

17 May 2019 Chartered Accountants House, Dublin

# Bloomsbury Professional Irish Family Law Conference

## Opening Address

**Josepha Madigan TD**

Minister for Culture, Heritage  
and the Gaeltacht



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Timely and highly practical, the Bloomsbury Professional Irish Family Law Conference will be held just a week before the upcoming referendum amending the constitutional provisions on Divorce and Family Law Reform. Minister Josepha Madigan will speak on this topic in her opening address.

This half-day conference will see expert speakers from a range of backgrounds come together. They will cover the key developments in legislation and case law in the Circuit, District and Superior Courts including an in-depth look at The Domestic Violence Act 2018. The financial aspects of family law cases will also be examined, including spousal support, valuing assets and pensions.

## AGENDA:

8.30	Registration & Tea/Coffee
9.00	<b>OPENING ADDRESS</b> Josepha Madigan TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht: Divorce Referendum and family law reform
9.30	<b>RECENT IMPORTANT CASES IN THE AREA OF FAMILY AND CHILD LAW</b> Gerard Durcan SC
10.00	<b>THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 2018 IN PRACTICE</b> Keith Walsh, Solicitor Changes introduced as and from January 2019 • New District Court Rules for domestic violence applications • New Circuit Court Rules for domestic violence applications • New Court Forms • Changes to Practice & Procedure
10.30	<b>THE VOICE OF THE CHILD</b> Sonya Dixon BL Article 42A of the Constitution • Section 32 reports • S.I. 587 of 2018 Guardianship of Infants Act 1964 (Child Views Expert) Regulations • Guardian Ad Litem • Other mechanisms for hearing the voice of the child
11.00	Refreshments
11.30	<b>FORENSIC ACCOUNTING AND FAMILY LAW</b> Tom Murray, Forensic Accountant The various roles of the financial professional in family law • Factors considered for spousal support • Lifestyle analysis: overview/factors to consider/sources of information • The investigation: identifying unreported income and hidden assets • Valuing assets – including business valuation • Tax implications on the division and disposal of assets • Case Study: Lifestyle/pay and needs analysis
12.15	<b>PENSIONS AND FAMILY LAW</b> Olga Daly, Actuary Flexible settlement options using pensions • Understanding Spousal Benefits and Death Benefits • Chargeable Excess Tax and PAOs • Options for UK pensions within Irish cases
12.45	Q&A

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## SPEAKERS

**Josepha Madigan** was appointed as Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Nov 2017. Josepha is the sole Fine Gael TD for Dublin Rathdown. She was instrumental in progressing the forthcoming referendum by introducing a Private Member's Bill.



Josepha practiced as a solicitor for twenty years. She won Family Lawyer of the Year at the Irish Law Awards 2014. Josepha is also an author of a handbook for family lawyers and their clients entitled *Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Ireland* (Jordan Publishing, 2012).

### Gerard Durcan SC

Gerard Durcan is a senior counsel who practices in the area of family law and child care law.

**Keith Walsh** is chair of the Law Society's Child and Family Law Committee and has practiced in the area of family law for almost 20 years in all courts. He received the AIB Irish Law Award for Family Lawyer of the Year in 2017 and again in 2018. He has published articles in the Gazette, Parchment and other legal journals on family law and recently was invited to appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice where he set out proposals for reform of the family law justice system. He is the author of *Divorce and Judicial Separation Proceedings in The Circuit Court* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming: 2019). [www.kwsols.ie](http://www.kwsols.ie); [keith@kwsols.ie](mailto:keith@kwsols.ie).



**Sonya Dixon** BL is a practising Barrister who qualified in 2005. She has a general civil practice, specialising in family law and the area of Pension Adjustment Orders. She co-wrote the book *Pensions and Pension Adjustment orders; a Handbook for the Family Law Practitioner* (Bloomsbury, 2013). She has a wide and varied practice. She has a keen interest in large scale discovery reviews and represents rape victims in criminal trials.



**Tom Murray** FCCA, CPA, PIP, Dip. Forensic Accounting, MII Approved Mediator. Tom is one of Ireland's leading forensic accountants. A past president of the ACCA Ireland, he specialises in forensic accounting, corporate insolvency and recovery, personal insolvency, and corporate finance. He contributed to ADR in Ireland by Josepha Madigan on the role of the accountant with a particular emphasis on forensic accounting.



**Olga Daly** is an independent consulting actuary who has specialised for over 10 years in providing pension advice to family lawyers and their clients, from pension valuations and reports, settlement options, pension tax advice, expert witness evidence to all aspects of Pension Adjustment Orders. Olga also provides actuarial advice in relation to personal injury and pension employment cases.



She is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland (FSAI) and an associate member of the Family Lawyers Association. She is a QFA (Qualified Financial Adviser) member of the LIA; she is also a non-executive director of the LIA.

Full biographies are available at

[bloomsburyprofessionalireland.com/familylawconference](http://bloomsburyprofessionalireland.com/familylawconference)

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