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## ACJRD Events Calendar 2024

April (date tbc): **The 17<sup>th</sup> Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture** (evening)

June 12th: **The 27<sup>th</sup> ACJRD Annual Conference** (full day)

October 4th: **The 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference** (full day)

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

## Upcoming Events

**Countering Sports Corruption in the EU**, 19-20 February 2024, online. See [further details here](#).

**Victims' Rights in Ireland: Current Challenges**, 22 February 2024 in University of Limerick. See [further details here](#).

**The 6th World Congress on Probation and Parole**, 16-18 April 2024 in The Hague (registration by 1 March 2024). See [further details here](#).

**White-Collar Crime in the EU: Annual Conference**, 21-22 March 2024, Trier and online. See [further detail here](#).

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## Latest News

### Proposed New EU Directive on Child Sexual Abuse

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for an EU Directive to reform the criminal law on child sexual abuse for the first time since 2011. The proposal recommends expanding the definition of offences related to child sexual abuse across EU Member States, as well as taking steps to strengthen both the prosecution and prevention of such crimes, including the enforcement of a mandatory obligation for professionals working in close contact with children to report an offence of this kind. Should the proposal be successful at the European Parliament and the Council, it will enter into force 20 days after its publication. Click [here to view the press release](#).

### Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill 2023

Amendments to the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill 2023 have been recommended by the Seanad, meaning that the Bill will go through some stages of debate in the Dáil again. The Act seeks to improve governance of An Garda Síochána by establishing a Board, and by ensuring independence of the Garda Commissioner in relation to their functions, among other things. It also seeks to improve oversight and accountability in the organisation. Click [here for further information](#).

### Draft legislation to enhance Criminal Assets Bureau's powers

The Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, has been given approval to draft legislation which will strengthen the powers of the Criminal Assets Bureau. The proposed legislation should reduce the length of time it takes for criminal assets to be seized from at least seven years down to two. It will also increase cooperation across international borders in relation to seizing assets. Click [here for further information](#).

## €7.7 million in funding for organisations supporting victims of crimes

The Minister for Justice has announced €7.7 million in funding for a wide range of organisations which support victims of crimes. The organisations which will receive funding include national NGOs such as the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Aid and Safe Ireland, as well as Victim Support at Court, and some smaller local organisations across the country. Click [here for further information](#).

## Best wishes to Gerry McNally, the Probation Service

We wish Gerry McNally well on his upcoming retirement from his role as Assistant Director in the Probation Service. Having served since 1978, Gerry worked in prisons, the courts and community supervision, as a probation officer and as a manager. He is a former President of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) 2016-2022, and member of the advisory group of the biennial World Congress on Probation. He is also stepping down as joint editor of the *Irish Probation Journal*.

We were lucky to have Gerry on the Board of ACJRD from 2007-2022, and he recently presented at the 2023 Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference on *The Practical Implementation of the Framework Decisions and the Relevant Irish Legislation, from a CEP and European Perspective*. We thank Gerry for all his help and support over the years.

Gerry will present at the **6th World Congress on Probation and Parole** in April (see Upcoming Events).

## Recent Publications

### Supreme Court Annual Report 2022 launched

The annual report of the Supreme Court offers a comprehensive insight into the important and varied work of the Court throughout 2022. Click [here to download the report](#).

### An Garda Síochána reserve the power to prosecute for low level crimes, following review

A High-Level Review Group, established in 2020 and chaired by Dermot McCarthy to review the role of An Garda Síochána in the Public Prosecution system, has published its final report. The report, which has been approved by the Government, recommends that Gardaí should continue to be able to prosecute low-level but high-volume crimes. Such prosecutions will be increasingly monitored by the DPP, with the Office also providing enhanced quality assurance. Click [here to view the press release](#), and click [here to download the report](#).

## You may have missed...

**Study finds majority of Supreme Court judges went to UCD and a private school**, The Journal, Dec 2023. Click [here to read](#).

**Expert Voices: A presumption against short prison sentences for women**, Centre for Justice Innovation - a recording of the 'Expert Voices' event, which took place on 30 January 2024. Click [here to view the recording](#).

**Courts Service launches pilot Open Data Portal**  
The Courts Service has just launched a pilot of its Open Data Portal, making Courts data easily available and accessible. The portal is now live at [data.courts.ie](#) and aims to promote a greater awareness and a better understanding of Courts data.

**Negotiated Criminal Justice and French Guilty Plea Procedure: Improved Rights for the Prosecuted Individuals**, White & Case LLP, JDSUPRA.COM, Feb 2024. Click [here to read](#).

**All-Party Group marks Ten Years Since Landmark Penal Reform Report**, IPRT, Oct 2023. Click [here for more information](#).

**The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) celebrate their 20th anniversary in 2024**  
The CJI will mark this through highlighting aspects of their work each month. Click here to [see their news page](#), or [listen to their podcasts](#).

**'When people with convictions get degrees, everybody wins'**  
RTE Brainstorm on how we should make higher education accessible for people with convictions, not deter them from applying. Click [here to read](#).

**Le Chéile Mentoring on Newstalk**, seeking new mentors. Click [here to listen](#).

## Vacancies & Tenders

**The Probation Service, Research Officer (Higher Executive Officer).** Click [here for details](#). Deadline: **16/02/24, 5pm**

**Eurojust Liaison Officer.** Reference: 24/EJ/03. Click [here for details](#). Deadline: **26/02/24**

**Eurojust Accounting Assistant.** Reference: 24/EJ/04. Click [here for details](#). Deadline: **04/03/24**

**Irish Prison Service, Request for Expressions of Interest for appointment to the Panel of Legal Representatives in respect of prisoner appeals.** Click [here for details](#). Deadline: **01/03/24**

## Call for Research

**An Garda Síochána and the Policing Authority**  
Request for Quotation for the provision of an evidence-based review of interventions aimed at promoting the resilience, mental health and well-being of An Garda Síochána members and staff. To [download further details click here](#).

Deadline: **23/02/24, 3pm**

## Call for Articles

**The Irish Criminal Law Journal**  
The *Irish Criminal Law Journal* has issued a call for article submissions. The Journal welcomes submissions on any aspect of criminal law, criminal justice, criminal procedure that pertains in Ireland. Comparative research articles with a significant focus on Ireland will also be considered. Click [here for further details](#).

## ACJRD Mailing List

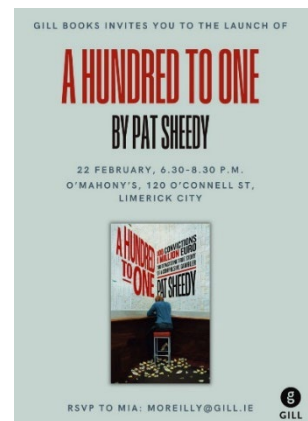
To sign up to our mailing list [please click here](#). To unsubscribe, email [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie) stating 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. | [www.acjrd.ie](http://www.acjrd.ie)

## IPRT report on employer attitudes to employing people with convictions

In a report on employer attitudes to employing People with Convictions (PWC), the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) found that, while most employers were generally supportive of the idea of hiring PWCs, some were concerned with the risks they perceived to be involved with such practice. The report also found that hiring PWCs is beneficial for all parties involved and has wider positive impacts on society. The IPRT have made several recommendations for legislative reform to support PWCs in engaging in meaningful employment and are in favour of an evidence-based approach over a risk-based approach when employers are endeavouring to employ PWCs. Click [here to download the report](#).

## Book launch - A Hundred to One by Pat Sheedy

The launch of *A Hundred to One*, by Pat Sheedy, will take place in O'Mahonys Bookshop, Limerick City on **22 February** from 6.30-8.30pm. This book describes how a gambling addiction can cause devastation, result in imprisonment, and about the possibility of a fresh start. RSVP to Mia: [moreilly@gill.ie](mailto:moreilly@gill.ie).



## ACJRD website updates

You may have noticed we are currently changing the way we update the [ACJRD website](#). We are adding notices of events, vacancies, research calls and articles of interest to our [News section](#), so keep an eye on this section for notices that we receive between newsletters.

We are currently planning a number of spring events - including the **17th Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture in April** (date tbc) - so check the [ACJRD Events section](#) for event announcements and updates on speakers, dates, times and tickets for all ACJRD events.

If you have submissions relevant for distribution to personnel working in, or associated professionally with, the criminal justice system, please send them to [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie) and we will consider them for our newsletter or website.

## ACJRD Membership 2024

Membership runs 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 and Student Membership €25.

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