



acjrd

ACJRD

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	2
1. Research	3
2. Events	3
3. Criminology Prize	5
4. Essay Competition	5
5. Membership	6
6. Working Groups	6
7. Newsletter	7
8. Commitment to achieve change	8
9. Governance	8
10. AGM	9
11. Associations Memberships	9

Executive Summary

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) Ltd has hosted a wide array of events, seminars and publication launches during 2015. These included our 18th Annual Conference entitled “*Victims in Focus: European & Domestic Perspectives*”, and the 2nd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference entitled “*Engagement with Young People*” which was a collaboration of the ACJRD, the Garda Síochána, The Department of Justice, The Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service. The ACJRD also held Working Groups seminars and events at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives.

Research has continued to be a focus of the ACJRD activities with several projects underway during 2015.

Throughout the year the association has contributed to Government consultations as appropriate and continues to maintain memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2015 under the following headings: Research, Events, Membership, Working Groups, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance and Association’s Memberships.

1. ACJRD Research

We continue to be involved in research. The nature of our research has changed lately e.g. we find we are making more submissions to the government. I would like to acknowledge the generosity of the many experts who gave their time free of charge to ACJRD and also to mention those who deliver research at a modest fee.

The ACJRD Research-Sub-Committee oversaw the following projects during 2015:

Best Practice, Current Difficulties, Future Needs’, ‘Tracking the needs and service provision for women ex-prisoners’

The Association believes that quality research findings are essential to a more effective and responsive criminal justice system. To assist future research efforts, the Association wishes to explore how collaboration between criminal justice policy makers, practitioners and researchers might be further enhanced to their mutual benefit. To this end a study has been commissioned to consider what works best in conducting criminal justice research projects, what difficulties arise in terms of data, access, etc., and what actions might be taken to support efficient and effective research projects into the future. The ongoing study involves the compilation of the views of policy makers, practitioners and researchers who have recent experience of criminal justice research projects.

This study has been funded by a grant from The Children’s Act Advisory Board.

DCU Community Knowledge Exchange

This project matches student-researchers and their supervisors with organisations who have an issue or question that can be addressed in a project of a few months.

ACJRD members’ submitted research suggestions suitable for Community Knowledge Exchange students. A JLO topic is being researched by a PhD student in DCU and it is currently at literature review stage.

We aim to match ACJRD research suggestions with Community Knowledge Exchange students in other universities.

2. ACJRD Events 2015

Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2015. Please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on pages six and seven.

8th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 1st April, 2015

The 8th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, entitled "*Building trust and confidence – challenges and opportunities for the Garda Síochána*" was delivered on 1st April, 2015, by Garda Commissioner Nóirín O'Sullivan.

2014 Conference Report Launch, 16th April, 2015

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. James Reilly, TD, launched the report from our 17th Annual Conference entitled "*Youth Justice Transformation*" on 16th April, 2015, at the Department of Justice Atrium, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

ACJRD 18th Annual Conference "Victims in Focus: European & Domestic Perspectives " 2nd October 2015

The Hon. Ms. Justice Mary Ellen Ring launched this one day conference which saw international and national experts address the rights and needs of victims in a number of plenary and workshop sessions.

Delegates were encouraged to share information, present their own perspectives and network with colleagues who engage in similar and related areas of work. As usual, the Chatham House Rule prevailed throughout the conference.

Conference Plenary Presentations were delivered by: Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, Legal Officer, European Commission; Dr. Katrien Lauwaert, Senior Researcher at the European Forum for Restorative Justice and Leuven Institute of Criminology, Belgium; Stephen Meighan, Victims Support Europe 7 Chair of Victim Support Scotland; Claire Loftus, director of Public Prosecutions; Maria McDonald, BL; Chief Superintendent Anne Marie McMahon, Director of Training, Garda College.

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops. Presentations were delivered by: Dr Marsha Scott, Chief Executive, Scottish Women's Aid & Dr Eimear Spain, School of Law, University of Limerick; Cheryl Lamont (Acting) Director, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, & Stephanie Weir, Probation Officer, Probation Board for Northern Ireland; Stephen Doyle, Founder & Director, Care After Prison; Dr Gillian Harold, Postdoctoral Researcher, UCC; Tom O'Malley, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, NUI Galway; Tara Brown, Volunteer Manager, Ruhama; Dearbhail McDonald, Associate Editor and Legal Editor of The Irish Independent; Naomi Feely, Senior Policy Officer, Age Action Ireland.

2nd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference "Engagement with Young People", 15th July, 2015

An Garda Síochána, the Department of Justice and Equality, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Probation Service, Irish Prison service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research & Development held the 2nd Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference in the Dublin Castle Conference Centre. The 2015 conference theme was "*Engagement with Young People*", and the lead agency in 2015 was An Garda Síochána.

Conference speakers included: Nóirín O’Sullivan, Garda Commissioner; Ms. Frances Fitzgerald T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality; Professor Ursula Kilkelly, School of Law, University College Cork; Temporary Chief Constable John Long, Avon and Somerset Police, QPM; Dr Seán Redmond, Research and Evaluation Unit, Department of Children & Youth Affairs; John Twomey, Assistant Garda Commissioner; and Dr James Reilly T.D., Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

In addition, the Conference heard from a young person who assumed the name ‘Jade’ who had first-hand experience of interaction with the Criminal Justice system.

The Conference also featured a number of workshops. Presentations were delivered by: Superintendent Colette Quinn, An Garda Síochána; Detective Sergeant Mick Moran, INTERPOL, Liaison and Protection, An Garda Síochána, Detective Inspector Mick Lynch, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, and Detective Sergeant Mary T McCormack, Garda National Protective Services Bureau; Detective Sergeant Jennifer Molony, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, Pauline Downey, Senior Probation Officer, Probation Service, Detective Geraldine Goldrick, An Garda Síochána, and Shane Donnelly, Social Work Team Leader, Tusla; Rachel Lillis, Senior Probation Officer, Patricia Kavanagh, Career Guidance Officer, Ballymun Job Centre, Garda Mark Higgins, Community Policing, Ballymun & Garda Alan Carberry, Community Policing, Ballymun; Mary Henihan, Southern Regional Manager, Le Chéile and Sergeant Seamus O’Neill, An Garda Síochána; and Anne Conroy CEO Le Chéile and Alan Hughes, Probation Officer, Young People’s Probation.

3. ACJRD/DIT Criminology Prize

The ACJRD agreed to sponsor a Criminology Prize for the 2015 students at D.I.T. Congratulations to Jonathan O’Brien who won the ACJRD prize for outstanding performance in the module 'Youth Justice and Youth Offending' on the DIT MA Criminology, with his research entitled *“The Garda Youth Crime Case Management: A Garda perspective on the role and the relationship dynamics involved when managing cases of high-risk young offenders appearing before The Children Court”*.

4. ACJRD Essay Competition

The inaugural ACJRD Essay Competition was held earlier this year.

1st prize of €200 was won by Michael Mullen, a recent Trinity Graduate now working on his Masters at Harvard, for his essay: *“LGBT Prisoners: An issue in need of reform.”*

2nd prize of €50 was won by Sam Elliot, a recent DCU graduate, for his essay, *“Non-consensually shared pornography and the need for reform in Ireland.”*

5. Membership

Three categories of ACJRD membership are on offer: student €25.00, individual €35.00 and organisational membership €155.00. Organisational membership is based on a flat rate: this includes all members of that organisation, with up to five members able to attend any one ACJRD event.

Benefits to ACJRD members include; special rates on ACJRD conferences, seminars and other public events, publications on research and conference/seminar proceedings, priority bookings at all ACJRD events, circulation of the newsletter, the option to become involved in the ACJRD working groups and access to a range of peer networks. A reduced Conference fee became available in 2015 for student members.

Membership rates for 2015 are up on 2014 levels. Our student membership and Organisational membership rose by 17%, and 20% respectively.

6. ACJRD Working Groups

The ACJRD has established working groups through which members can input into the activities of the association. Current working groups include Addiction, Education, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, Reintegration, Restorative Justice and White Collar Crime.

Working Groups activities for 2015 are detailed below. The association was facilitated in the delivery of these activities by the generosity of Council members who chaired each seminar and provided venues free of charge.

Seminar : “Mental Health and Criminal Law” 23rd January, 2015

ACJRD, in association with the Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association and Dublin City University, held a seminar on "*Mental Health and Criminal Law*" at the Law Society of Ireland on Friday, 23rd January, 2015.

Mr. Kris Gledhill, University of Auckland, was the keynote speaker, speaking on "*Mental Disorder and Liability to Punishment: Recent English Developments*". From an Irish perspective, Mr. Tom O'Malley, National University of Ireland, Galway, talked about "*Mental Disorder and Proportionate Punishment*" and Ms. Áine Hynes, Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association, talked about "*Operating The Criminal Law (Insanity) Act: a Legal Practitioner's Perspective*". The seminar was chaired by Judge John O'Connor.

Seminar: “Intellectual Disability and the Criminal Justice System” 28th July 2015

ACJRD assisted one of our members in promoting a newly formed organisation called “The Irish Criminal Justice and Disability Network” at a seminar entitled '*Intellectual Disability and the Criminal Justice System - Recent Research and Casework Experience*'. The event was hosted by The Law Society of Ireland on Tuesday, 28th July, 2015.

This event was a collaboration of the ACJRD and its Juvenile Justice and Education Working Groups, and the Irish Criminal Justice and Disability Network www.icjdn.ie.

Seminar speakers included legal and therapeutic experts:

- Professor Shane Kilcommins, Head of the School of Law, University of Limerick
- Dr Helen Goode, Senior Clinical Psychologist, The Dublin Adult and Child Therapy Centre
- Karen O'Driscoll, Speech & Language Therapist, The Dublin Adult and Child Therapy Centre.

Seminar: White Collar Crime 28th October 2015

The ACJRD White Collar Crime Working Group held a seminar hosted by the Department of Justice Atrium on St. Stephen's Green on Wednesday 28th October 2015

Our Guest Speakers for this event were: Dr. Joe McGrath, UCD, who spoke on - *"Corporate and White-Collar Crime in Ireland - A New Architecture of Regulatory Enforcement."*

Shelley Horan; Barrister-at-Law and Adjunct Assistance Professor, Trinity College, Dublin also gave a presentation on *"White Collar Crime – The Irish Response"*

End of Year Networking Event - 10th December, 2015

A networking end-of-year event took place in the Blue Room of the Law Society of Ireland on Thursday 10th December. This was an opportunity for Working Group members to interact with each other "face to face".

A Cybercrime talk was delivered by our guest speaker Detective Michael Gubbins, Head of the Garda Computer Crime Investigations Unit, followed by a festive reception.

7. Newsletter

The ACJRD Newsletter is delivered via email to members and interested parties of the Association and is also available on the ACJRD website. The newsletter keeps members informed about current and forthcoming events and includes news from our members and developments in other agencies and relevant organisations.

As well as promoting the ACJRD, the Newsletter is designed to attract and encourage new members. This service is produced in-house and there are no printing or postage costs. It promotes the creation and development of an online community for the ACJRD.

Four newsletters were produced in 2015: Spring, Summer Autumn and Winter. In addition, a News Bulletin was also circulated in April.

8. Commitment to Achieve Change

ACJRD makes appropriate submissions in satisfaction of its mission and vision in areas where there is relevant expertise and interest. All submissions made by the ACJRD are available on our website www.acjrd.ie.

The views expressed in ACJRD submissions are those of ACJRD in its independent capacity and are not those of the ACJRD members' organisations or their employers.

ACJRD made a submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Equality and Defence on the "*Review of Approach to the Possession of Limited Quantities of Certain Drugs*", on 7th August 2015. ACJRD Council Members worked on this submission together with Professor Catherine Comiskey, TCD and ACJRD Member Denis Murray.

Currently an ACJRD intern is collating information regarding Justice Inspectorates internationally. By way of background, this review was prompted by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality and Defence report on the "*Review of An Garda Síochána Act 2005*," and its recommendation to establish a Criminal Justice Inspectorate in this jurisdiction.

9. Governance

The ACJRD Council includes representatives from: The Department of Justice, The Probation Service, The Irish Prison Service, The Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, The Garda Síochána Inspectorate, The Department of Children and Youth Affairs, The Revenue Commissioners, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, and the Law Society of Ireland.

The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2015:

27 January, 2015, at the Offices of the Probation Service, Haymarket, Dublin 7;
10th March, 2015 at the Offices of the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2;
21st April, 2015 at the IPS, North Circular Road, Dublin 7;
26th May, 2015 at The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7;
7th July, 2015 at the Offices of the Criminal Assets Bureau, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2;
8th September at the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions, North King Street, Dublin 7;
20th October 2015 at The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7;
8th December, 2015 at the Offices of the Probation Service, Haymarke, Dublin 7.

After eleven years' service to ACJRD, Vice Chairperson Finbarr O'Leary retired from the ACJRD Council. Finbarr was the Chair of the Mental Health working group and was a very active and supportive member of the association.

10. AGM 2015

The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Spencer Hotel on Friday 2nd October, following the close of our annual conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the associations Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2014 for adoption by members.

Council representation

The ACJRD Council members have represented the Association at a number of events during the year. These have included:

- The Law Reform Commission (LRC) seminar on Cyber Crime affecting personal safety, privacy and reputation, including cyber-bullying, on 22nd April, 2015
- Attendance at the launch of the Joint Probation Service – Irish Prison Service Strategy 2015-2017 and the publication of the Probation Service Annual Report 2014 and Prison Service Annual Report 2014, on 18th May, 2015
- Attendance at the DPP's annual conference.
- Attendance at Justice Committee meeting to discuss submissions received on the Drugs Review held on 13th October 2015.
- Attendance at the 32nd Hugh M Fitzpatrick Lecture at the Bar of Ireland on Deflecting the Law from its Course: Capital Punishment and Clemency in Ireland 1923 – 1990. Presented by Ian O'Donnell, FRHist S, MRIA, Professor of Criminology, UCD.

11. Associations and Memberships

The Children's Rights Alliance

The Children's Rights Alliance is a coalition of over 90 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to secure the rights and needs of children in Ireland, by campaigning for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aims to improve the lives of all children under 18, through securing the necessary changes in Ireland's laws (strengthening children's rights in the Constitution), policies and services.

The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Children's Rights Alliance in 2015.

The Wheel

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, The Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector.

The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Wheel in 2015.