



COMPETENT COUNSEL AT COMPETITIVE COSTS
NEW FREE SERVICE FOR IRISH SOLICITORS
CHANGING THE WAY BARRISTERS ARE ENGAGED



- Expert help in **identifying** and **instructing** the right Irish barristers, esp. in specialist, niche or unfamiliar areas
- More **certainty** and **clarity** on counsel's fees upfront
- Drafting and paperwork returned to you more **quickly** and to **your deadlines**
- We accept briefs in **all areas of law** and can assist in preparing briefs to counsel
- We encourage solicitors to propose **appropriate fees** for work by counsel
- Our services are **FREE OF CHARGE** to Irish solicitors and their clients
- Brief Counsel Ltd is run by solicitors and barristers who **understand your needs**

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

At Brief Counsel Ltd, we believe that there is a market for higher service standards from Irish barristers.

We help Irish solicitors select and manage competent counsel for drafting, advocacy or advice services, at no extra cost. Our sophisticated database holds information unavailable anywhere else on over 2,200 practising barristers in Ireland. Our goal is to enable solicitors to handle successfully the conduct of work in new or difficult areas of law in which the solicitor may have to prepare instructions to counsel.

Our staff work as part of your team to provide you with a proactive and customised service from counsel, a central "one-stop shop" for all your counsel needs. Irish solicitors are under a professional duty to properly instruct competent counsel, and we help you to avoid potential problems and pitfalls through our knowledge and experience of the Irish Bar.

We are not chambers or a partnership, we have no ties to particular counsel, and we are complementary to, but independent of, the Bar Council/Law Library. We are a unique and innovative service that puts Irish solicitors first.

OUR SIMPLE **3 STEP PROCESS** ENSURES SOLICITORS GET THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE FROM COUNSEL

STEP 1:

Solicitor contacts *Brief Counsel Ltd*

STEP 2:

Brief Counsel Ltd helps solicitor to select and manage the most appropriate barrister for the matter

STEP 3:

Counsel conducts work in accordance with your needs and service standards

Step 1:

You contact us online through our website, or by email/fax/DX/post, to discuss your needs

Step 2:

We examine our proprietary database containing details of over 2,300 barristers. We identify the most expert and experienced barristers for your matter. In consultation with you, we ask selected barristers to provide you with fee quotes or to work to your proposed fee.

Step 3:

Counsel does the work required, to your service standards. Brief Counsel Ltd asks for your feedback on counsel's performance, and counsel pays us a small service charge.

FREE FOR SOLICITORS



SERVICES

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

Common services we can organise for you 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.
- Other services: once-off needs of Irish solicitors accommodated - simply tell us what you need.

All counsel organised by Brief Counsel Ltd adhere to our service standards for solicitors.

Handy hints when briefing counsel

If in doubt, send more papers and information to counsel, not less. It's better to be safe than sorry! This also avoids counsel coming back to you later with requests for further information.

If applicable, always include copies of:

- All pleadings to date
- All motion papers
- All relevant correspondence
- All expert reports
- All medical reports and records
- All witness statements

A well-ordered set of papers will improve and speed up the response from counsel, but is not essential. We know that you may not have the time to prepare the perfect "brief to counsel". If time or resources are short, send on as much relevant material you have to us, in whatever order or format.

Counsel generally provide a better service the more time for preparation they are given. It's never too early to brief counsel in any given matter.

If possible, say exactly what it is you want counsel to do for you: e.g. "Draft Defence", "Advise on liability and quantum", or "Please attend the High Court Personal Injury List on Wednesday next and obtain consent order". Requests to "Please Advise Generally" can result in delayed responses from counsel!

If you believe that a case will shortly become statute-barred or there is some other urgent issue, please say so!

For further information on how we can help you brief counsel, **please contact us:**

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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.