

Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association – Round Up of Events 2006 - 2007

Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association has had a busy year and has been successful in organising a number of social and educational events for their members.

One of the year's highlights was the St Patrick's Weekend Conference which was held in association with the European Young Bar Association. This was the first joint European Young Bar Association and Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association Conference to be hosted in a number of years and the first such conference to be held in Belfast. Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association aims to provide social and educational activities for young lawyers and facilitate the interaction between young lawyers in Northern Ireland and those in other jurisdictions, throughout Europe and in America.



From left to Right: Representatives of the European Young Bar Association and Jay E Ray, Chair of the American Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division.

The conference provided an ideal opportunity to create and strengthen links with other young solicitor's groups throughout Europe, America and beyond. Approximately 50 international delegates attended the conference and joined in the craic of St Patrick's weekend. Delegates included the Chair and Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division, Jay E Ray and Justin Goldstein, Chair of the Young Lawyers Group, Mathew Claxson and many other young Lawyers from France, Italy, Germany, Scotland, Republic of Ireland and Eastern Europe.



From left to Right: James Cooper President of the Law Society of Northern Ireland, Nuala Sheeran of Mills Selig Solicitors and Emma Hunt Chair of Northern Ireland Young Solicitors (2006/2007) of Mills Selig Solicitors.

The informative conference provided a training opportunity, a chance to network, socialise and a lecture programme which included topics addressing issues such as, The Companies Act 2006, Lobbying and Legislation in Europe and an address from Hugh Mercer of Essex Court Chambers on Freedom to sell services abroad under EU Legislation. The international delegates were particularly interested in the address from Invest NI on the growth of International Investment in Northern Ireland. The weekend concluded with a Gala Dinner in Ten Square Hotel with a St Patrick 's Day theme.

The Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association committee members were fortunate to be involved in a number of international conferences and attendance of committee members helped to foster and develop links with young Lawyers groups in other jurisdictions.



From left to Right: Claire Reid (Mills Selig Solicitors), John Greer (McManus Kearney Solicitors) and Julie Reid (Edwards and Company Solicitors) - NIYSA Committee Members

Committee members attended the American Bar Association - Young Lawyers Division's conference in Montréal, the European Young Bar Association International Conference in London and AGM in Rome as well as the Southern Young Solicitors Association conference in Killarney and Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle. Seven of the committee members attended the enjoyable and successful Annual Law Society conference which was held in Barcelona.

Other annual events organized by the Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association include our popular Midsummer's Ball which was held this year in Queens University Belfast's Great Hall, Easter and Christmas Discos and a charity Legal Table Quiz in aid of CLIC Cancer Care for Children and sponsored by Brightwater Recruitment. There has been a programme of topical lunchtime and Afternoon lectures.



The Winning Table Quiz Team from O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors and Emma Hunt – NIYSA Chair
(2006/2007)

Following the success of the St Patrick's Weekend conference, Northern Ireland Young Solicitors Association are welcoming a fantastic opportunity to co-host a joint conference with the Southern Young Solicitors in March 2008 – details to follow in the next edition of The Writ.