



CEO: Dr Stephen Brittain BL

Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland
Telephone 01 896 1845/1081
Twitter: @ICELTCD
icel@tcd.ie
www.icel.ie

Irish Centre for European Law

STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE JOHN D COOKE

29 April 2022

The Irish Centre for European Law expresses its deep condolences to the family of the Honourable Mr Justice John D Cooke, who passed away on 29 April 2022.

John was a member of the Board of the ICEL at its foundation in 1988. From 2016 until 2021, he served as Chairman and subsequently President of the Centre. Subsequent to his resignation from that post, he became a Vice-President of the Centre.

John contributed to the campaign in favour of Ireland's Accession to the EEC in 1972. His immense contribution to both the practice and the development of European law thereafter spanned the entirety of Ireland's membership. He was amongst the first members of the Bar of Ireland to plead before the Court of Justice of the European Communities (as it then was), representing both Ireland and private undertakings/individuals. His European peers acknowledged him as one of the leaders of the fledgling European Law bar in Ireland by making him President of the Council of the Bars and Law Societies of the European Community (CCBE) between 1985-1986. Ten years later, in 1996, he replaced Judge Donal Barrington as the judge of Irish nationality on the Court of First Instance of the European Communities. During his almost thirteen years in that post, John won the esteem and respect of his colleagues as a clear thinking, level headed, legal practitioner, which was recognised a particular benefit in a Court consisting of members from diverse backgrounds. A notable highpoint in his career at what later became the General Court of the European Union was his role as Reporting Judge in the celebrated Microsoft judgment (T-201/04). Upon his return to Ireland in 2008, John became a Judge of the High Court, *inter alia* taking charge of both the Asylum/Immigration and the Competition lists.

John's leadership of the Irish Centre for European law covered the entire period of Brexit, which he ensured was comprehensively addressed by the Centre. Aware of the increased importance of education in EU and in European Human Rights Law across the island, he initiated and led a comprehensive reform and restructuring of the Centre as an island-wide organisation, and successfully completed an overhaul of its governance.

We will sorely miss his wise words, clear thinking and valued advice.

Ciarán Toland SC
Acting President

Advocate General Anthony M Collins
Chairperson, Advisory Council

Dr Stephen Brittain BL
Chief Executive Officer

Patron: Her Excellency Mary Robinson SC

Board: Professor Mark Bell, Dr Róisín Costello BL, Dr Stephen Coutts, Mr Brian Doherty, Ms Margaret Gray QC SC, Professor Tobias Lock, Professor Christopher McCrudden FBA MRIA, Ms Averil Power BL (*Treasurer*), Dr Vincent Power SC, Dr Joanne Simpson (*Secretary*), Mr Ciarán Toland SC (*Deputy President*)