



Association des Juristes
Franco-Britanniques
Franco-British Lawyers'
Society Limited

PRESENTED BY:

Franco-British Lawyers' Society (FBLs)

THE YOUNG LAWYER IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

FUTURE LAWYER
CONFERENCE
BELFAST 2026



15 – 17

OCTOBER 2026

BEYOND CONVENTION.
BEYOND COMPARE.
BEYOND THE HORIZON.

5 CPD HOURS
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FOREWORD BY THE RT HON LORD JUSTICE McCLOSKEY

Franco-British Lawyers' Society

I welcome all of you with great pleasure to this conference. I extend a particular welcome to those who have travelled from further afield, particularly from France, England, Wales and Scotland. We, your hosts, receive you warmly.

The Franco-British Lawyers' Society, under whose auspices this event is being held, also extends a warm welcome to all non-members. It is our firm hope that you will know a great deal more about the Society by the end of the event.

The FBLS is a registered charity and operates on a non-profit-making basis. Established some 30 years ago, it brings together judges, lawyers, academics, law students and trainees from France and the United Kingdom. Through conferences, seminars, educational activities and professional exchanges, the Society promotes comparative legal discussion, strengthens relationships between the French and British legal communities and advances understanding of French law and the laws of the United Kingdom.

Association des Juristes
Franco-Britanniques



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The Society's annual activities place a strong emphasis on law students and trainees. One of the aims of this October's event is to give that work a stronger and lasting foundation in Northern Ireland. The Society plans to hold at least one annual careers event for law students and young lawyers in this jurisdiction, while the AI-themed moot will become an annual fixture and will include a prize.

The Society would be delighted to welcome new members, thereby strengthening our Northern Irish connection and section. Membership offers excellent value for money, as well as an opportunity to support the objectives and activities of this registered charity.

Law students, trainee lawyers and young lawyers are front and centre of this event. We look forward particularly to their participation and to welcoming them as new members.

The Society is particularly grateful for the generous support, both financial and kind, provided by certain law firms and other agencies. This is fully detailed in the confidence brochure.

I wish each of you an enjoyable, fulfilling and memorable sojourn in Northern Ireland.

Bernard McCloskey



WELCOME TO BELFAST

YOUNG LAWYER IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Belfast provides a distinctive and inspiring setting for this year's conference. As a city shaped by history, resilience and transformation, it offers a meaningful backdrop for discussion about the future of the legal profession.

Northern Ireland's legal landscape is internationally recognised for peacebuilding, constitutional law and human rights, and the city today combines global firms, thriving indigenous practices and two world-class law schools at Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University.

will explore key issues facing the profession today, including artificial intelligence, legal technology, access to justice, cross-border collaboration, professional ethics and the evolving role of young lawyers.

We are delighted to host delegates from across jurisdictions and to showcase Belfast as a vibrant, welcoming and forward-looking legal city. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an engaging, thought-provoking and memorable conference.

WHY BELFAST?



1 A Unique Legal & Constitutional Context

The Good Friday Agreement is internationally recognised as a landmark legal and political achievement, establishing a unique constitutional framework in Northern Ireland — promoting peace, cross-border cooperation and human rights, and influencing comparative constitutional law and transitional justice discussions globally.



2 A Hub for Legal Education & Thought Leadership

Northern Ireland is home to Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, both with renowned law schools. Queen's is a Russell Group institution known for excellence in human rights law, criminology and transitional justice.



3 A Thriving Legal Sector — Global & Home-Grown

Belfast is one of the fastest-growing legal hubs in the UK, having attracted a significant number of law firms with an international profile.



4 A Welcoming Legal Community

Northern Ireland offers a strong legal community with support from the Law Society of Northern Ireland, The Bar of Northern Ireland, The Institute of Professional Legal Studies and influential figures from academia and practice — from senior judges to young solicitors.



5 Vibrant, Accessible & Safe

Belfast is a vibrant, cosmopolitan, safe and welcoming destination with excellent connectivity to the UK, Europe and beyond, with a strong track record of hosting high-profile legal events including the Commonwealth Lawyers Association Conference 2022.

SPONSORS



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026 — ULSTER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

16:30	The Inaugural Franco – British HFS Kramer Inter – Varsity AI Moot — leading moot teams from Ulster University (UU) and Queen's University Belfast (QUB).
18:30 approx.	Drinks Reception & Networking — drinks and pizza, sponsored by UU School of Law and QUB School of Law.
20:00	Dinner — The Academy Restaurant, UU. Approx. £45 per person.

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026 — BELFAST CITY HALL

09:15	Welcome Address — The Rt Hon Lord Justice McCloskey
SESSION 1 — ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE LAW · 09:30–12:10	
Moderator: Lady Mary Arden	
09:30	<i>“Should Judges Use AI? Lessons from the Hercules Project”</i> — John Keers, Centre for Legal Technology, Ulster University
09:50	<i>“AI: A Judicial Perspective”</i> — Mr Justice Humphreys, Northern Ireland Court of Judicature
10:10	<i>“The French Experience”</i> — M. Raphaël Dana, Barreau de Paris
10:30	<i>“Building AI Guidance for Judges, with Judges”</i> — Dr Tomás McInerney, QUB School of Law
10:50	Break — Tea & Coffee
Moderator: Frank O'Donoghue KC	
11:10	<i>“Artificial Authority: When AI Invents the Law”</i> — Dr John McCord, Centre for Legal Technology, Ulster University
11:30	<i>“Ethical Duties in an AI World”</i> — Fiona McLeay, Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner, Legal Services Board, Victoria, Australia
11:50	Open Forum
SESSION 2 — CYBER CRIME · 12:10–13:10	
Moderator: Denise Kiley KC	
12:10–	<i>“Challenges and Difficulties in a Digital World”</i> — Charles Gillan, Barrister-at-Law
12:30	<i>“Cyber Crime in the Age of AI: The Evolving Threat Landscape”</i> — Detective Superintendent Paul Woods, Head of PSNI Cyber, Digital Forensics and Economic Crime

12:50	<i>“Crime in the Digital Age: What Every Young Barrister Needs to Know”</i> — Bobbie Leigh Herdman, Barrister-at-Law
13:10	Lunch
SESSION 3 — THE YOUNG LAWYER TODAY AND TOMORROW · 14:00–16:15	
Moderator: Shonagh Nelson, Barrister-at-Law	
13:55	<i>“The Future of the Legal Profession”</i> — Lady Leeona Dorrian, Scottish Court of Session
14:15	<i>“What Does AI Mean for the Lawyers of Today and Tomorrow?”</i> — Jude Copeland, Cleaver Fulton Rankin
14:35	<i>“Revisiting the leverage effect: Renewing the Pyramid Structure”</i> — Olivier Chaduteau PhD
14:55	<i>“From Student to Trainee: Building Meaningful Connections in Law”</i> — Nicola Martin, Trainee Solicitor, Lindsays LLP
15:15	Comfort Break
15:30 · Moderator: Emma McIlveen, Barrister-at-Law	
15:30	<i>“Mooting: AI Pitfalls and Benefits”</i> — Cerys Kennedy, Barrister-at-Law, and Sarah Gallan, Barrister-at-Law
15:50	<i>“Same Profession, Different World: A Cross-Generational Conversation”</i> — Inter-Generational Panel: Mr Justice McLaughlin, Shea Glasgow, Shannon Gawley, Michelle Cully, Tom Gyle and Olivia Jordan
16:10	Closing Remarks — Simon Horsington, Vice-President, FBLS

EVENING & WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



FRI DAY 16 OCTOBER · BELFAST CITY HALL

GALA DINNER

19:15 — Prosecco Reception with live Irish music & Irish dancing

20:00 — Dinner, three courses

Guest Speaker — Lady Mary Arden

Dress code: Black Tie / Smart Formal



SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER · OPTIONAL CULTURAL ACTIVITY

CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL TOUR

Join an escorted tour of Crumlin Road Gaol, one of Belfast's most historic landmarks.

Depart — Belfast City Hall, 09:45am



CONTRIBUTORS

Lady Mary Arden	Fiona McLeay
The Rt Hon Lord Justice McCloskey	M. Raphaël Dana
Mr Justice Humphreys	Det. Supt. Paul Woods
Mr Justice McLaughlin	Michelle Cully
Lady Leeona Dorrian	Jude Copeland
Judge Fionnuala A. Connolly	Shannon Gawley
Frank O'Donoghue KC	John Keers
Denise Kiley KC	Dr John McCord
Bobbie Leigh Herdman	Dr Tomás McInerney
Emma McIlveen	Olivier Chaduteau
Shea Glasgow	Nicola Martin
Sarah Gallan	Tom Gyle
Shonagh Nelson	Olivia Jordan
Cerys Kennedy	Falon McLean
Charles Gillan	Brian Kennedy
Simon Horsington	Orla O'Neill
Brianna Macrugadain	Caitlin Murphy
Rhonda Black	Sophie Jackson
Amelia Cunningham	

ACCESS TO LAW

Opening the profession to the next generation

A profession is only as strong as the breadth of people it draws upon. The Society supports widening access to law and the legal profession, ensuring that talent, not background, determines who shapes the profession's future. This conference has a particular focus on early-career lawyers, law students and those from under-represented communities.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ULSTER UNIVERSITY LLM in Access to Justice

[Ulster University's LLM in Access to Justice](#) is a unique clinical legal education programme in Northern Ireland, with no directly comparable undergraduate or postgraduate course on the island of Ireland.

Through the Ulster University Law Clinic, students gain practical experience in legal advice, advocacy and client care, including tribunal representation and involvement in family law matters. The programme directly engages with unmet legal need, equality of arms and the practical barriers individuals face in accessing justice.

A distinctive clinical legal education programme placing students at the heart of advice, advocacy and access to justice.

STRENGTHENING JUSTICE SYSTEMS

[Irish Rule of Law International \(IRLI\)](#) works with legal professionals and justice institutions across jurisdictions to strengthen justice systems, promote human rights, and uphold the rule of law. Through partnership, expertise, and shared learning, we support fairer, more resilient justice systems.



Irish Rule of Law International



Strengthening justice, together.

CONFERENCE VENUES



ULSTER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
Day 1 moot & reception. York Street,
Belfast BT15 1ED



BELFAST CITY HALL
Day 2 sessions & Gala Dinner. Donegall
Square, Belfast BT1 5GS



CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL
Saturday tour. 53–55 Crumlin Road,
Belfast BT14 6ST

REGISTRATION & RATES

CONFERENCE ONLY 15–16 OCT

FBLS Member	£95
Non-Member	£110
Academics	£60
Students / Pupil Barristers	FREE
/ IPLS Trainees / Apprentices	
Barristers / Solicitors up to 2 years' call	FREE
Barristers / Solicitors 3–5 years' call	£50
Speakers	CONFERENCE FREE

CONFERENCE & GALA DINNER

FBLS Member	£150
Non-Member	£175
Students / Pupils / IPLS	£40
Trainees / Apprentices	

GALA DINNER ONLY

FBLS Member	£80
Non-Member	£90
Academics	£60
Law Students / IPLS	£40
Trainees / Apprentices	
Solicitors & Barristers up to 3 years' call	£55

All conferencerates are inclusive of the Reception on 15 October, as well as refreshments and lunch on 16 October.

(OPTIONAL) THURSDAY DINNER - 15 OCTOBER - THE ACADEMY RESTAURANT, ULSTER UNIVERSITY

Dinner begins at 20:00. The approximate cost is £45 per person. Delegates should make their own booking directly with the restaurant by telephoning **(028) 9536 7332** and asking for Matthew, the Manager.

(OPTIONAL) CULTURAL ACTIVITY – 17 OCTOBER – CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL ESCORTED TOUR

Depart Belfast City Hall: 09:45am · Return: 1:00pm · £30 per person, to include transport and refreshments.

REGISTER NOW

[Click here to register via Eventbrite](#)

or scan the QR code



ACCOMMODATION IN BELFAST

HOTEL	STARS	ESTIMATED RATE FROM*	BOOKING DETAILS / PROMO CODE
Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast	★★★★★	£215	Contact Megan Best directly and mention the Franco – British Lawyers’ Society: mbest@fitzwilliamhotelbelfast.com
DoubleTree by Hilton Belfast City Ten Square	★★★★	£173	Group code: TYL3MC Select 'Special Rates' and enter the code in the 'Group Code' section.
Holiday Inn Belfast City	★★★★	£152	Conference Discount Link
Holiday Inn Express Belfast	★★★	£135	Conference Discount Link

Click on each hotel name above to learn more and book directly. Use information in ‘Booking details & Promo Code section’

*Delegates are advised to quote “Future Lawyer Conference 2026” when booking directly with participating hotels. The rates below are indicative only and are subject to availability and confirmation by the hotel.



CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY QUB

A place to **belong**. A place to **think**. A place to **grow**.

- ◆ **The Catholic Chaplaincy** at Queen’s offers faith and pastoral support to students and staff across Belfast’s third-level institutions.
- ◆ **With a Chapel and garden** at its heart, it is a place of encounter and dialogue — to explore life’s big questions and, for those who choose, to grow in the Christian faith.
- ◆ **Drop into Mosaic** for some of the best coffee in South Belfast, home-baked treats, warm lunches and a friendly welcome.
- ◆ **Our new student residence, Ryan Hall**, offers high-quality contemporary accommodation at the heart of Queen’s historic campus.



FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK RYAN HALL AT gubcatholic.org • @catholicchaplaincyqub

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Committee for England, Wales & Northern Ireland

MEMBER'S DETAILS

Name: (Student / Individual / Retired)
 (please indicate the relevant Category)

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Email:

(Capital letters please)

Tel:

Academic/Corporate Member: Name of University/Firm

(please indicate the relevant Category)

.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Tel: +.....

For Academic & Corporate organisations, **5 member names** may be listed:

.....email:.....

.....email:.....

.....email:.....

.....email:.....

.....email:.....

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Individual £105

Individual academic £60

Young lawyer £20

Student £10

Retired £60

Academic membership (corporate) £40

Corporate membership £400

DATA PROTECTION

Our data protection (privacy and cookie) policy can be found on: <https://fbis.eu/about/legal/>

By registering to the society, you confirm that you would like to receive updates by email about products, services, news, announcements and invitations to events from the society, to have read the Privacy and Cookie Policy and agree that the society uses my personal data in accordance with this policy.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **Pay by Bank Transfer or Standing Order**

It would assist the Society were you to pay by Bank Transfer or Standing Order.

Please pay to:

Barclay's Bank, Victoria Branch

L'Association des Juristes Franco-Britanniques /

The Franco British Lawyers Society Ltd

Sort Code: 20-94-48

Account No: 30829862

When setting up the transfer of standing order, please add, as **the payment reference: Type of Membership + your name**

- **Pay by credit card or PayPal via our PayPal options on our website**

Please find our Credit Card / PayPal options on our website at <https://ajfb-fbls.eu/membership/england-wales-and-northern-ireland/>

- **Pay by cheque**

Should you wish to pay by cheque, please make the cheque payable to the Franco-British Lawyers' Society Limited and please contact the administrator (fbls@outlook.com) who will communicate the postal address.

SENDING US YOUR APPLICATION

Please send this Application Form with your payment reference to: fbls@outlook.com

GIFT AID DECLARATION

The Society is registered as a Charity with The Charity Commissioners of England and Wales (Registered Charity no 1010089). Your subscription will go further if the Society is enabled to reclaim tax.

To do this:

Name of Charity: Franco-British Lawyers Society

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made.

☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year, I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2017.

Donor's details:

Title: First name: Surname

Full home address:

Postcode:

Date / / Signature

Please notify the Franco British Lawyers Society if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or your home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Email : fbls@outlook.com Website: <http://ajfb-fbls.org/>



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Franco-Britanniques**

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FUTURE LAWYER CONFERENCE · BELFAST 2026

SEE YOU IN BELFAST

**A city shaped by history.
A profession shaped by change.
A conference for the next generation of lawyers.**

The **Future Lawyer Conference 2026** will bring together young lawyers, judges, academics and practitioners to explore the challenges and opportunities facing the legal profession in the third millennium.

BELFAST · 15 – 16 OCTOBER 2026

[#FutureLawyerBelfast2026](https://twitter.com/FutureLawyerBelfast2026)

