



WANT TO REDUCE YOUR CLIENTS' LEGAL COSTS?

AVAIL OF THE BAR COUNCIL OF IRELAND'S
DIRECT PROFESSIONAL ACCESS SCHEME

ACCESS IRISH BARRISTERS DIRECT



Get Irish barristers to work for you directly, at prices you are happy with

Expert help in identifying and directly instructing the right Irish barristers

Suitable for:

- Accountants, tax & finance advisors
- Architects & planners
- Auctioneers & valuers
- Engineers & surveyors
- Members of 52 other professional bodies approved by the Bar Council of Ireland

Brief Counsel Ltd is run by solicitors and barristers who understand your legal needs

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

At Brief Counsel Ltd, we understand that there is a need for better and more cost-effective legal services.

Since 1990, the Bar Council of Ireland has run a little-known **DIRECT PROFESSIONAL ACCESS** Scheme for members of professional bodies to engage directly the unparalleled depth of legal expertise at the Irish Bar. Under the Scheme, members of professional bodies (known as "approved professional bodies") can instruct barristers directly without going through a solicitor.

We help approved member professionals who wish to avail of the Scheme to select and manage competent counsel for drafting, advocacy or advice services, at no cost to them or their clients. Our sophisticated database holds information unavailable anywhere else on over 2,300 practising barristers in Ireland. Our inside knowledge of the Law Library can benefit your practice and your clients.

We enable member professionals and barrister practitioners to work effectively together, thus combining their expertise to provide clients with a formidable and cost-effective professional force.

OUR SIMPLE 3 STEP PROCESS ENSURES PROFESSIONALS GET THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE DIRECT FROM COUNSEL

STEP 1:

Member of approved Professional Body contacts Brief Counsel Ltd with brief

STEP 2:

Brief Counsel Ltd identifies the most suitable barrister for your brief

STEP 3:

Counsel conducts work in accordance with your needs and service standards

JUDGES APPROVE OF DIRECT PROFESSIONAL ACCESS TO BARRISTERS

The cost advantages of using barristers without a solicitor have been judicially recognised. In *Agassi v Robinson* [2005 EWCA Civ 1507], tennis star Andre Agassi employed expert tax consultants Tenon, who in their capacity as members of the Chartered Institute of Taxation directly instructed barristers under the Bar Council's direct access scheme to conduct Agassi's case against the Revenue. The Court of Appeal said:

"It is obviously desirable that members of organisations such as the Chartered Institute of Taxation who are responsible and skilled persons should be encouraged to use...the arrangements by which they may instruct barristers direct...as a new and a better way of providing advocacy services. The advantages of these arrangements are clear. These persons have specialist expertise in the field of tax law, often far exceeding that of solicitors...[T]he fees charged by a firm of solicitors for the work done...might well have been three times as high".





SERVICES

In addition to identifying the most appropriate barristers for you, we can arrange the services you need from counsel, on your terms.

Common services organised for **Direct Professional Access** clients include:

- **Litigation services:** robust advocacy and representation in court, tribunal or ADR forums nationwide.
- **Advisory services:** expert & prompt written opinions and convenient consultations by phone or in person.
- **Drafting services:** non-contentious documents or court pleadings, quickly crafted by specialists.
- **Negotiation services:** fight your client's corner with experienced counsel, whatever the setting.
- **Research services:** highly-qualified counsel focusing the Law Library's vast resources on your problem.
- **Arbitration and ADR:** impartial appointment of cost-effective independent arbitrators and mediators.
- **CPD and training services:** expert tuition available in-house for your staff at very reasonable rates.
- **Temporary services:** counsel to work in-house at busy times or on big files as independent contractors.

Discover this “cost-effective shortcut” for yourself

For those needing advice on a specialised area or point of law of a sort which solicitors are likely to refer to specialist counsel in any event, instructing a barrister directly presents a “**cost effective shortcut**”. Likewise, there is no longer any need for clients who know at the outset that they wish to consult a barrister to go to the additional cost of instructing through a solicitor. Counsel can and will advise if and when the involvement of solicitors becomes necessary; at that point counsel is well placed to advise the client what services are required from the solicitors and to recommend a suitable firm.

Testimonials:

Users of the Scheme report that barristers instructed directly are **approachable** and deliver a **high-quality service**:

“The Scheme gave me **quick access** to up-to-date relevant advice from someone who had the practical first hand experience and knowledge on how a case like mine would work in court. The result of this was a cost-effective shortcut that led to successful compensation. Previous non-direct routes have proved lengthy and expensive and unsuccessful.”
(Intellectual Property matter)

“I wanted access to a barrister without incurring the unnecessary costs of a solicitor. I found the barrister to be **extremely helpful, knowledgeable and professional** throughout. I particularly liked the ease in instructing a barrister through the Scheme and the costs that I inevitably saved in being able to instruct a barrister direct.”
(Regulatory Compliance matter)

“Naturally, those who go directly to barristers undertaking categories of work which solicitors commonly refer to counsel in any event have **more control** over their case, and very often **save money**.”

“Instructing a barrister directly has been instrumental in securing a **speedy outcome**.”

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WHO WE ARE



Hugh Kennedy

Hugh was called to the Bar in 2005. He is co-author of *The Law of Company Insolvency* (Thomson Round Hall, 2008) and *Company Law* (Thomson Round Hall, 2008) as well as various articles in the *Law Society Gazette*, *Bar Review* and *Accountancy Ireland*.



John Cronin

John qualified as a solicitor in 2005 with a large Dublin firm. He holds an LLB degree from University College Cork and an MA from Queen's University Belfast. He has a number of years experience sourcing work opportunities for solicitors and barristers in Ireland and the UK. He is a member of the Law Society of Ireland, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and the Marketing Institute of Ireland.



Tom Kennedy

Tom, an Ernst & Young Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year in 2003, co-founded Web Reservations International Ltd in 1999. Web Reservations International Ltd is the company behind leading service websites such as *Hostelworld.com*, *Trav.com* and *Boo.com*.



Gráinne Madden

Gráinne is the founder and principal of GMJ Associates, a specialist business ethics and corporate social responsibility consultancy based in Dublin. She obtained her MBA from UCD's Smurfit Graduate School of Business, where she specialised in Business Ethics. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Business Ethics*. As well as working with various client companies and organisations, she lectures on corporate responsibility to MBA students.