

Welcome to MLRC's Quarterly Ezine keeping you up to date on our work in the areas of homelessness, social housing and related social welfare law.

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Welcome

Welcome to MLRC's final E-zine for 2012. Mercy Law Resource Centre is an Independent Law Centre and registered charity providing free legal advice, representation and befriending services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the areas of housing and social welfare law. Our main area of work involves assisting homeless persons in realising their rights to adequate housing and means. These rights are central to the enjoyment of all other rights. Without them, a person is extremely marginalised and cannot participate and engage fully in society. We hope you enjoy the content and find it informative, please email us if you have any queries regarding homelessness, social housing or related social welfare law and please check out our website at www.mercylaw.ie.

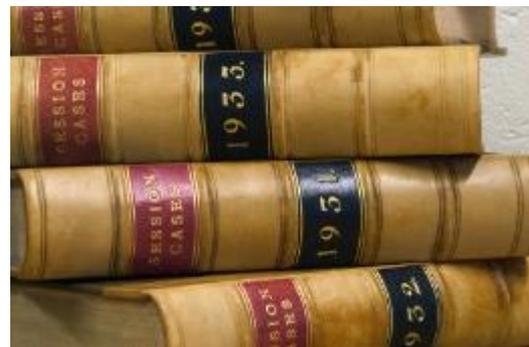
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MLRC's successful High Court Judicial Review

MLRC welcomes the High Court Judicial Review



MLRC Casework

MLRC provides free legal representation, including High Court and Tribunal

which raises an important question arising from the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. This judgment is particularly significant because it reiterates the law on the exclusive power of the Oireachtas to legislate. In particular, the judgment clarifies the limitations on the power of executive bodies to change or extend the law through regulations which could restrict or alter the rights of applicants. [Click here to read more.](#)

Measuring the Extent of Homelessness

Measuring the extent of homelessness is difficult by its very nature because people who are homeless move frequently. As of 31st March 2011, local authorities have compiled figures showing 98,318 households have a housing need. Rough Sleepers are just a portion of those who are homeless in Dublin and nationwide. [Click here to read more.](#)



representation, to individual clients, in the areas of social housing and social welfare law e.g. access to local authority housing, local authority evictions, standards of local authority housing and equality cases. Since January 2012, we have had a number of success stories in relation to our casework.

[For more information click here.](#)

MLRC - What it is We Do

We have been asked on many occasions – what kind of work does MLRC do? MLRC not only offers a legal service to the most vulnerable in our society but we see the human being behind the legal problem. Our aim is to offer a more holistic service to the person in need of our support. We recognise that clients need emotional as well as practical support. [Click here to read more.](#)



MLRC is delighted to welcome a number of new staff and volunteers to our team.

MLRC is delighted to welcome, Sabrina Comerford, Carol Ann Woulfe, Louise McQuaid and Nuala Monaghan to our small team. [Click here to read](#) about our new staff and volunteers.

The Traditional Homeless Stereotype is far from factual reality in the work of MLRC

Many of us have traditionally been of the view that homelessness affects a certain type of person or indeed arises as a result of certain factors or circumstances. Working in MLRC we regularly find that the traditional stereotypes are far from factual reality. In many instances lack of timely interventions give rise to serious consequences for vulnerable individuals which lead to homelessness. [Click here to read more.](#)



MLRC's Befrienders

The Befriending programme is an invaluable asset to MLRC as we recognise that the legal system can be alienating and difficult and frustrating to negotiate. As part of this service, volunteers are available to befriend clients in order to accompany them and provide them with emotional and practical support as they go through the difficult process of trying to assert their rights. MLRC are pleased that six new befrienders participated in an excellent Training workshop in September facilitated by Felicity Kennedy, Psychologist from the Women's Therapy Centre. [Click here to read more.](#)

MLRC working in Partnership

MLRC works in partnership with NGO's and organisations advocating for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness, we would like to highlight some of their work:

[Crosscare Migrant Project](#)

[Focus Ireland](#)

[Dublin Simon](#)

[The Society of St. Vincent DePaul](#)

[Liberties CIC](#)

MLRC's AGM 2012

MLRC held its AGM on 22nd November

2012. The Board adopted the Financial Accounts for the year and heard an outline of the work of MLRC for the year from the Chair. MLRC also welcomed two new members to the board, [click here to read more.](#)



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN LEGAL RIGHTS AND HOMELESSNESS – THE WORK OF THE MERCY LAW RESOURCE CENTRE

Brian Barry
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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN LEGAL RIGHTS AND HOMELESSNESS – THE WORK OF THE MERCY LAW RESOURCE CENTRE

MLRC are pleased to see this article published which highlights the work of the Mercy Law Resource Centre, and we congratulate Brian Barry on its publication. Brian is an intern solicitor who worked with MLRC for a period of 3 months this year. [Click here to read more.](#)



MLRC Launches 'Friends of MLRC'

Mercy Law Resource Centre, a registered charity (CHY No: 18698), is totally dependent on charitable funds and needs your support to continue to provide free legal advice and representation to people who are Homeless or at risk of Homelessness. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in our work and your willingness to support us. At our AGM we launched the 'Friends of MLRC', there are Four Levels of Annual Friendship. Sponsor a Befriender; Sponsor an Advice Client; Sponsor Legal Representation for a Client; Sponsor a Clinic. A Standing Order form is available for you to download and complete and you can [Click here to find out more](#) about becoming a Friend of MLRC.

CSO Report on Homeless Persons in Ireland

The Central Statistics Office released a special census report on homeless persons in Ireland showing that 3,808 persons were either sleeping rough or in accommodation designated for the homeless on the night of April 10th 2011. Of these 2,539 were male and 1,269 were female. This was the first time that such a “comprehensive approach” in identifying homeless people was undertaken as part of the census and it showed major differences between the homeless and general population in terms of education, health, disability and marital status. [Click here to read the Report.](#)



Happy Christmas from all at MLRC

We thank you for your interest in our work and we look forward to your continued interest and support, be it financial or otherwise in the New Year. Wishing you all the Peace and Joy of the



The Dublin Region Homeless Executive

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive is provided by Dublin City Council as the lead statutory local authority in the response to homelessness in Dublin and adopts a shared service approach across South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council. The Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) is responsible for the planning, co-ordination and administration of funding in relation to the provision of quality services to people who are homeless in the Dublin area, and for the development of responses to prevent homelessness. [Click here for further information.](#)



FEANTSA

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, was established in 1989 as a European non-governmental organisation to

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prevent and alleviate the poverty and social exclusion of people threatened by or living with homelessness. It currently has more than 100 member organisations, working in close to 30 European countries, including 25 EU Member States. FEANTSA works closely with the EU institutions, and has consultative status at the Council of Europe and the United Nations. It receives financial support from the European Commission. [Click here to read Feantsa October Newsletter](#)

Mercy Law Resource Centre, a registered charity (CHY No: 18698), is totally dependent on charitable funds and needs your support to continue to provide legal services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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