

**LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL ELECTION 2020 - MICHELLE NÍ LONGÁIN**

Dear Colleague,

I write to ask for your support in this year's Law Society Council elections.

Background: I grew up in Donegal and qualified as a solicitor in 1994. I practiced in Northern Ireland and England for five years before returning to Ireland and joining the Law Society of Ireland in 1999, when I joined ByrneWallace. I have been the Law Society Junior Vice President and I am a member of the Co-ordination Committee. These roles involve representing the Law Society externally and key decision making within the Law Society.

Securing the Society's finances: I chaired the Finance Committee during the past recession, and remain a member, working to secure the Society's finances in the most difficult times. I now chair the Audit subcommittee.

Excellence in professional education services: I previously chaired the Education Committee, ensuring the quality and scope of education for trainees and qualified solicitors. I led the Society in maintaining and developing the excellent education provided in Blackhall Place and nationally. I have also chaired the Skillnet and Finuas Networks.

Protecting the profession: I have served on committees ranging from Complaints and Client Relations to PR, my focus being on the service and reputation of our profession. I was a member of the Law Society's Task Force on the Legal Services Regulation Bill. Most recently, I chaired the Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce.

My priorities: We have all faced an extraordinarily difficult year, whatever the stage of our careers, whether working in a small or large firm, in a city, town or rural area and whether in private practice or in-house, in the public or private sectors. Next year will see the continuing effect of Covid-19 on people's lives, their finances, the legal system and business nationally and internationally. Brexit's current and future impacts are also realities that we must address, all while dealing with the challenges and opportunities created by the Legal Services Regulation Act. We must continue to be pragmatic, open and balanced, maintain high standards and collegiality, while supporting our members. You need a Council in which you have confidence that important issues will be dealt with effectively.

I have spent many years navigating challenges within the Law Society Council for our profession and in the public interest. I believe that the experience that I have had on the Council of the Law Society for the past sixteen years, as a partner in a law firm for nineteen years and as an active practitioner, enable me to represent you well at this time of unprecedented challenge for us all.

I ask you for the opportunity to serve a further term on the Law Society Council.

Thank you

Michelle Ni Longain