Technology and the Rule of Law Conference Pack

12th Feb 24, 8.30am -6pm

Location: [Main Campus Building](), Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) [Midlands](), Dublin Road, Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland. Hybrid (in-person/online attendance, but workshops are in-person).

Register [here]() on Eventbrite.

Social media: #LawTechAthlone24 #TUSLawTech24, follow @TUS_Athlone on X.

Participate in Live voting on Menti.com, enter code: 1228 3015

Full Conference Program available here:
https://lawtechschool.wordpress.com/2024/02/08/legal-tech-2024-conference-pack/

Enter Student Hackathon (1.30pm – 5pm, B54):
https://lawtechschool.wordpress.com/2024/02/07/student-legal-tech-hackathon-12th-feb-2024-1-30pm-b54/

Student Legal Tech Hackathon Competition 12th Feb 2024, 1.30pm - 5pm, B54.

About: This 'Lawtech' or legal technology conference brings together expert speakers from industry, the judiciary and academia to discuss the implications of digital technologies like Blockchain and AI for the rule of law, the integrity of the justice system and effectiveness of laws and regulation. The main session of the conference will try to capture the main ethical concerns about the use of technologies like AI, Blockchain, Algorithms, Machine Learning and Data Analytics in the area of legal practice, ideas explored further in the parallel session. Afternoon workshops will explore issues around the teaching of Legal Technology in Higher Ed and the challenges of AI in education. This event is aimed at legal academics and PhD students, providing a platform for them to discuss the challenges and benefits of legal technology with a particular focus on access to justice and legal regulation. This conference will also be of interest to law students, anyone thinking about a legal career or interested in how law practice is changing.

Summary Program:

8.30am	Registration, Tea & Coffee, [Douglas Hyde Theatre](), Main Campus Building.
9am – 11am	**Plenary Session (Douglas Hyde Theatre) – Ethical Challenges of Legal Technologies**
11am – 11.15am	Tea Break
11.15am – 12.45am	**Parallel Sessions**: Session 1, [Room B54](), Legal Practice; Session 2, Douglas Hyde, Technology & Justice; and Session 3, [Room B55](), Regulation and Technology.
12.45am – 1.30pm	**Lunch Break**
1.30pm – 3pm	**Workshop 1 ([Room B55]())**: Legal Curricular Responses to Legal Technology **Student Hackathon ([Room B54]())**
3pm – 3.30pm	Tea Break
3.30pm – 5pm	**Workshop 2 (Room B55):** AI and Legal Education
5pm – 6pm	Student Presentations and Prizes/Conference Close

Conference Program & Speakers (*subject to change*):

8.30am	**Registration, tea and coffee.**
Location:	**Douglas Hyde Lecture Theatre** (off main canteen)
9am – 9.15am	**Welcome**: Dr. Michael Tobin Dean of Faculty, Dr. Alison Sheridan Head of Department of Business and Management. Alison Hough BL, Senior Lecturer, TUS Athlone, Conference Convenor.
9.15am – 9.30am	**Keynote Speaker**: Ms Justice Leonie Reynolds.
9.30am – 11am	**Plenary Panel of Guest Speakers & Audience Discussion:**

9.30am – 11am

"*Ethics and Robot Lawyers: What ethical challenges are posed by legal technologies?*"

Chair: Ms Justice Leonie Reynolds

Kickstart address: Prof Andy Unger & Prof. Lucia Otoyo LSBU

Panellists: Dr. Brian Barry, TCD; Prof. Rónán Kennedy, UG; Prof. Andy Unger, LSBU; Prof. Lucia Otoyo, LSBU; Prof. David Cowan, MU; Mark Tottenham BL, Decisis Law Reports; Gavin Sheridan, VizLegal; Nap Keeling, McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors; AnneMarie Whelan BL, CEO RegSol Ireland, Alison Hough BL, TUS.

This session will pose three key questions to which each of the panellists will be asked to give short 2-minute responses, and the audience will be asked to respond to each question as well.

11am – 11.15am	Tea and Coffee

11.15am – 12.45pm Parallel Sessions (10-minute presentations):

a) **Parallel Session 1** (**Room B54):** Developments in Legal Practice: Practical perspectives on ethical and professional challenges and benefits.
   Chair Karen Costello, Lecturer, Faculty of Business and Hospitality, TUS Athlone.
   Location:

   i. Mark Tottenham BL, Barrister, Decisis Law Reports, Fifth Court Podcast, "The impact of technology on the barristers' profession".
   ii. Nap Keeling, Solicitor, McCann Fitzgerald.
   iii. Cormac McCarthy, McCarthy Solicitors, "Technology in the Solicitors Practice -SME Perspective"
   5 min Break
   iv. Laurencia Maguire, LEAP, "Case Management Software".
   v. Martina Winters, Dye & Durham, (formerly Keyhouse), "Legal Tech and the Solicitors Practice".

   Panel/Audience Discussion 30 mins

b) **Parallel Session 2, Douglas Hyde**: Technology and Justice: How digital technologies are affecting access to justice.
Chair Prof. Rónán Kennedy, University of Galway.

    i. Dr. Brian Barry, TCD, "AI for judicial decision-making: implications for the future of open justice".
    ii. Trent A. Kubasiak US Army JAG, "Bridging the Digital Divide in Elder Law: Challenges and Innovations" – **Remote presentation.**
    iii. Tara Kerins, LLM Candidate, TCD, 'The Future of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Court Rooms: The Risks and the Benefits.'
    5 min Break
    iv. Sarah Byrt, EPA, "Technology in Realising the Aarhus Convention – Access to Information"
    v. Alison Hough BL, TUS Athlone, "The Intersection of Environmental Justice and Legal Technology"
    vi. Obele Akinniranye, PhD Candidate, MU/Associate Lecturer TUS Athlone "Transformative Access to Justice through Automation".

    Panel/Audience Discussion 20 mins

c) **Parallel Session 3, Room B55**: Regulation and Technology: How technology can improve legal governance and the rule of law.
Chair Gavin Sheridan, VizLegal.

    i. Prof David Cowan, MU, "A Technological Leviathan: Regulation or Strangulation?".
    ii. Anastasia Platonava, PhD Candidate TUS Athlone, "Legal Barriers to Blockchain Adoption in the HES of Ireland".
    iii. Dr. Ben Turner, Lecturer in Law, Cardiff University, "Redefining "Possession" in Law: Digital Objects and Hegelian Personhood Theory".
    5 min Break
    iv. Pok Yin (Boris) Luk, LLM, LLB, DPhil Candidate, "Regulation and Technology: How Technology can improve Legal Governance and the Rule of Law." **Remote presentation.**
    v. Cormac Kilkenny, PhD Candidate DCU, "Beyond Code: Examining Smart Contracts in 'Real World' and On-Chain Transactions".

    Panel/Audience Discussion 30 mins

12.45pm – 1.30pm Lunch

1.30pm – 5pm Student Hackathon Competition, Room B54 – Details:

https://lawtechschool.wordpress.com/2024/02/07/student-legal-tech-hackathon-12th-feb-2024-1-30pm-b54/

1.30pm – 3pm Workshop 1, Room B55

"*Legal Curricular responses to Legal Technology*"

Joint Chairs: Prof Andy Unger, Head of Legal Division, and Prof. Lucia Otoyo, LSBU (London South Bank University).

Presenting: Prof. Andy Unger & Prof. Lucia Otoyo of LSBU. Legal Curricular Responses to Legal Technology

Discussion Panel: Dr. Brian Barry, TCD; Prof. Rónán Kennedy, UG; Obele Akinniranye, PhD Candidate, MU; Dr. Ben Turner, Cardiff University.

3pm   Coffee

3.30pm- 5pm Workshop 2, Room B55

"*Legal Educators on Responses to AI and Plagiarism.*"

Chair Dr. Nuala Harding, Head of CPID (Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Development), at TUS Athlone.

Presenting: Mr. Alan Carr, Dept of Built Environment, Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment, TUS Midwest, "Academic assessment risks & legislative analogies', Prof. Lucia Otoyo, LSBU.

Discussion panel: Dr. Brian Barry, TCD; Prof Andy Unger; Prof. Rónán Kennedy, UG; TCD, Obele Akinniranye, Tara Kerins.

5pm – 6pm - Student Presentations and Prize Giving B55

6pm Conference close.

Queries to alison.hough@tus.ie

SPEAKERS & CHAIRS LIST

- Obele Akinniranye, Associate Law Lecturer, TUS Athlone.

- Dr. Brian Barry, Trinity College Dublin.

- Sarah Byrt, Environmental Protection Agency.

- Mr. Alan Carr, Dept of Built Environment, Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment, TUS Midwest.

- Dr. Emer Connolly, Lecturer, TUS Athlone.

- Karen Costello, Solicitor & Law Lecturer, TUS Athlone.

- Prof. David Cowan, Maynooth University.

- Dr. Nuala Harding, Head of Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Development, TUS Athlone.

- Alison Hough, Senior Law Lecturer, TUS Athlone Institute of Technology.

- Nap Keeling, McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors.

- Anastasia Platonava, PhD Candidate TUS Athlone.

- Prof. Rónán Kennedy, University of Galway:

- Tara Kerins, LLM Candidate Trinity College Dublin.

- Cormac Kilkenny, PhD Candidate, DCU.

- Trent A. Kubasiak, US Army JAG.

- Pok Yin (Boris) Luk, LLM, LLB, DPhil Candidate.

- Laurencia Maguire, LEAP Legal Software Ireland.

- Cormac McCarthy, Principal, McCarthy Solicitors.

- Prof. Lucia Otoyo, London South Bank University.

- Ms Justice Leonie Reynolds, High Court of Ireland.

- Dr. Alison Sheridan, Head of Department of Business and Management, TUS Athlone

- Dr. Michael Tobin, Dean of Faculty of Business and Hospitality.

- Mark Tottenham BL, Decisis Law Reports.

- Dr. Ben Turner Cardiff University.

- Prof Andy Unger, London South Bank University.

- Gavin Sheridan, VizLegal.

- Elaine Walsh, Solicitor & Lecturer, TUS Athlone.

- AnneMarie Whelan BL, CEO RegSol.

- Martina Winters, Dye & Durham (formerly Keyhouse).