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The Legal 500 Europe, Middle East & Africa

2020

The clients' guide to law firms

DILLON EUSTACE

33 SIR JOHN ROGERSON'S QUAY
DUBLIN 2

Tel: +353 1 667 0022 Fax: +353 1 667 0042

- Investment funds
- Banking and finance
- Capital markets
- Dispute resolution
- Insolvency and corporate restructuring
- Insurance
- Media and entertainment
- Real estate
- Commercial, corporate and M&A
- Transport

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THE FIRM

Dillon Eustace was established in 1992 and is one of Ireland's leading law firms focusing on financial services, banking and capital markets, corporate and M&A, litigation and dispute resolution, real estate, and taxation. Headquartered in Dublin the firm's international practice has seen it establish offices in Tokyo, New York and the Cayman Islands. In tandem with international development the firm has expanded significantly, particularly in recent years, in the domestic Irish market.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

The firm advises across a wide range of practice areas and disciplines. It is a market leader in a number of its key chosen fields including financial services, banking and capital markets, financial and insurance litigation and regulated and international mergers and acquisitions. In recent years the firm has been involved in many of the most significant transactions forming part of Ireland's deleveraging and distressed asset disposal processes. It has acted for buyers of in excess of €20bn worth of distressed Irish assets and in some of the most high-profile commercial transactions including the sale by the State of shares in Bank of Ireland and a number of high profile corporate inversion transactions.

MAIN CONTACTS

Department	Name	Email	Telephone
Asset management	Donnacha O'Connor	donnacha.oconnor@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1729
Asset management	Brian Dillon	brian.dillon@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1713
Aviation/asset finance	Conor Keaveny	conor.keaveny@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1741
Banking	Conor Keaveny	conor.keaveny@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1741
Banking	Keith Robinson	keith.robinson@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 674 1004
Capital markets	Mark Thorne	mark.thorne@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 667 0022
Capital markets	Conor Keaveny	conor.keaveny@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1741
Cayman Islands	Matt Mulry	matt.mulry@dilloneustace.ie	+1 345 949 0022
Cayman Islands	Jonathan Law	jonathan.law@dilloneustace.ie	+1 345 949 0022
Commercial Real Estate	Kelly O'Hara	kelly.ohara@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1827
Commercial litigation and dispute resolution	Kieran Cowhey	kieran.cowhey@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1783
Commercial litigation and dispute resolution	Paul Breen	paul.breen@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1784
Compliance and regulatory	Keith Waine	keith.waine@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1822
Corporate and M&A	Lorcan Tiernan	lorcan.tiernan@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1736

LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

French
German
Italian

Corporate and M&A	Adrian Benson	adrian.benson@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1705
Distressed asset acquisition and finance	Conor Keaveny	conor.keaveny@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1741
Distressed asset acquisition and finance	Mark Thorne	mark.thorne@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 667 0022
Employment	John Doyle	john.doyle@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1786
Financial services	Andrew Bates	andrew.bates@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1704
Financial services	Brian Higgins	brian.higgins@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1891
Hedge funds and structured investment funds	Donnacha O'Connor	donnacha.oconnor@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1729
Hedge funds and structured investment funds	Etain de Valera	etain.devalera@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1739
Insolvency and corporate recovery	Jamie Ensor	jamie.ensor@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1722
Insurance litigation	Kieran Cowhey	kieran.cowhey@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1783
Insurance regulatory	Paul Breen	paul.breen@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1784
Inward investment	Andrew Bates	andrew.bates@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1704
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Listings	Lorcan Tiernan	lorcan.tiernan@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1736
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Maritime and aviation litigation	Kieran Cowhey	kieran.cowhey@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1783
Media and defamation	David Kavanagh	david.kavanagh@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1788
Media and defamation	John Doyle	john.doyle@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1786
New York	David Kavanagh	david.kavanagh@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1788
Pharma and healthcare	David Walsh	david.walsh@dilloneustace.ie	+1 212 792 4168
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Private equity/venture capital	Adrian Benson	adrian.benson@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1705
Real estate	David Lawless	david.lawless@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1765
Real estate	Kelly O'Hara	kelly.ohara@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1827
Regulatory investigations	Louise Wright	louise.wright@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1817
Regulatory investigations	Andrew Bates	andrew.bates@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1704
Securitisation and structured finance	John O'Riordan	john.oriordan@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1792
Securitisation and structured finance	Conor Keaveny	conor.keaveny@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1741
Taxation	David Lawless	david.lawless@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1765
Taxation	David Lawless	david.lawless@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1765
Taxation	Sean Murray	sean.murray@dilloneustace.ie	+353 1 673 1764

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Investment funds

Tier 1

“*Very knowledgeable in the Irish investment fund space*’, **Dillon Eustace** is noted for its strong client base of Irish domiciled funds and unique asset managers. The team has been highly active advising on ETFs and assisting credit, real estate and private equity managers with the establishment of Irish funds and Icavs. It has also expanded its client base of leading international investment managers to include a number of Indian asset management firms. **Donnacha O’Connor** leads the team, which also includes the *‘highly regarded’* **Andrew Bates**; **Brian Higgins**, who advises on the establishment and operation of UCITS management firms and AIFMs; the *‘outstanding’* **Brian Kelliher**; and **Etain de Valera**, who specialises in alternative investment. The team’s strong junior ranks include the *‘exceptional’* **Cillian Bredin** and senior associate **Grace O’Connor**, who has experience in the structuring, establishment and regulation of mutual funds.

”

Hall of Fame

Andrew Bates

Leading individuals

Donnacha O’Connor

Next Generation Partners

Cillian Bredin

Rising stars

Grace O’Connor

Banking and finance

Tier 2

“**Dillon Eustace** acts for domestic and international banks, alternative lenders and corporates on financing the acquisition of distressed debt portfolios, real estate finance across the hotels, healthcare and private rental sectors, and M&A finance, particularly involving Irish assets. The team is noted for its ability to handle complex, cross-border transactions and fund financing, drawing on the firm’s strong investment funds practice. Practice head **Conor Keaveny**’s expertise includes secured and unsecured finance and tax-based financings. **Keith Robinson** is active in the Irish loan sale market, and **John-Hugh Colleran** in cross-border matters. Kate Curneen moved to DLA Piper.”

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Capital markets

Tier 2

“**Dillon Eustace** is active in DCM work, and is noted for its work for significant Irish debt issuers as well as international financial institutions, funds and investment firms. The team is regularly involved in multi-jurisdictional matters, and has advised on ABS transactions, complex hybrid structures and the listing of corporate and high-yield bonds. Managing partner **Mark Thorne** leads the practice; **Conor Keaveny** is noted for his expertise in Russian matters; **Keith Robinson** has experience in notable Irish securitisation transactions; and **John-Hugh Colleran** has been active in cross-border deals.”

Dispute resolution

Tier 2

“**Dillon Eustace** has particular expertise in litigation in the insurance and financial services sectors, with clients including funds, financial institutions, leading insurers and state bodies. The team also represents financial services clients in regulatory investigations and has acted in significant recent defamation, property and professional negligence claims. Team head **Kieran Cowhey** has a strong insurance defence practice but also handles product liability and aviation sector litigation. Other key contacts include **John Doyle**, who has particular expertise in employment and defamation cases (and is also recommended for his arbitration experience); **John O’Riordan**, who handles commercial, financial and property-related litigation; and ‘safe pair of hands’ **Peter Bredin**.”

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Insolvency and corporate restructuring

Tier 2

“**Dillon Eustace**’s insolvency and corporate restructuring team acts for distressed loan funds in Ireland, as well as increasingly acting for examinerships. The firm assisted **Sarah-Jane O’Keeffe**, the first female examiner to be appointed in Ireland, with her work as examiner of Eastern Seaboard Bar & Grill. Additionally, the firm acted for KPMG, AIB, and Deloitte as receivers and liquidators. Practice head **Jamie Ensor** is *‘client focused and gives pragmatic advice’*.”

Leading individuals

Jamie Ensor

Insurance

Tier 2

“With a team of *very experienced and approachable partners*, **Dillon Eustace's** insurance practice covers a wide range of insurance-related matters, both contentious and non-contentious. Its contentious work includes representing insurers in claims ranging from defamation, breaches of constitutional rights, and personal injury. In addition, it advises insurers on regulatory and commercial matters including solvency requirements and data protection. The regulatory side of the practice is led by **Andrew Bates**, who is *'a knowledgeable expert in this area'*, according to a major insurer, while the contentious side is led by **Kieran Cowhey**. **John O'Riordan** also handles a range of contentious matters.”

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Media and entertainment

Tier 2

Dillon Eustace's *'strong'* team counts some of Ireland's largest newspaper publishers among its clients, and has longstanding experience of handling defamation proceedings, contempt of court actions and challenges to reporting restrictions. The team also provides pre-publication advice and assists with takedown orders, complaints by the Press Ombudsman and appeals to the Press Council. The *'highly regarded'* **John Doyle**, whose recent work highlights include a high-profile defamation case, leads the team, and **David Kavanagh** is noted for his *'considerable expertise in pre and post-publication advice'*.

Leading individuals

John Doyle

Real estate

Tier 2

“**Dillon Eustace's** *very knowledgeable* real estate practice group acts for clients including banks, investors, developers, retailers, semi-state bodies and international corporates established in Ireland across all areas of real estate law. The practice specialises in acting for landlords and tenants of all types of commercial property, including in the retail and healthcare sectors. **Kelly O'Hara** leads the team, which includes **Paul Eustace**, who is experienced in acting for lending institutions, corporates and developers. Senior associate **Brendan Cunnane**, who is particularly active in real estate transactions, is another key name to note.

”

Rising stars

Brendan Cunnane

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Commercial, corporate and M&A

Tier 3

Dillon Eustace's *'capable, pragmatic'* team is particularly active in the financial services sector, but also regularly acts on matters in the media, healthcare and property sectors. The team has advised on a number of group restructurings, as well as M&A, private equity and venture capital investments, and joint ventures. It is particularly experienced in cross-border matters, tax-based corporate transactions and property-backed transactions, and in advising regulated entities and public companies. *'Very skilled'* practice head **Lorcan Tiernan** has expertise in corporate restructurings and cross-border mergers; **Adrian Benson's** strengths include private equity and corporate finance; and *'technically strong'* senior associate **Catherine Hicks** has experience advising on M&A, joint ventures and corporate reorganisations.

Rising stars

Catherine Hicks

Transport

Tier 3

“ Led by maritime and admiralty law expert **Paul Gill, Dillon Eustace**’s transport team predominantly acts for shipowners and handles insurance interests concerning salvage cases, personal injury claims, collision cases and wrongful arrests. The group also has a presence in the aviation sector, advising airlines and aviation insurers. ”

Leading individuals

Paul Gill

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Mr Andrew Bates

WORK DEPARTMENT

Asset Management and Investment Funds, Insurance

POSITION

Partner and Head of Financial Services

CAREER

Andrew is the Head of the Financial Services Department where he works primarily on asset management, investment funds and insurance regulatory matters. He has been recognized as a leading lawyer in these practice areas by Chambers, by the Legal 500, by IFLR and others. He is the author of several publications including Guides on UCITS, on Hedge Funds and on Private Equity Funds as well as on MiFID and cross border insurance regulation and is a regular speaker on financial services related topics at domestic and international events.

MEMBERSHIPS

Andrew is a former Council Member of the Irish Funds Industry Association and is a member of the Investment Funds division of the IBA. He also sits on the boards of several investment fund platforms and asset managers.

EDUCATION

University College Dublin and the Law Society of Ireland



Mr Adrian Benson

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and M&A, Insolvency and Corporate Recovery

POSITION

Partner, Corporate and M&A Department

CAREER

Adrian joined Dillon Eustace in January 2005 and was appointed a partner in 2006. Adrian has extensive experience advising on a wide range of corporate transactions and commercial arrangements across a wide range of industries including mergers and acquisitions, corporate re-organisations, shareholders agreements and disputes, joint ventures, private equity and corporate governance.

MEMBERSHIPS

Law Society of Ireland; Dublin Solicitors' Bar Association (DSBA); AIJA (Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats). Adrian was a former committee member of the Business & Commercial Law Committee of the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association.

EDUCATION

1995 Bachelor of Business and Legal Studies (BBL), University College Dublin 1999
Qualified as Irish Solicitor, The Law Society of Ireland

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Mr Peter Bredin

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Financial Litigation, Regulatory Investigations

POSITION

Partner, Litigation and Dispute Resolution

CAREER

Peter advises clients in disputes arising from financial services, business relations, professional duties, fraud, insurance coverage (including Directors & Officers policies), and publication. He has acted for State bodies, financial institutions, companies and individuals in court proceedings, arbitration and mediation. He advises on inquiries and investigations and is a member of the firm's Regulatory Investigations team.

MEMBERSHIPS

Peter is a member of the International Bar Association (IBA), the Commercial Litigation Association of Ireland (CLAI), the Defence Research Institute (DRI) and the Professional Negligence Lawyers' Association (PNLA). He is a regular contributor to publications on the topics of litigation funding, fraud and asset recovery.

EDUCATION

University College Dublin, The Law Society of Ireland



Mr Cillian Bredin

WORK DEPARTMENT

Investment Funds

POSITION

Partner, Asset Management and Investment Funds

CAREER

Cillian is a specialist in investment funds, advising clients on a wide range of legal and regulatory matters. His clients include privately-owned and institutional investment managers representing a wide range of asset classes. His experience includes advising on establishing Alternative Investment Funds Managers Directive (AIFMD)-compliant Qualifying Alternative Investor Funds (QIAIFs) as well as UCITS products. He has also advised on the establishment of Irish Collective Investment Asset-management Vehicles (ICAVs).

Cillian's international experience includes secondments to the legal department of a large major US asset manager client based in London and to the Dillon Eustace Cayman Islands office. He has lectured on investment fund matters at the Law Society of Ireland.

EDUCATION

Trinity College Dublin
The Law Society of Ireland

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Mr John-Hugh Colleran

WORK DEPARTMENT

Banking and Capital Markets

POSITION

Partner, Banking and Capital Markets

CAREER

John-Hugh advises domestic and international financial institutions and corporate clients on a broad range of banking and finance transactions. His practice covers secured and unsecured financings, bilateral and syndicated lending, security and inter-creditor packages, tax-based lending structures, acquisition finance, general corporate lending and restructures.

He acts for vendors, purchasers and financiers on disposals and acquisitions of distressed assets. John-Hugh is highly experienced in reviewing loan and security documentation for financial institutions and the purchasers and servicers of Irish loan books, and advising them on restructuring, rectification and enforcement and recovery options.

John-Hugh's career experience includes working for an international bank on transactions and new products for its wholesale lending and structured finance teams. His work there included advising on participations in syndicated facilities, large and mid-cap corporate loans and invoice discounting and receivables purchases. The role also involved work on the restructuring and enforcement of a large book of non-performing loans.

MEMBERSHIPS

John-Hugh lectures and tutors with the Law Society of Ireland and regularly gives presentations to bankers and banking lawyers.

EDUCATION

Trinity College Dublin, The Law Society of Ireland, Also admitted in England and Wales



Mr Martin Colman

WORK DEPARTMENT

Real Estate, Commercial Property

POSITION

Partner, Real Estate

CAREER

Martin joined Dillon Eustace in March 2017 from one of Ireland's largest law firms. He has acted as lead property advisor in a wide range of commercial property matters and has experience in advising on acquisition, development, sale and leasing of commercial, retail and industrial property. Martin also has significant expertise in property finance and related property matters including residential conveyancing, landlord and tenant matters and the property aspects of liquidations and receiverships. He has extensive experience in acting for State and semi-State bodies. Martin also advises on non-contentious construction law matters and works closely with developers and funding institutions in respect of both commercial and residential projects.

MEMBERSHIPS

Martin is a member of the Conveyancing Committee of the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association and regularly lectures in the Law Society on their Diploma in Commercial Conveyancing and Certificate in Conveyancing courses.

EDUCATION

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Mr Kieran Cowhey

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Insurance, Aviation, Product Liability

POSITION

Partner, Head of Litigation and Dispute Resolution

CAREER

Kieran is a specialist in Commercial Insurance, Commercial and Financial Litigation, Aviation and Product Liability lawyer.

Kieran advises on general commercial and insurance-related matters and has conducted litigation for national and international corporations, banks and financial institutions. In his commercial practice Kieran advises on all areas of commercial and financial litigation. In supporting his insurance clients he acts for international and national insurers on coverage and liability issues in the Irish Courts. He advises insurers on a range of issues and has a strong reputation for his aviation and product liability work.

He is recommended in the Legal 500, Chambers Europe, Chambers Global, Who's Who Legal for Aviation-Contentious, Who's Who Legal for Product Liability Defence and The Best Lawyers in Ireland for Arbitration and Mediation and Litigation.

MEMBERSHIPS

Kieran is a special advisor to the International Litigation Committee of the ABA Section of International Law, Vice Chair for DRI International and a member of the Federation of Defence and Corporate Counsel (FDCC).

EDUCATION

University College Dublin, The Law Society of Ireland



Mrs Kate Curneen

WORK DEPARTMENT

Banking and Capital Markets

POSITION

Partner, Banking and Capital Markets.

CAREER

Kate is an experienced adviser on debt finance. Her practice covers structured finance, corporate and asset-based lending, debt capital markets, and aircraft leasing.

In recent years she has worked extensively on distressed and non-performing loan portfolios, advising vendors, purchasers and financiers on a range of restructuring, workout and refinancing scenarios.

Kate advises clients on regulatory matters, including: consumer and SME lending; authorisation and compliance issues; passporting; credit servicing; and arrears resolution. In 2015 she contributed to the Irish Debt Securities Association's response to Ireland's new credit servicing legislation.

Kate has spoken at industry events and is a regular contributor on banking and finance law to local and international industry journals, including The Financial Times, Finance Dublin, The Airfinance Journal, Alternative Credit Intelligence and HFM Week. Topics covered include: SME and consumer lending, enforcement of security, credit servicing, capital markets and aircraft finance and leasing.

MEMBERSHIPS

Kate is a council member of the Ireland Japan Association

EDUCATION

University College Dublin, Law Society of Ireland. She also holds a diploma in Aviation Finance and Leasing from the Law Society of Ireland.

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Mr Brian Dillon

WORK DEPARTMENT

Investment Funds

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Brian is a specialist adviser to international and Irish clients on asset management and investment funds. His clients include Japanese, Hong Kong, Singaporean, Indian, Australian, MENA, UK and US asset managers.

He established and managed the firm's Tokyo representative office and was admitted as a foreign member of the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations.

Brian has served on several committees as an active member of Irish Funds and the International Bar Association. He is a registered Foreign Lawyer with the Law Society of Hong Kong.

EDUCATION

Trinity College Dublin,
The Law Society of Ireland



Mr John Doyle

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

POSITION

Partner. Specialist areas: Employment / Labour law. Commercial Litigation, Arbitration and Mediation.

CAREER

Trained at Cawley Sheerin Wynne, Dublin. Qualified in 1992. Commenced with present firm, Dillon Eustace in 1992 and became a Partner in 1997.

LANGUAGES

English

MEMBERSHIPS

Law Society of Ireland. American Bar Association. European Employment Lawyers' Association. Hon Secretary of Arbitration Ireland, former Hon Secretary of the Irish Commercial Mediation Association

EDUCATION

College of Commerce, Rathmines B.Sc (Mgmt.) Trinity College Dublin

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Mr Jamie Ensor

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate Recovery and Insolvency

POSITION

Partner. Acts for insolvency practitioners, companies, creditors, shareholders and company directors in all aspects of insolvency and corporate recovery including examinerships, receiverships, liquidations and bankruptcies. Particular expertise acting for domestic banks, NAMA and many foreign banks in relation to their security enforcement and distressed asset recovery. More recently acting for large distressed asset funds active in the Irish market in relation to their enforcement options and remedies. Extensive experience in acting in the wide range of litigation before the superior courts arising from insolvency appointments.

CAREER

Joined Dillon Eustace from Eugene F. Collins in 2013 and became a partner in 2014

MEMBERSHIPS

Law Society of Ireland, Dublin Solicitors Bar Association, Irish Society of Insolvency Practitioners (member of the website sub-committee), Law Society of England and Wales. American Bar Association (International) – Steering Group for the International Secured Transactions & Insolvency Committee

EDUCATION

University College Dublin, Bachelor of Business & Legal Studies Law Society of Ireland, Qualified as a Solicitor in 2004. Admitted in England and Wales



Mr Paul Eustace

WORK DEPARTMENT

Real Estate, Commercial Property

POSITION

Partner, Real Estate

CAREER

Paul was a founding partner of Dillon Eustace in 1992 and is a partner in the Real Estate team. He has worked in commercial property for most of his professional life.

Paul advises developers of commercial and residential developments and has acted for many financial institutions on secured lending transactions over a wide variety of commercial property. He is an expert in landlord and tenant law and acts for both landlords and tenants.

EDUCATION

University College Dublin, The Law Society of Ireland

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Mr Brian Higgins

WORK DEPARTMENT

Investment Funds

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Brian advises asset managers and fund service providers including administrators and depositaries on carrying on business in Ireland. He is a specialist in the structuring, establishment and operation of all types of investment funds, including UCITS and alternative investment funds, and on the establishment and operation of UCITS management companies and AIFMs.

Brian is a member of the Council of Irish Funds and is a former Chair of Irish Fund's Legal and Regulatory Working Group. He is a regular contributor to industry journals and has spoken at many international fund events.

LANGUAGES

English

EDUCATION

University College Dublin
The Law Society of Ireland



Mr David Kavanagh

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigations and Dispute Resolution, Media, Transport, Insurance Disputes

POSITION

Partner, Litigation and Dispute Resolution

CAREER

David Kavanagh specialises in Litigation and Dispute Resolution and has particular expertise in defamation and media law.

David represents insurers and companies in defending personal injury actions, including road traffic accidents, employer liability and public liability claims and product liability claims.

He is an expert in defamation and media law, advising media organisations for over a decade in a broad range of issues from defamation, privacy, contempt to pre-publication issues.

David has specialist knowledge in transport, maritime and admiralty law. He regularly represents ship owners, insurers, clubs and companies involved at each stage of the logistics chain. David is the treasurer and an executive committee member of the Irish Maritime Law Association.

He is a member of the board of directors of Just Sport Ireland, and is a member of the Dublin Solicitors' Bar Association.

MEMBERSHIPS

Irish Maritime Law Association, Dublin Solicitors Bar Association.

EDUCATION

University College Dublin

The Law Society of Ireland

Also admitted in: England and Wales

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Mr Conor Keaveny

WORK DEPARTMENT

Banking & Capital Markets

POSITION

Conor is a Partner in Dillon Eustace's Banking & Capital Markets group. He acts on a wide range of banking transactions for both financial institutions and corporates, both Irish and foreign. Conor's lending experience extends to bi-lateral, club and syndicated lending arrangements, both secured and unsecured. He has a great deal of experience of acting for sellers, purchasers and financiers of loan portfolios. Conor has also advised extensively in the area of aircraft finance, including acting for aircraft lessors and financiers.

CAREER

Conor joined McCann FitzGerald as a trainee solicitor in March 1996, where his training period was largely spent in the Banking Department, including two periods in that firm's London office. On qualification in December 1998, Conor continued working in the Banking Department with a focus on asset finance, structured finance, public private partnerships and general banking. He was seconded to AerFi Group (now AerCap) for most of 2000. Conor joined the Banking Department of William Fry as an Associate in September 2004 in a general banking role, with a particular focus on secured property lending. In early 2006, Conor was seconded on a part-time basis to BNP Paribas, Dublin Branch. Conor joined Dillon Eustace in September 2006 and was made partner in August 2007. In late 2007, Conor was seconded on a part-time basis to Bank of Ireland Corporate Banking.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Law Society of Ireland Irish Taxation Institute

EDUCATION

Trinity College Dublin: LL.B. The Law Society of Ireland: Solicitor Irish Taxation Institute: Associate



Mr Brian Kelliher

WORK DEPARTMENT

Asset Management and Investment Funds, Financial Services

POSITION

Brian is a partner in Dillon Eustace where he specialises in Asset Management & Investment Funds, Investment Services and Regulatory & Compliance. In relation to investment funds, Brian advises on product design, authorisation, contract negotiation, marketing, migration and all applicable regulatory and compliance matters relating to all fund product types from traditional UCITS, ETFs, money market funds and alternative UCITS to the full spectrum of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

CAREER

Brian joined Dillon Eustace in 1994 and has been a partner in Dillon Eustace since 2000. Brian is a former chairman and member of the Legal and Regulatory Committee of the Irish Funds Industry Association.

MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland and a member of the Irish Funds Industry Association (IFIA) UK Distribution Working Group. Brian is also a member of the Company Law Review Group (an Irish statutory body established to advise the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on matters concerning company law).

EDUCATION

University College Cork (1985-1988) where Brian obtained a Bachelor of Civil Law Degree. Brian is qualified as a solicitor to practice in Ireland since 1994 and is also qualified as a solicitor to practice in England and Wales.

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Ms Grace O'Connor

WORK DEPARTMENT

Investment Funds

POSITION

Partner, Asset Management and Investment Funds

CAREER

Grace advises fund promoters/asset managers, investment funds, management companies and their service providers on a wide range of legal, regulatory and compliance matters – including the structuring, establishment and regulation of all types of mutual funds. Her clients are Irish and international – mainly from the UK, Italy and the US.

Grace's experience includes working for two years in the Irish Stock Exchange's Funds Listing Department. She is a member of the Irish Funds working group EMIR and has lectured in the Law Society of Ireland on investment fund related matters.

EDUCATION

University College Cork

The Law Society of Ireland.

Also admitted in: England and Wales



Mr Donnacha O'Connor

WORK DEPARTMENT

Asset Management and Investment Funds, Financial Services

POSITION

Partner, Head of Asset Management and Investment Funds

CAREER

He specialises in advice on regulatory and structural issues relating to the establishment and management of all types of investment fund structures.

Donnacha has over 20 years' experience in structuring, establishing and advising Irish regulated investment funds and in providing regulatory advice to financial services firms operating in Ireland. His clients include privately-owned and institutional investment managers representing a wide range of asset classes – including fixed income, equity, credit, hedge, managed futures, real estate, private equity, commodities and insurance linked securities.

Donnacha advises regulated financial services and market infrastructure firms – including market makers, multilateral trading facilities, order routers, prime brokers, derivative dealers, investment managers, Alternative Investment Fund Managers, UCITS management companies, investment advisers, fund administrators and fund depositaries.

Donnacha has held in-house counsel posts at a hedge fund manager in Paris and a securities services firm in Dublin.

EDUCATION

University College Dublin, The Law Society of Ireland, Attorney, New York State Bar

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Mrs Kelly O'Hara

WORK DEPARTMENT

Real Estate

POSITION

Partner, Head of Real Estate

CAREER

Her practice area covers a broad range of commercial property matters.

Kelly joined Dillon Eustace in July 2017 as head of the Real Estate team. Prior to that, she was a senior legal adviser in the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA), specialising in asset sales, development projects and complex conveyancing matters arising in the deleveraging of NAMA's loan portfolios. Kelly also advised on enforcement of security, loan sales, commercial lending and loan restructurings.

Before joining NAMA, Kelly was a partner in the commercial property department of one of Ireland's largest law firms. She has acted for a broad range of corporate, institutional, multinational and private clients on sales and purchases, landlord and tenant law, negotiation of commercial leases, estate management issues and property development, with particular expertise in advising national and international retailers on expansion in Ireland. Kelly has extensive experience in advising on the property aspects of mergers and acquisitions, restructurings and property-based lending.



Mr John O'Riordan

WORK DEPARTMENT

Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Insurance, Financial Litigation. Regulatory Investigations

POSITION

Partner, Litigation and Dispute Resolution

CAREER

John is a specialist in commercial litigation, regulatory investigations and maritime and transport law. His clients include national and international corporations, banks and financial institutions, insurers, individuals, hauliers, freight forwarders and shipping companies. He is highly experienced in all types of High Court proceedings and regularly represents clients before the Irish Commercial Court. John acts in a variety of contractual and tortious disputes and represents clients in arbitration and mediation.

John's specialist expertise includes: financial services and banking litigation; shareholder disputes; mis-selling claims; advising clients through the Central Bank administrative sanctions procedure; appearing before the Irish Financial Services Appeals Tribunal; enforcing foreign arbitral awards; and property and vessel damage claims.

MEMBERSHIPS

John is a member of the International Bar Association and the Commercial Litigation Association of Ireland. He is a regular contributor to local and international publications and has spoken at international conferences in the area of commercial litigation.

EDUCATION

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Ms Derbhil O'Riordan

WORK DEPARTMENT

Financial Services, Asset Management and Investment Funds, Derivatives

POSITION

Partner working in Financial Services, Asset Management and Investment Funds and Derivatives

CAREER

Derbhil joined Dillon Eustace in 2003 and became a partner in 2010. Derbhil's practice covers both the hedge fund and private equity space and her legal expertise lies in establishing, structuring and operation of Cayman and Irish structures. Recent deal highlights include establishment of a multi-tiered, cross-jurisdictional private equity structure allowing EU investors access to Cayman loan origination funds, establishment of UCITS CTA funds using automated trading systems and ongoing advices to Cayman AIFs on accessing European capital. Derbhil publishes frequently on the impacts of on-shore regulation on off-shore jurisdictions, such as AIFMD in Cayman.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Civil Law Degree from University College Cork (2000) , LLM (Law and Computers) Queens University Belfast (2001), Law Society of Northern Ireland (2003), Law Society of Ireland (2003), Law Society of England and Wales (2010) and Law Society of Cayman Islands (2013)



Mr Keith Robinson

WORK DEPARTMENT

Banking & Capital Markets

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Keith Robinson specialises in Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Real Estate and Asset Finance.

Keith acts on a broad range of banking, finance and capital markets-related transactions. He advises lenders and borrowers on national and multi-jurisdictional finance transactions, including acquisition finance and property finance. His practice covers investment grade and leveraged finance transactions, including syndicated, club and bilateral facilities. Keith's off-market and on-market structured finance work includes advising on and helping to implement tax-efficient financing and investment structures. He has also acted on numerous transactions involving QIAIF structures.

In recent years, Keith has acted for many of the most active participants in the Irish loan sale market and with numerous loan servicers that are managing loan books on behalf of loan book buyers. This work involves advising on restructurings, workouts and pre-enforcement strategies.

Keith was a member of the National Treasury Management Agency banking unit where he advised the Irish government on the recapitalisation of the Irish covered banks (including burden sharing with subordinated debt holders) and the restructuring of the Irish banking sector generally.

Keith has worked in the United Arab Emirates. His experience there included advising on the recapitalisation of the local United Arab Emirates conventional and Islamic banks, oil and gas project finance transactions, and conventional and Islamic finance transactions.

EDUCATION

National University of Ireland, Galway

University College London

The Law Society of Ireland

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Mr Lorcan Tiernan

WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate and M&A, Insolvency and Corporate Recovery, and Financial Services.

POSITION

Partner, Head of Corporate and M&A Department.

CAREER

Lorcan became a partner of Dillon Eustace in 2000 and Head of its Corporate and Commercial Department in 2004. His main areas of practice are mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, corporate insolvency and financial services.

MEMBERSHIPS

Lorcan is a member of the International Bar Association and is currently Co-Chair of the ABA's International Financial Products and Services Committee and a member of the Irish Law Society's Business Law Committee. He also acts as the ABA's liaison to the Law Society of Ireland. He is a past-Chairman of the IFIA's Alternative Investment Committee as well as a past member of FEFSI's Hedge Funds Working Group. He is an alternate director of the Irish Takeover Panel.

EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) University College Dublin. 1992 Masters in Law (LLM) University of London. 1995 Qualified as Irish Solicitor, Law Society of Ireland.



Mrs Etain de Valera

WORK DEPARTMENT

Investment Funds

POSITION

Partner, Asset Management and Investment Funds

CAREER

Etain is an expert on the establishment, structuring, financing and ongoing operation of investment funds. She specialises in alternative investment and related custody, administration and brokerage services. Her practice covers derivatives and securities law and the provision of credit facilities including structured credit to Irish domiciled schemes.

Etain's clients include a wide range of financial institutions carrying out business in Ireland or transacting with Irish-domiciled counterparties from other jurisdictions. Etain's experience with Dillon Eustace includes a secondment to Goldman Sachs International, Global Securities Services Division.

EDUCATION

Trinity College Dublin,
The Law Society of Ireland