

## Biographies of Speakers and Chairs

### **Laura Burke**

Laura Burke is Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), appointed in 2011. Laura is the Chair of the EU Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for Societal Challenge 5 (Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials) and a member of the Management Board for the European Environment Agency. Prior to joining the EPA, she worked in the private sector. Laura is a Chemical Engineering graduate from University College Dublin, holds an MSc from Trinity College Dublin and is a Chartered Director. In 2016 Laura was awarded the UCD 2016 EGA Distinguished Graduate Award.

### **Angus Innes**

Angus Innes was born and went to school in the UK, but went to Australia in his early twenties after service in the British Army in Malaya and Singapore. Subsequently, he graduated from the University of Queensland in Law and was admitted as a barrister. He practiced at the private Bar in Australia, ultimately specialising in planning and environment law. He held a commission to prosecute on behalf of the Queensland Crown for some years. In planning and environment matters, he represented the Crown, major local authorities, as well as NGOs and private clients. He was an evening volunteer barrister with the Environmental Defender's Office and was a Judge-Advocate in the Active Reserve of the Royal Australian Air Force. In 2001 he returned to the UK and subsequently he took up the position of Prosecutions Team Leader of the Thames Region of the Environment Agency. His team successfully prosecuted the first conspiracy charges for organised waste crime, secured the (then) longest sentences for waste crime and handled leading cases on the definition of waste and on the sentencing of water companies for pollution offences. He was awarded an MBE in 2011 for services to the prevention of environmental crime. He recently represented the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment at the 1st meeting of the Intergovernmental Task Force on the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trading of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean in Cairo (under the umbrella of the Bonn Convention for the protection of migratory species).

### **Marcus O'Sullivan**

Marcus O'Sullivan is a Solicitor in the Law Department of Dublin City Council. Marcus qualified with Binchy Solicitors in 2009 and worked in private practise up until 2014 gaining considerable experience in the area of public authority regulation and control, with particular focus on planning and environmental law. Since joining Dublin City Council in 2014 his duties have included advising the Waste Enforcement Unit and National TFS office on the performance of their functions and the enforcement of the Waste Shipment Regulation. He is actively involved with the European Union Network for the Implementation of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and has previously presented at conferences on the subjects of environmental enforcement and housing regulation.

### **Seosaimhín Ní Chathasaigh**

Seosaimhín Ní Chathasaigh LL.B, LL.M (Dubl), BL is a practising barrister, a lecturer in the Law Society of Ireland and a doctoral candidate in the School of Law, Trinity College, Dublin. She was called to the Bar of

Ireland in 2005 and practises primarily in the areas of Criminal Law and Environmental Law. She has advised the Environmental Protection Agency on the preparation of a number of prosecution files, most recently in the case of *DPP v Nealon & Jenzsoph Ltd.*, a prosecution taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions on foot of a file prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, in which the company was convicted of two charges of causing environmental pollution and fined a record €20 million.

### **The Hon. Mr John D. Cooke SC**

John D. Cooke called to the Bar of Ireland in 1966 and practised for 30 years mainly in the areas of commercial law and litigation, European law and anti-trust and regulatory law. He was admitted to the Inner Bar in Ireland (Senior Counsel) in 1980 and in New South Wales in 1991. He was President of the Council of the Bars and Law Societies of the European Communities (CCBE) in 1985 and 1986. In 1987 he was elected a bencher of the Honourable Society of Kings Inns and is also an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. In 1996 he was appointed to be a judge of the General Court of the European Union (then the Court of First Instance,) where he served until 2008. During his terms of office he acted as President of the fifth, fourth and first chambers of the Court. Upon retiring from the General Court in 2008 he was nominated as a judge of the High Court in Ireland. He served as a judge of the Commercial Court and presided over the Competition section. He retired from the High Court on 1 January 2014.

### **Dr Joanne Blennerhasset**

Dr. Joanne Blennerhasset is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, Université Paris 2 Panthéon- Assas (La Sorbonne), University College Dublin, the Law Society of Ireland and University College Cork. She is an Assistant Professor in the Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin, where she has lectured since 2003, specialising in Environmental Law, Tort Law, and Dispute Resolution. She has a background as a practitioner having practiced as a solicitor. She is also a qualified mediator and arbitrator. She holds a PhD in collective redress and environmental mass harm and has recently published a book in this area with Hart Publishing entitled 'A Comparative Examination of Multi-Party Actions: The Case of Environmental Mass Harm'.

### **Gary Fitzgerald BL**

Gary Fitzgerald is the Director of the ICEL and a barrister specialising in Information Law. He was called to the Bar in 2007. Prior to this he worked in IT for 10 years and was an active member of the Green Party from 2000 until 2010. He has worked in the European Parliament, Dáil Eireann, ran for local election in 2009 and was Mary White's campaign manager in Carlow/Kilkenny in 2002. He has been involved with a number of cases involving the Aarhus Convention. While still a law student he requested Cabinet documents on climate change that eventually lead to the High Court decision in *An Taoiseach v Commissioner for Environmental Information* [2013] 2 IR 510. He appears for the Applicant in *Minch v Commissioner for Environmental Information* [2016] IEHC 91, currently under appeal to the Court of Appeal. He has previously lectured in European Union Law, Contract Law and Equity and is currently the law tutor on the Trinity Access Programme. He has a degree in European Studies (History) French and Spanish from UCC and spent a year studying at the Sorbonne in Paris.

## **Gerard O'Leary**

Gerard O'Leary was appointed Director of the EPA in May 2012, and is currently Director of the Office of Environmental Enforcement. Gerard joined the EPA in 1994 as a Licensing Inspector under the newly established IPC licensing regime. He worked subsequently in the Environmental Management and Planning area and served as a Programme Manager in the Office of Environmental Enforcement. Gerard holds MSc. degrees in Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry as well as an MA degree in Public Management.

## **Dr Carole Billiet**

Dr. Carole M. Billiet (master in law 1981, degree in environmental sciences 1991, Ph.D. in law 2008) has been building up expertise in environmental law over more than 30 years, combining academic research with practice as a lawyer (1996-2009), a member of the Brussels Region Independent Appeal Body handling appeals against permitting decisions and administrative sanctioning decisions (2000-2009) and a judge, vice-president and acting president in an environmental court (2009-2015). Currently she is Research Director Environmental Law at the Center for Environmental & Energy Law of the UGent (Belgium). Her research and practice have strongly invested in authorization mechanisms (e.g., environmental permitting and prototype-approval), in environmental law enforcement and in legislative policy and design. In 2001-2002, she was in charge of the development of the draft for a new Flemish environmental enforcement decree, which opted for the combination of criminal sanctioning with a strong administrative sanctioning track equipped with administrative fines and effective and proportional remedial sanctions (Flemish Enforcement Decree 2007). When serving as a court (vice-)president she participated in the development of legislation offering administrative court judges new tools (competences) to enhance the effectiveness of the citizens' access to justice (Flemish Administrative Courts Decree 2014). Her publications reflect her expertise.

Publications: see <https://biblio.ugent.be/person/801001589241>

## **Lorna Dempsey BL**

Lorna Dempsey is the Head of Legal Services in the Office of Environmental Enforcement of the Environmental Protection Agency. She is a qualified barrister and was in private practice before joining the EPA in 2008. Lorna is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin where she studied law and also has a Masters in Environmental Law. She is a board member of the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment.

## **Professor Richard Macrory CBE**

Richard Macrory is professor of environmental law at University College London, and a barrister at Brick Court Chambers. He has been a board member of the Environment Agency (England), and in recent years has been at the forefront in helping to reshape the design of regulatory sanctions in the UK. The recommendations in his 2006 report for the UK Cabinet Office Regulatory Justice - Making Sanctions Effective were all accepted by the government, and led to Part III Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 which provides framework powers for a new approach. More recent Scottish environmental legislation has been based on his advice. The so-called "Macrory Principles" on regulatory sanctions have been increasingly influential in policy thinking on the subject, both in the UK and other jurisdictions.