

October 2025



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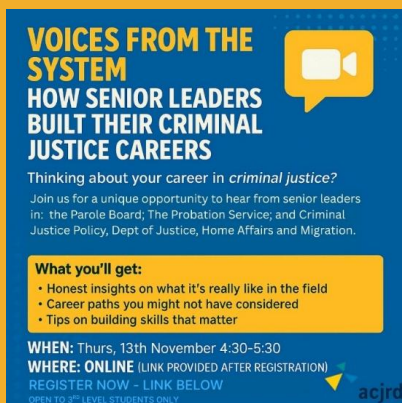
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Student Careers Webinar: Meet the Pros – Criminal Justice Career Paths



VOICES FROM THE SYSTEM
HOW SENIOR LEADERS BUILT THEIR CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREERS

Thinking about your career in criminal justice? Join us for a unique opportunity to hear from senior leaders in: the Parole Board; The Probation Service; and Criminal Justice Policy, Dept of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

What you'll get:

- Honest insights on what it's really like in the field
- Career paths you might not have considered
- Tips on building skills that matter

WHEN: Thurs, 13th November 4:30-5:30
WHERE: ONLINE (LINK PROVIDED AFTER REGISTRATION)
REGISTER NOW - LINK BELOW
OPEN TO 3RD LEVEL STUDENTS ONLY

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ACJRD is pleased to invite third-level students to our upcoming online seminar, *Meet the Pros: Criminal Justice Career Paths You Haven't Heard in Class*, taking place on **Wednesday, 13 November 2025, from 4.30–5.30pm**.

This interactive webinar will feature senior leaders working across the criminal justice system, who will share their personal career journeys, highlight lesser-known roles in the field, and offer advice for students considering a future in justice-related work.

This event is free, but registration is essential. The session will be held under the Chatham House Rule to promote open and respectful discussion. To register please [click here](#)

Keep an eye on [our Events page](#) for updates.

The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference: 'Youth Justice in Motion: Prevention, Intervention, Contribution'



We were delighted to partner with Oberstown Children Detention Campus to host the **11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference** on **Friday, 10 October 2025** at the newly refurbished North Wing of the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Kilmainham.

The morning plenaries set the tone for a day of reflection and innovation in youth justice, bringing together policymakers, practitioners, and experts to explore progress, challenges, and future directions.



Mary Griffin (ACJRD Chairperson) opened the conference with a warm welcome and overview of the day's themes. Kevin McCarthy (Secretary General, Department of Children, Disability & Equality) officially launched the event, highlighting the continued importance of collaboration and innovation in youth justice policy and practice.



Koulla Yiasouma (Chairperson, Oberstown Children Detention Campus), Damien Hernon (Director, Oberstown), and Derek Byrne (CEO, Way2Work Ireland) reflected on the evolution of youth justice in Ireland, from detention to prevention and community contribution. Their presentations underscored progress made and the ongoing commitment to creating meaningful, youth-focused pathways.



The Hon. Mr. Justice Paul Kelly, Dr. Niall Muldoon, and Prof. Nessa Lynch, facilitated by Gerry Curran, explored the legacy and future of the Children Act. Discussions examined how principles of fairness and rehabilitation have shaped youth justice responses, and where legislative reform is still needed to address serious offending.



Delegates also participated in parallel thematic sessions exploring three areas:

Session One: The Continuum of Young Lives

Chair: Dr. Ian Marder (Maynooth University)

Gráinne Berrill, Ronan McLoughlin, and Chief Superintendent Paul Franey explored youth justice as part of young people's wider lives, highlighting collaboration, flexibility, and community engagement across systems that support young people.



Session Two: Girls, Gender and Justice

Chair: Maggie Clune (PACE)

Michelle Griffin, Dr. Gilly Sharpe, and Saoirse Brady examined the invisibility of girls in youth justice, stressing the need for trauma-informed, gender-specific approaches that address marginalisation and unmet needs.

Session Three: Digital Justice and Online Harm

Chair: Dr. Orla Gallagher (Irish Prison Service)

Niamh Hodnett, Aaron Swift, and Wayne Denner discussed the challenges of protecting young people in digital spaces—addressing online harm, algorithmic bias, and the importance of empowering youth to shape a safer online future



Throughout the day, through a series of videos we heard from young people in Oberstown through whose voices, actions, and insights offered a compelling vision of what justice can look like when it is built with young people, not just for them.



The conference brought together over 200 delegates representing a broad array of criminal justice agencies and partner organisations.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in making the event a success, from speakers and facilitators to attendees, volunteer rapporteurs and the organising team.

A conference report is being compiled and will be available on our website soon.





Farewell and Best Wishes to Niamh Conaty

We extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Niamh Conaty who recently finished up with as ACJRD Administrator. Niamh has been an integral part of the organisation, supporting our events, communications, and day-to-day operations with professionalism, warmth, and dedication.

On behalf of the ACJRD Council and wider network, we thank Niamh for her contributions and wish her every success in the next chapter of her career.



Professor Ian O'Donnell stepped down from the ACJRD Council at the AGM held in October 2025. He was thanked for his huge contribution to ACJRD over the past three years by Chairperson, Mary Griffin.



Executive Director, Orla O'Neill was delighted to present the Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology Prize for Best Student in Criminal Law 2024/25 to Savannah Carty. The prize was sponsored in 2025 by the ACJRD.

ACJRD Mailing List

To sign up for the mailing list [please click here](#).

If you wish to unsubscribe, please email admin@acjrd.ie stating 'unsubscribe' in the subject line of the email.

December Seminar and Networking Event – *High Volume but Low-level Crime: A Dialogue*

DECEMBER SEMINAR & NETWORKING EVENT

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HIGH VOLUME BUT LOW-LEVEL CRIME: A DIALOGUE

THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2025

THE BLUE ROOM, LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND, BLACKHALL PLACE, DUBLIN 7

REGISTRATION @ 5 PM
SEMINAR @ 5.30 - 7PM
RECEPTION @ 7 - 8 PM

SPEAKERS

ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PAUL CLEARY, AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
DR IAN MARDER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN CRIMINOLOGY, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY
ARNOLD DILLON, DIRECTOR, RETAIL IRELAND (IBEC)
SIOBHAN BRENNAN AND BRIDIE FLOOD, THE DIAMOND PROJECT, BELVEDERE YOUTH CLUB.

Members only event. Contact admin@acjrd.ie

ACJRD will host our final seminar of the year on the evening of **Thursday, 11 December 2025**, in the **Blue Room, Law Society of Ireland**, followed by a networking reception. This **members-only** event will explore the theme: *High Volume but Low-level Crime: A Dialogue*.

While often viewed as minor in isolation, crimes such as theft, shoplifting, public order offences, anti-social behaviour and minor assaults have a cumulative impact — eroding community safety, confidence, and quality of life. They also place significant demands on frontline services.

This seminar will bring together justice professionals, researchers, and practitioners to reflect on:

- Current trends in low-level crime
- The balance between enforcement and prevention
- Psychological and social drivers behind persistent behaviours
- Cross-sector responses and multi-agency collaboration

Speakers are:

- Acting Deputy Commissioner Paul Cleary, An Garda Síochána
- Arnold Dillon, Director, Retail Ireland (IBEC)
- Dr Ian Marder, Associate Professor in Criminology, Maynooth University
- Siobhan Brennan, Family Therapist and Bridie Flood, Senior Project Worker, The Diamond Project, Belvedere Youth Club.

Time: Seminar 5.30pm–7.00pm/Reception until 8.00pm

Venue: The Blue Room, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

Booking: Via Eventbrite [here](#)

This is a **ACJRD members only** event.

ACJRD Membership 2025

Memberships run for the calendar year January – December and entitles members to discounts for our Annual Conference, preferential bookings for certain events and invitations to a limited number of member-only events.

Three types of ACJRD membership are available: Individual Membership €35.00, Organisational Membership €155, Student Membership €10.

Click here for [further information on ACJRD Membership](#).