



O'Dowd Solicitors growing in Glanmire.

O'Dowd Solicitors will shortly be celebrating its 6th anniversary in Glanmire. Originally established in October 2009 by Micheal O'Dowd and a business partner, the firm was rebranded as O'Dowd Solicitors in mid 2014.

The firm provides top quality legal services to the people of Glanmire and further afield, and has undergone significant transformation with four new staff members, the introduction of a computerised case management system and a full refurbishment of the firm's offices. O'Dowd Solicitors is now poised for further growth and expansion.

The firm is headed up by Mícheál O'Dowd, whose family has long associations with the Glanmire area. Mícheál specialises in property transactions and advises clients ranging from investors to individuals buying and selling their own homes. He has particular expertise in complex property transactions involving title issues and disputes. Micheal also has substantial experience in advising clients in the area of probate and wills. Outside of private practice he has recently published a book on Cyber Law in Ireland, and regularly lectures on the topic in UCC. Micheal also works as a farmer part time.

In 2014, Deirdre Costello joined the firm as a Solicitor specialising in the area of litigation. Deirdre, who is originally from County Limerick, came to O'Dowd Solicitors directly from one of Munster's most successful litigation practices. Prior to this Deirdre worked for a successful medium sized firm in Dublin and has almost 10 years experience in working in the areas of Personal Injuries litigation, medical negligence, property law, family law and probate and wills. Deirdre also holds a Law Society of Ireland Diploma in Family Law and she is currently commencing a Law Society of Ireland course in the area of Commercial Contracts.

Alan Moore is a newcomer to the firm in 2015. He is an experienced Legal Executive who joined the firm from Dublin where he worked for a high profile and well known Solicitor. Alan spent a number of years in Dublin before returning to his native Cork in July 2015. Alan has an interest and extensive knowledge in the areas of litigation and property law and he offers invaluable support and assistance to both Micheal and Deirdre.

Elaine Lyons joined the firm as a Legal Assistant from a leading Munster Human Resources consultancy. Elaine holds a degree in Law and she is an integral staff member assisting with the large and varied workload of the firm and operational management. Elaine, who is originally from Co. Kerry, moved to Glanmire for the opportunity to work with the firm and is hoping to commence training as a Solicitor in 2016.

Speaking about the changes over the past 18 months Micheál admits that it has been a challenging time, but that the firm can now provide clients with a first rate service comparable to what they would get in any large city centre law firm. On the topic Micheál notes "It is good to see

the results of an extended period of investment and hard work. We now have a team of young yet extremely experienced professionals with a drive to get the best results. As with any business there were challenges in the initial stages, but with perseverance we have worked through these".

The firm is well regarded as one of the leading property and conveyancing firms in Cork County and with the new talent on board the firm is now targeting an increased spectrum of work, particularly in the areas of Family Law, Personal Injuries and litigation.

Deirdre Costello emphasises the importance of choosing wisely when it comes to getting the best representation saying that "all too often clients do not get the attention they deserve. Going to Court can be a difficult and stressful time, and is it not helped if a person feels their solicitor is not 100% committed to getting the best result for them in a timely manner".

She states that while the Personal Injuries Board is now in operation for over 10 years, it has shown time and again that it is not as user friendly as it should be for lay litigants and, more worryingly, that insurance companies are becoming increasingly aggressive both in trying to settle claims quickly and for far less than is appropriate. Deirdre notes that "on several occasions clients have felt almost intimidated into accepting a full and final settlement by insurance company representatives, even before they have completed their course of treatment".

Speaking of the future Micheál says that there is no question but that the improving economy has helped the business, but the biggest turnaround has come from the structural changes made to the firm. Micheál states that "the business is now employing five people, and we expect this number to double within the next 18 to 24 months if current trends continue" He concludes by saying "We are getting very good feedback from clients about the level of service and from our perspective the level of referred business is driving things forward".

To celebrate the firm's birthday, the firm is offering to prepare a will for a single person for €30 or a couple for €50 until the end of October. Further information can be got at www.odowd.ie, phoning 021 4824426 or emailing info@odowd.ie.

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