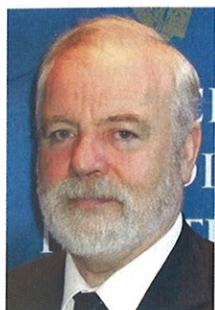


Five solicitors are nominated by Government for judicial appointment to the Circuit and District Courts



David Riordan



Keenan Johnson



Michael Walsh



Alan J Mitchell



Eugene O'Kelly



Marie Quirke

The Government has announced seven nominations to the Circuit Court and five nominations to the District Court. The Circuit Court nominees are Judge David Riordan (judge of the District Court), Keenan Johnson (solicitor), Sarah Berkeley BL, Pauline Codd BL, Barry Hickson SC, Mary Ellen Ring SC and Carmel Stewart SC.

Former and current practising solicitors include Judge David Riordan and Keenan Johnson. Judge Riordan was educated at UCC (BA, PhD), Kings Inns, TCD (MSc) and was called to the Bar in 1977. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1984 and was appointed as a judge of the District Court in 1995. He is a member of the District Court Rules Committee.

Keenan Johnson was born in 1958 and was educated at the Law Society. He operates a mixed practice, focusing on family and criminal law and civil litigation. He has been an arbitrator since 1994 and a mediator since 2009.

Those permanently assigned to the Circuit Court are Sarah Berkeley BL, Mary Ellen Ring SC

and Carmel Stewart SC, who were assigned to the Dublin Circuit; and Judge David Riordan who was assigned to the Cork Circuit.

Pauline Codd BL, Barry Hickson SC and Keenan Johnson (solicitor) will serve as unassigned judges of the Circuit Court.

District Court nominees

Those nominated for appointment to the District Court include four solicitors: Alan J Mitchell, Eugene O'Kelly, Marie Quirke and Michael Walsh, while Kevin Staunton is a barrister based in Co Wicklow.

Alan J Mitchell was born in 1964. He was educated at UCD and at the Law Society. He is principal of Alan Mitchell and Co.

Eugene O'Kelly was born in 1964. He was educated at UCD, UCG, the Law Society and University College London. He was solicitor to the Commission of Investigation into the death of Gary Douch.

Marie Quirke was born in 1964. She is a graduate of the Law Society and was a Law School tutor from 1988-2007. She was

a member of the Law Society's Regulation of Practice Committee from 2005 to 2007, and is managing solicitor at Finglas Law Centre.

Michael Walsh was born in 1955 and was educated at the Law Society. He is principal of Walsh Warren and Co, solicitors.

These appointments arise mainly from judicial retirements between September 2011 and

February 2012, as well as the death last summer of Judge Con Murphy (Circuit Court), and the promotion of Judge Michael White to the High Court in October 2011.

Three further nominations to the District Court will be made by the Government following permanent assignments to District Court districts in the coming weeks.



The President has appointed Mr Justice Frank Clarke (left) and Mr Justice John MacMenamin to the Supreme Court

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