

Law Society of Ireland

Country Report

54th European Presidents' Conference 2026

About the Law Society

The Law Society of Ireland has representative, regulatory and educational functions in respect of the solicitors' profession.

We deliver high-quality legal education and training, encourage and support the highest professional standards. We also place significant emphasis on civic engagement, supporting local community initiatives and driving diversity and inclusion within the profession.

There are over 12,000 practising solicitors in the State.

The Law Society is committed to participating in discussion and advocacy on the administration of justice and the effective implementation of public policy.

This report highlights the key activities delivered by the Law Society over the past year and offers a high-level overview of the profession's demographic profile.

1. Leaders in Legal Education

As leaders in legal education, the Law Society is committed to supporting the development of solicitors, both those currently practicing and those training for professional qualification.

The Law Society is recognised for providing high quality professional development and executive education programmes to enhance the expertise of solicitors, as well as business leaders, to navigate the complexities of an evolving legal and regulatory landscape.

Over the past year, the education offering at the Law Society has connected with a record number of learners. With over 25,000 registered attendances by solicitors across 169 executive education programmes delivered by the Law Society's Skillnet, Professional Training and Diploma teams in 2025.



The PPC Hybrid is no longer a niche programme: one in five trainees now choose this route, with most based outside Dublin and many being older, career-changing, or balancing caring commitments.

A record number of 7,100 participants from 84 countries took part in the Law Society's a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Artificial Intelligence. The MOOC is a central pillar to the Law Society's public legal education initiative.

A host of topics were covered including the AI Act, practical AI prompting, the responsible and ethical use of AI, including data protection and intellectual property concerns, use of AI in a law firm and use of AI in the court room.

The Law Society aims to launch a new Legal Professional Apprenticeship Programme in 2026, which will offer another more flexible route to rewarding legal careers.

2. Inaugural Summer School of the Centre for Justice and Law Reform

The Law Society's Centre for Justice and Law Reform hosted its inaugural summer school on 26 and 27 June 2025, exploring the highly topical theme of "*Defending Democracy: Legal Responses to Emerging Threats*". The event marked the official launch of the Centre which has been established by the Law Society to develop thought leadership on matters pertaining to justice and law reform.

Proceedings commenced with a fascinating address by Professor Patrick Geoghegan, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub, who challenged the audience to embrace complexity and engage with both history and the present honestly, in order to learn vital lessons from the past to defend democratic values.

The former Director of the CIA John Brennan who spoke very openly about his fascinating career as well as his thoughts on ongoing developments in the Middle East.

Caoilfhionn Gallagher KC, renowned human rights barrister and Ireland's Special Rapporteur on Child Protection, highlighted the urgent need to take action against the issue of transnational repression, both in Ireland and globally.

The Minister for Health, Dr Jennifer Carroll MacNeill addressed the issue of protecting democratic representation in a very engaging speech. And European Commissioner Michael McGrath emphasised the importance of transparency, accountability, and community engagement to rebuild trust in democracies.

3. Research highlights economic and social impact of the legal profession in Ireland

In October, an economic impact assessment of the legal profession in Ireland was published by KPMG. The study was commissioned by the Law Society and the Bar Council of Ireland to determine the value of the contribution of the legal professions to the Irish economy and society.

The research confirms that the legal sector is a core pillar of the country's economic model, supporting both domestic growth and international investment. Ireland exports €1.4 billion in legal services annually, reflecting the strong global orientation of Ireland's economy.

The legal profession contributes €6.7 billion in Gross Value Added to the Irish economy, €4.2 billion directly, and an additional €2.5 billion indirectly. The sector supports over 52,000 jobs nationwide, 25,000 directly and a further 27,000 indirectly.

Legal professionals in Ireland play a central role in enabling activity across high-value, internationally traded sectors, including financial services and aviation, technology, media and telecommunications and high-tech manufacturing.

Alongside economic impact, Ireland places strong emphasis on access to justice, professional standards and inclusion.

Legal professionals make a significant contribution to pro bono work and to supporting vulnerable groups access legal supports, with legal professionals contributing over 9,300 pro bono days annually.

