establishment of a Chancery and Non-Jury List for the first time in Cork.

Mr. Justice Clarke was appointed to the Supreme Court in March 2012.

'Education in the Courts' (Begins at: 09:15)

This presentation will look at the main ways in which issues arising in the educational field come before the Courts. Areas to be addressed include enrolment; student disciplinary issues; employment questions; liability issues and equality questions.

Nessa Agnew, Solicitor, Education Authority (NI)

Nessa Agnew studied law at Queen's University, Belfast and qualified as a solicitor in 1995. She worked in private practice for three years before joining the legal team at the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. She took up her current position in the Education Authority (formerly the five Education and Library Boards) in 2001. For the last 13 years she has offered legal advice and representation to the controlled and integrated schools sector and the five Education and Library Boards across Northern Ireland. She is a specialist who advises statutory tribunals established under education legislation and advocates for both schools and the EA and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. She advises the Education Authority on judicial reviews in the field of education including admissions, expulsion, school closures and special educational needs. Nessa is also a member of the Appeals Committee of the Legal Services Commission and is a Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal.

'School Discipline in the Education Authority' (Begins at: 10:30)

This presentation will look at the legislative framework in Northern Ireland for suspensions and expulsions; the underlying policies – both in Northern Ireland and Great Britain; and recent case law, in particular, two recent High Court judicial review decisions on expulsions.

**Dr. Dympna Glendenning,
Barrister and Author, (ROI)**

Dr. Dympna Glendenning is a barrister and former primary school Principal. She was a member of the State Examinations Board for four years and is currently a member of the European Association for Education Law and Policy (ELA). Her published works include *Education and the Law*, Bloomsbury, 2012 and *Religion, Education and the Law*, Tottel, 2008.



'Squaring the Circle: Balancing Church-State interests in the Education (Admissions to School) Bill 2015'
(Begins at: 14:00)

The presentation will address the character of the inherited education system in the southern jurisdiction; some constitutional and legislative limitations on state-action in education; the main provisions of the Education (Admissions to School) Bill 2015; and a summary of Mary Stokes (on behalf of her son John Stokes) v. Christian Brothers School, Clonmel.

**Kathryn Stevenson,
Head of Legal Department at the Northern Ireland Children's Law Centre (NI)**

Kathryn Stevenson was called to the Roll of Solicitors in Northern Ireland in 1997. She worked in private practice for 3 years and developed a special interest in the areas of Child and Family Law before joining the Children's Law Centre (CLC) in Belfast in 2000. Kathryn commenced her employment with CLC as an Education Solicitor and has acquired expert knowledge of the law relating to education in Northern Ireland. In 2009, she was appointed Head of Legal Services, responsible for the operational management and strategic direction of CLC's in-house legal team. CL's Legal unit provides legal advice and representation for and on behalf of children at school expulsion and admission appeals, special education needs and mental health tribunals and undertakes strategic litigation to vindicate children's rights, principally High Court Judicial Reviews.



'Special Educational Needs in Northern Ireland'
(Begins at: 12:00)

This presentation will focus on the Special Educational Needs legislative framework and mechanisms for appeal in Northern Ireland; key themes arising through the work of the Northern Ireland Children's Law Centre; Recent judicial reviews in the area of Special Educational Needs; and the New Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill.

**David Ruddy,
BL and Primary School Principal, (ROI)**

David Ruddy is Principal of Talbot Senior School in Clondalkin, Dublin. He qualified as a barrister over 20 years ago and has since designed and presented courses on behalf of Education Centres and the Professional Development Support Service for Teachers (PDST). David lectures on the Masters in School Leadership courses in Marino Institute of Education and Trinity College Dublin. He is legal advisor to the Irish Primary Principal's Network (IPPN). David is a legal editor of the Primary Education Management Manual which is published by Thompson Round Hall. He advises schools and is a member of FLAC.



"Avoiding Litigation In Schools"
(Begins at: 15:00)

This presentation will examine the challenges facing Principals and Boards of Managements in relation to school discipline, data protection, family law and employment issues in the light of increasing legislative and regulatory requirements.

All presentations will include a Discussion / Question & Answer Session

Booking Form

Please state the number of places you wish to book

Conference Cost: €75 / £55 sterling per delegate inclusive of lunch

First Name Surname

Business Title

Organisation

Address

Telephone

Mobile

E-mail

Date

I enclose remittance of € *(Cheques made payable to St. Angela's College, Sligo)*

I have paid online

Please specify if you have any special dietary requirements:

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Please tick ✓ in the box opposite if you require a certificate of attendance for CPD purposes

State name of body for which certification is required

Please forward completed booking form to:

Education Department, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo.

Or

E-mail to: education@stangelas.nuigalway.ie

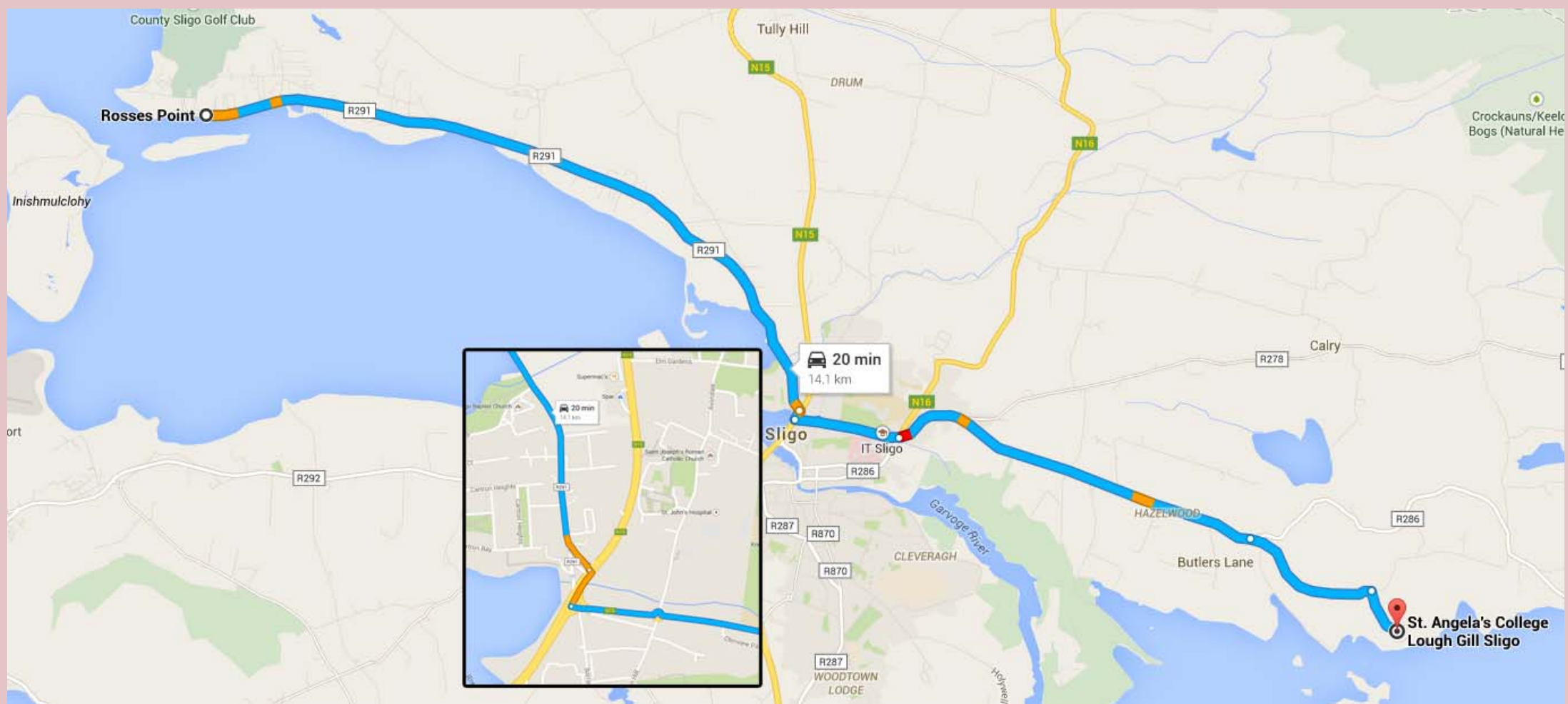
Enquiries to:

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R.S.V.P.: 25th May 2015

Getting to St. Angela's College



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