

Peter Charleton

Peter Charleton was appointed a judge of the High Court in Ireland in 2006. He sits mainly in the commercial court division, which deals with private law disputes having a high monetary value. The work of this division involves patent, copyright and trade mark issues as well as major business disputes.

A barrister/trial lawyer for 26 years prior to his appointment, he was leading counsel in the series of prosecutions and civil confiscation of asset applications that arose out of the murder in 1996 of the distinguished journalist Veronica Guerin. These lasted, with gaps, some 10 years. He was also briefed in a wide range of civil disputes and advised major commercial companies and charities in the course of his practice. For four years he was leading counsel to a national tribunal of enquiry into police misconduct (www.morristribunal.ie).

He graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1980 and subsequently lectured there for two years. He also lectured in the King's Inns for a year and has as a judge given guest lectures in those institutions and in the Beijing University of Political Science and Law under the auspices of the China-EU School of Law.

He is the lead author of the standard Irish text on criminal law, (Irish Criminal Law, 1999 by Charleton, McDermott and Bolger) and also wrote a book on the nature of the human impulse to evil in mass murder and genocide (Lies in a Mirror: an Essay on Evil on Deceit, 2006). An enthusiastic amateur musician, he plays piano and sings in the RTÉ Philharmonic Choir (Ireland's national symphony choir). He is chairman of the Advisory Council of the National Archives of Ireland.

He is married with three children in full-time education.