

The Construction Contracts Act 2013 – 10 years on

Wednesday 24th June 2026

ciarb.
Ireland Branch

Date

Wednesday 24th June 2026
12.30pm (lunch)
Conference 1.00pm

Cost

FREE

Registration required
See links below

Delivery

Hybrid:
Online & In-person

Venue

Addleshaw Goddard LLP,
Fitzwilliam 28,
Dublin 2

D02KF20

**ADDLESHAW
GODDARD**

CPD

3Hrs (Certificates
available on request)

Registration

Registration is essential
and can be made
via the following links:

In-Person **Online**

Live streaming will
commence at 1.00pm.

In-person numbers are
strictly limited and waiting
lists will apply

**Register early to avoid
disappointment**



Overview

Ciarb Ireland Branch is delighted to announce this year's Annual Conference on the **Construction Contracts Act 2013**, now 10 years on. This significant anniversary has proved to be an interesting milestone and we have put together an exciting line up for the occasion. Three panel discussions on topical issues will be followed by a fireside chat between Mr. Justice Frank Clarke (former Chief Justice of Ireland) and Mr. John Trainor SC. The event will be kindly hosted by Addleshaw Goddard LLP and will be held both in-person and online. In-person tickets are strictly limited.

Timetable

- 12.30** Light lunch
- 13.00** Conference opens
- 13.05** Welcome
Niall Buckley SC, Chairperson Ciarb Ireland Branch
- 13.10** Opening speech
Bernard Gogarty, Chair of the Ministerial Panel of Adjudicators
- 13.30** Panel 1
"Dear Jurisprudence: Caselaw and statistics update 10-year review"
Chair: Dermot Durack
Speakers: Margaret Austin, Sarah Murphy,
Prof. Brian Hutchinson, Niall Meagher
- 14.20** Coffee Break
- 14.40** Panel 2
"The Connaughton Conundrum: what is a payment dispute?"
Chair: Alan Brady BL
Speakers: Keith Kelliher, Lydia Bunni BL, Paula Mary Murphy,
Martin Waldron BL
- 15.30** Panel 3
"The long awaited Smash & Grab decision: relief or frustration"
Chair: Siobhan Kenny
Speakers: John Curtin, Gerry Monaghan,
Dr. Deirdre Ní Fhloinn BL, Karen Killoran
- 16.20** Fireside chat – Mr. Justice Frank Clarke & John Trainor SC
- 16.50** Q+A
- 17.00** Close

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Bernard Gogarty



Niall Buckley SC



Mr. Justice Frank Clarke

Bernard Gogarty

Bernard Gogarty, chair of the Ministerial Panel of Adjudicators under the Construction Contracts Act 2013, qualified as a solicitor in 1979. He has been appointed by the International Court of Arbitration in Paris to several arbitrations and has been a member of the Engineers Ireland Conciliators panel. Bernard has extensive experience in dispute resolution, he has acted as consultant to several Local Authorities and has advised many of the major Civil Engineering and Building Companies operating in Ireland and abroad. He has extensive experience of all forms of alternative dispute resolution including mediation, conciliation, adjudication, and expert determination. Bernard is currently a Consultant in Smyth & Son Solicitors a firm that specialises in both contentious and non-contentious construction law.

Niall Buckley SC

Niall Buckley is a Senior Counsel practising in commercial, public, media and property law, with a keen interest in access to justice, legal education and alternative dispute resolution. He appears regularly before all levels of the Irish Superior Courts and has also appeared before the Court of Justice of the European Union. He is a CEDR accredited mediator and regularly acts as party representative and mediator in mediations and is the founding chair of the Bar Council's Advanced Negotiation Committee.

He is a director of *TrialView* AI litigation platform and a co-author of *Specific Performance in Ireland* (Bloomsbury Professional 2012) and is a former committee member of the Irish National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce.

He is currently a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and Chair of the Ireland Branch, a

member of the International Bar Association and Media Law Committee Member, a committee member of the Commercial Litigation Association of Ireland and Member of Governance and Ethics Committee on Cycling Ireland.

Mr. Justice Frank Clarke

Mr. Justice Frank Clarke was called to the Bar in 1973 and the Inner Bar in 1985. He was later appointed to the High Court in 2004 and became a judge of the Supreme Court in February 2012. Justice Clarke served as Chief Justice of Ireland from 2017 to 2021, as President of the Law Reform Commission since July 2022 and was Chair of the Bar Council of Ireland between 1993 and 1995. Since retiring from the bench in 2021, Justice Clarke now works as Senior Counsel, Mediator, Arbitrator and is also President of the Irish Society for European Law. He served on a judicial advisory committee for appointments of judges and advocates general to the Court of Justice of the European Union from 2018 to earlier this year.

Justice Clarke was a professor at the Kings' Inns between 1978 and 1985 and was appointed adjunct professor at University College Cork in 2014. He has also been an adjunct professor at Trinity College Dublin. Justice Clarke has contributed significantly to Irish jurisprudence and has been involved in many important cases spanning decades as both barrister and judge.

Justice Clarke delivered the seminal lecture in Engineers Ireland in January 2014 prior to the coming into effect of the Act following which he published a paper on the lecture titled "Adjudication – the Role of the Courts" with which many of us are familiar. His words resound with the same force now as we approach the 10-year anniversary of statutory construction adjudication in Ireland.



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John Trainor SC



Dermot Durack



Margaret Austin

John Trainor SC

Called to the bar in 1980, John took silk in 1996 and has practised extensively in non-jury, chancery and commercial work. For the past 20 years or so, John's practice has focussed extensively on construction law. John has acted in many large value construction arbitrations and has advised and acted in many adjudications. John has recently acted in Court for the successful parties in *O'Donovan v Bunni*, *K&J Townmore Construction Ltd v Keogh*, and in the "smash and grab" case of *Tenderbids trading as Bastion v Electrical Waste Management Ltd*.

Dermot Durack

Dermot Durack advises on contentious and non contentious construction and procurement matters, with a particular focus on dispute resolution, including adjudication and conciliation, and on contract drafting and procurement strategy. He is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and non practising Barrister at Law with more than 35 years' experience in the construction sector. Dermot has acted for employers, contractors, and subcontractors and brings extensive expertise in procurement, contract administration, and commercial management on large scale and technically complex projects across the pharmaceuticals, data centres, energy, healthcare, and food sectors. Dermot sits on a number of dispute resolution panels, including the Irish Ministerial Panel of Adjudicators, and is a former Chair of the Ireland Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is also actively involved with the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland.

Margaret Austin

Margaret is a Partner and Head of the Construction Group in Addleshaw Goddard in Ireland. Margaret advises developers, contractors, funders and designers on all aspects of a construction project across numerous business sectors including manufacturing, housing, purpose built student accommodation and commercial developments with clients in the public and private sector. Margaret's practice includes advising on contentious and non-contentious construction matters and on disputes management.

Margaret is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a part-time lecturer on the Post Graduate Diploma in Construction Law & Contract Administration at Trinity College Dublin.



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Professor
Brian Hutchinson

Professor Brian Hutchinson

Professor Hutchinson is an experienced Chartered Arbitrator, Accredited Mediator, and Legal Expert in commercial and company law. Alongside his academic role, for over three decades he has advised, decided, and assisted in the resolution of complex commercial disputes, combining deep academic insight with substantial practical experience as a neutral and expert.

Brian acts as arbitrator, mediator, expert adjudicator, and expert witness in matters involving contract law, commercial transactions, company law, construction, financial services, technology disputes, and cross-border commercial issues. His work is marked by clarity, fairness, and analytical precision — qualities consistently recognised by parties, practitioners, and institutions.

Brian is licensed as a Practising Barrister in Ireland under the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 and serves as Associate Professor at the UCD Sutherland School of Law at University College Dublin, where he has taught and published extensively in arbitration, mediation, company law, commercial law, and dispute resolution. He is widely known internationally for his pioneering work in online dispute resolution, including leadership of the ECODIR project and participation as an invited expert in UNCITRAL Working Group III.



Niall Meagher

Niall Meagher

Niall Meagher FRIAI is a Registered Architect and the Managing Director of Interactive Project Managers Ltd. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a diploma holder in Project Management from Trinity College Dublin and in Arbitration from University College Dublin. Niall is a Ciarb accredited Mediator and Adjudicator. Niall is an elected member of the RIAI Professional Conduct Committee and is Chairperson of the RIAI Contracts Drafting Group.

Sarah Murphy

Sarah brings over 25 years of construction experience, blending deep procedural insight with practical site knowledge and a strong command of Public Works Contracts. Following eight years in architectural practice—delivering live projects across the UK and Ireland—she transitioned to Main Contracting, leveraging her architectural skillset within tendering, contractual matters, and design coordination. Now specializing as the Pre-Construction Manager at Carey Building Contractors, Sarah holds a BA (Hons) in Architecture, a Post Graduate Diploma in Construction Law and Contract Administration, and an MSc in Project Management. She further contributes to the industry through her roles on the CIF's Procurement, Tendering and Contractual Matters Committee and the Construction 4.0 Committee.



Sarah Murphy



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Alan Philip Brady BL



Lydia Bunni BL



Keith Kelliher

Alan Philip Brady BL

Alan Philip Brady B.L is a Barrister, CEDR Accredited Mediator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He practices from the Law Library, Dublin and has also been called to the Bar of Northern Ireland. Alan is a member of the Construction Bar Association's Executive Committee and has appeared as Counsel in several leading construction adjudication cases heard by the assigned Adjudication Judge including Aakon Construction Services Limited v Pure Fitout Associated Limited [2021] IEHC 562, John Paul Construction Limited v Tipperary Co-Operative Creamery Limited [2022] IEHC 3 and Albert Connaughton v Timber Frame Projects Ltd t/a Timber Frame Ireland [2025] IEHC 469.

Lydia Bunni BL

Lydia Bunni is a distinguished barrister, adjudicator, arbitrator, and mediator, called to the Bar in Ireland since 2006. Lydia holds an LLB and LLM, is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb) and possesses a Diploma in Construction Law from Trinity College Dublin, equipping her with specialised expertise in complex legal disputes. As counsel, Lydia specialises in construction disputes, construction insurance, arbitration, environmental law, and planning law, advising a diverse clientele including contractors, employers, designers, insurance companies, and private entities. Lydia is a prominent figure in the legal community, serving as the Chair of the Construction Bar Association of Ireland. She is also an accomplished academic, lecturing on construction law and dispute resolution at Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, and the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland.

Keith Kelliher

Keith Kelliher is the Managing Director of Kelliher and Associates Quantity Surveyors and The Kelliher

Academy. Keith is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor by profession who specialises in construction and commercial dispute resolution. Keith is a past Chair of the Ciarb Ireland Branch, a past member of the MII council and is a current member and Chair of the SCSi ADR committee.

Keith is the current Ciarb Regional Pathway Leader for Mediation and Adjudication in Ireland and has tutored in the areas of Arbitration, Mediation and Adjudication for the Ciarb, Law Society, and CIF. Keith was also a past member of the Education and Membership standing committee of Ciarb worldwide. He also regularly sits as an assessor on the Ciarb accredited Mediation training program.

Keith is an active dispute resolver and has appointments as an Arbitrator, Conciliator, Adjudicator (Accredited Adjudicator) and Mediator (Accredited Mediator) in construction, insurance and commercial disputes. Keith has received appointments as standing conciliator and Project Board. Keith is a member of a number of approved nominating bodies for the appointment of Adjudicators in the UK and is a member of the Ministers Panel of Adjudicators in Ireland. Since the commencement of the Act, Keith has issued more than 240 Referrals and has advocated in over 30 files as Responding Party and has sat as an Adjudicator in over 30 disputes.

Keith has also acted as an expert witness and regularly advises in respect to Construction Contract Issues. Keith is also the current Ciarb appointee to current discussions taking place in Ireland, across the mediation community, around the creation of a new Mediation Council to regulate the mediation Industry in Ireland under the Mediation Act 2017.



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Paula Mary Murphy



Martin Waldron BL



Siobhan Kenny

Paula Mary Murphy

Paula M Murphy FCI Arb, FRIAI, Conservation Grade 3, is an Architect based in Tipperary. Along with her Architectural Practice she has been practising in the ADR field for c.30 years as a Conciliator, Arbitrator, Mediator (Statutory and Non-Statutory) and laterally as a Standing Conciliator. She successfully completed the Ciarb/Robert Gordon University Adjudication Decision Writing Course last year. She was Chair of the Arbitration Rules Sub-Group that prepared the Ciarb All Ireland Arbitration Rules (2020) which are due to be amended with the recent changes to the Acts. She currently sits on Ciarb Adjudication Specialist Interest Group, is on Ciarb Approved Faculty List and has lectured on the Decision Module in the Ciarb-accredited Introduction to Construction Adjudication course. She also sits on the RIAI Admissions Board.

Martin Waldron BL

Martin has built a career spanning 30 years as a practicing Barrister and Chartered Quantity Surveyor, specialising in construction and property disputes. His experience includes working on some of the largest disputes in the state in roles as counsel, arbitrator, mediator and adjudicator. He sits on the SCSi Dispute Resolution Standing Committee as past Chairperson and serves as Treasurer for the Construction Bar Association. He is also past Chairperson of Ciarb Ireland Branch.

Siobhan Kenny

Siobhan Kenny is senior member of the Construction & Engineering team at Addleshaw Goddard Ireland. She acts on behalf of a broad spectrum of clients involved in building projects, providing advice on a full range of issues both contentious and non-contentious. Siobhan's non-contentious practice involves the drafting, review and analysis of complex contracts and all associated and ancillary documents, and the provision of advice to clients involved in intricate contractual arrangements on projects of every scale.

On the contentious side, Siobhan is an experienced seasoned litigator in the construction field and is practiced in all of the commonly used dispute resolution processes. She advises clients on negotiation strategy and dispute avoidance measures at all stages of the construction process and acts as advisor and sometimes as advocate in all dispute resolution fora both informal and formal.

With over 20 years of experience dealing with the legal issues arising in construction projects, Siobhan brings a wealth of experience to her advice to clients on strategy, on procedure and on engagement with all counterparties.



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John Curtin

John Curtin

John is an Executive Director of PJ Hegarty & Sons with over 30 years' experience in the industry, is a Quantity Surveyor by profession and carries additional qualifications in Law and Arbitration. Is Professionally qualified at Fellowship level in the SCSi & RICS the CIOB and the Ciarb. John is a past member of the world Governing Council of the RICS, a Past President of the SCSi and a past Chair of the Liaison Committee for the construction industry.

He is an active member of the Practice Tendering and Contracts Committee of the CIF, the Ethics & Disciplinary Committee of Engineers Ireland and is a regular supporter of Industry through regular visiting lectures. John has always engaged in industry matters, keeps a keen eye on developments around the Construction Contracts Act 2013 and as far back as 2011, represented the SCSi in discussions with the Department of Finance during the drafting of (what became) the Construction Contracts Act 2013.

Gerard Monaghan

Gerard is a Chartered Engineer with some 35 years' experience in the delivery of major construction projects in Ireland and internationally with a particular focus on utilities, energy and renewables. Gerard is a Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a CEDR accredited mediator, a FIDIC Certified Adjudicator and a member of the FIDIC President's List of approved Dispute Adjudicators.

Gerard is a member of the Engineers Ireland Arbitration, Conciliation and Adjudication panels and is also a member of the Minister's Panel of Adjudicators established in accordance with the provisions of the Construction Contracts Act 2013. He is an experienced ADR professional and



Gerard Monaghan

is appointed regularly as arbitrator, adjudicator, mediator/conciliator and Dispute Board member.

Gerard is the current Chairman of the Engineers Ireland Disputes Resolution Board, a former Chair of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ireland Branch) and is the Ireland country representative of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation.

Dr. Deirdre Ní Fhloinn BL

Deirdre is a practising barrister, and formerly a dual-qualified solicitor of Ireland, England and Wales, who specialises in construction and development disputes. She holds a LL.M. in European Community Law from UCD (1997), an MSc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution from King's College London (2006) and a PhD from Trinity College Dublin (2019) for her thesis on construction regulation and remedies for housing defects. Deirdre advises both public and private sector clients in matters of construction, residential and commercial property, public law, and adjudication pursuant to the Construction Contracts Act 2013, and regularly acts in multi-party disputes of a technical nature such as air-conditioning and ventilation systems, fire and life safety systems, and the interface between building systems and structures. Deirdre has written and lectured extensively on areas within her field of expertise including at Trinity College Dublin, King's College London, University College Dublin, and the Law Society of Ireland.



Dr. Deirdre
Ní Fhloinn BL



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Karen Killoran

Karen is a partner in the Infrastructure, Construction and Utilities Group and is a highly experienced construction lawyer. She is recognised as having a wide practice with expertise across both complex transactional matters as well as providing advice on contentious matters. Karen brings significant expertise advising on contracts for expansion and refurbishment projects across a wide range of sectors including residential and commercial property development, with a particular focus on PRS, commercial and mixed-use developments; energy; pharmaceutical; manufacturing; and IT. Karen is also a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a practising arbitrator and a member of the ministerial panel of adjudicators.

