

This two-week Summer School is the first of its type in Europe to focus on anti-discrimination legal issues on the ground of disability. It will focus on the potential of the European Union Framework Directive on Employment in the context of disability. The Framework Directive is the single most important legal instrument at the European level combating discrimination on the ground of disability. Its success or failure will be crucial to the cause of advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe.

This Summer School – which is conducted in partnership with Maastricht University and hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway – will raise general legal awareness about the practical potential of the Directive in the disability context and should appeal to a wide range of persons and bodies including persons with disabilities, practising lawyers, judges, law students and disability non-governmental organisations as well as those more generally interested in public interest litigation.

More particularly, the Summer School is designed to impart skills as well as knowledge to enable participants to construct effective test case strategies under the Directive on behalf of persons with disabilities.

A prestigious teaching faculty has been assembled to deliver the programme. It is drawn from an international group of prominent legal experts and especially practitioners who have extensive experience in bringing test cases in the field of disability.

This Summer School is supported by the European Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001-2006). This Programme was established to support the effective implementation of new EU anti-discrimination legislation. This six-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape in the development of appropriate and effective anti-discrimination legislation and policies, across the EU-25, EFTA and EU candidate countries. The Action Programme has three main objectives. These are: (1) To improve the understanding of issues related to discrimination, (2) To develop the capacity to tackle discrimination effectively and (3) To promote the values underlying the fight against discrimination. For more information see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm

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Professor Gerard Quinn, Director of the Disability Discrimination Summer School.



DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION SUMMER SCHOOL

Toward Effective Test Case Strategies

Using the European Union Framework Employment Directive (2000/78/EC) in a Disability Context.

6 -16 June, 2006.

Contact Details

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For Diversity



Against Discrimination

www.stop-discrimination.info

***The working language for this event will be English.
Irish Sign Language interpretation will be provided.***

List of Teaching Faculty

Robin Allen: Queen's Counsel, Cloisters, Barristers' Chambers, London, United Kingdom, with extensive litigation experience in the non-discrimination field.

Ellis Barry: Legal Adviser, Equality Authority, Dublin, Ireland.

Peter Blanck: University Professor and Chairman, Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, United States of America.

Patricia Bregman: Canadian Lawyer, specialising in disability law and policy litigation.

Andrea Coomber: Interim Legal Director of INTERIGHTS (The International Centre for Legal Protection of Human Rights), London, United Kingdom, with a special focus on strategic disability litigation.

Theresia Degener: Professor of Law, Protestant University of Applied Sciences, Bochum, Germany.

Olivier De Schutter: Professor of Human Rights Law at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and a leading authority on the European Convention on Human Rights and disability.

Marc De Vos: Professor, Ghent University, Belgium, and Director of the Intinera Institute based in Brussels (an independent and non-partisan institute for policy reform in Belgium).

Caroline Gooding: Special Adviser and Director of the Disability Rights Commission, United Kingdom.

Andre Gubbels: Inspector General in the Walloon Agency for the Integration of People with Disabilities (AWIPH) in Belgium. Formerly, Principal Administrator in the Disability Unit of the Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission.

Laurent Pech: Law Lecturer, Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Public Law, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Shivaun Quinlivan: Law Lecturer, National University of Ireland, Galway, with disability law expertise.

Gerard Quinn: Director of the Disability Summer School and Professor of Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Michael Stein: Professor, Harvard Law School, United States of America, and a leading commentator on disability law reform.

Lisa Waddington: Professor and Chair in European Disability Law at Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

Dermot Walsh: Professor, Department of Law, University of Limerick.

Teaching Programme

The teaching programme runs for two weeks and is divided into four sections as follows:

Section A will identify the core challenges in making the EU Framework Employment Directive effective on the disability ground. It will set out the background to the Directive and dissect it in order to reveal the main interpretive challenges facing both domestic courts and the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the disability ground.

Section B will take a sideward glance to reveal how these interpretive options have been confronted under both international law (United Nations and the Council of Europe) and within similar jurisdictions with a long history in the field (Canada, USA, UK, Ireland).

Section C will focus on the litigators' perspective dealing with three key thematic issues under the Framework Employment Directive: Definitions, 'Reasonable accommodation' and the reconciliation of 'health & safety' issues with non-discrimination law. Case studies will be carefully selected to immerse participants into the issues and prepare them to frame the arguments appropriately under the Directive. Contributors will address the mechanics of mounting test case strategies before the European Court of Justice (ECJ) as well as substance.

This section will culminate in a Moot Court Exercise involving all students focusing on a key set of issues under the Framework Employment Directive. *The Moot Court Exercise is not intended to test students.* Rather, it will provide a unique learning opportunity to develop argumentative strategies with the direct assistance and feedback of expert Faculty. The feedback will be designed to enable students to genuinely learn from the experience and to begin reflecting on how best to use the Framework Employment Directive. It will not be formally assessed as such.

Section D will provide space for reflection on the lessons learned. A final address will be given to bring all the strands of the programme together and to motivate participants to remain engaged.

Programme may be subject to amendment.

Course Fee

The fee for the Disability Summer School 2006 is €600. This fee covers the cost of teaching, teaching materials, lunch and refreshments during teaching hours. Accommodation is not covered by this fee. For further information and booking form, please visit the website: <http://www.eusummerschool.info>